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COPS, THUGS IN SHOOTOUT AT ASIANS HOME

● Heavily armed robbers face off with police who were reacting to an emergency

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E.&O.E.

DRINK AND DRIVE, YOU'LL BE FIRED, SOLDIERS WARNED

By Bodwa Mbingo

Soldiers who come before the country's various courts for drink and driving (DD) charges will be fired from the army.

This is after Army Commander Four Star General Jeffrey Tshabalala read the riot act to Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) members around the country during his visits to the various barracks and camps recently. He sternly warned them against driving under the influence of alcohol. He is said to have told the army officers that they would face the army's disciplinary committee (DC) where they would be tried, something that could culminate to them being fired from the force.

According to our sources within the army, Tshabalala is worried about the endless cases of army personnel being caught on the wrong side of the law for their antics on the country's roads. The sources told the Saturday Observer that Tshabalala told them firmly that going forward he would not be lenient



to soldiers that drive under the influence.

"The going is getting tough for soldiers now. The army commander minced no words in telling all soldiers that they will be fired from the army for continuous drink-driving. They will be hauled before the DC and be fired. This is meant as a deterrent to

to soldiers that drive under the influence," said one of our sources.

Another source disclosed that this would be a first within the army as soldiers would just face the court's punishment, pay their fines and return to work regardless of how many times they had appeared before the courts.

"A number of soldiers have faced

DD

charges before. Some of them have caused accidents that were fatal," said our source. Independent investigations by this

publication have also uncovered that the UEDF will not be the first to take a stand against DD offenders within their organisations amongst security forces. There have been reports that at His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) officers arrested for DD are tried at the courts and then a further disciplinary hearing is instituted internally where they are also fined by the service for the same offence.

UEDF Public Relations Officer (PRO) Tengetile Khumalo said just like any organisation in the kingdom, the UEDF can never condone any behaviour by its personnel that compromises its integrity. She, however, said the discussions during the commander's various visits to the barracks and camps were not for public consumption.

"It is procedural for the UEDF commander to brief his personnel on a yearly basis.

"What he discusses during such visits to the various units and sub units is privileged information that is strictly for the UEDF personnel only, and no one else. The UEDF PRO office will not reiterate what the army commander discussed with the army personnel due to the above mentioned reasons. Outcomes of internal disciplinary procedures are not for public consumption. If there is a need for a statement to be issued on this regard or on any other mat, it will be done through the UEDF PRO," she stated.

Furore over TUCOSWA unionist turned manager

Stories by Zwelihle Sukati

Speak of trouble in paradise! WUSTCSS is indeed a troubled workers union with information suggesting that its vice-president also sits in management at his workplace and hauls his 'comrades' before the disciplinary committee.

WUSTCSS is the Workers Union of Swaziland Town Councils and other Sanitary Services.

Not only is Mduduzi Mdluli said to be the union's vice-president at national executive union level but also the branch chairperson. The union representing workers in the various municipalities is an affiliate of the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA). This publication engaged Mdluli in an interview over the matter. He did not dispute being in a supervisory position at the Nhlanguano municipality and having to discipline his fellow comrades, some of whom have lost their jobs as a result. Mdluli said after management appointed him to the supervisory position, he resigned as chairman for the union's Nhlanguano branch.

He said when he was about to file his resignation as vice president, he was told by the executive committee membership not to bother as their term of office was about to elapse.

In fact, he told the Saturday Observer that he was frustrated by his fellow comrades while he was still active in both positions he held while in office. He said elections for the union's executive committee were supposed to be held in August this year. Nonetheless, he said he was still an active

member of the union and was paying his subscription fees to the workers' organisation. When asked how he got to be in such a seemingly conflicted situation, Mdluli said it all started when the union's national executive shut him out and he could no longer work with the members. He said members of the national executive committee would bring unreasonable and uncalled for issues which were not worth it.

"After I was sidelined, I was obviously frustrated. When management put me in charge as supervisor, I did communicate this to the union.

"I had quit as chairman for the Nhlanguano branch and when I tried to file a written resignation as vice president I was told not to bother as our term in office had already lapsed," Mdluli said.

Other members of the union's national executive are Vusi Simelane, Zakhele Simelane, Sipho Sibandze and Musa Mdluli. "I am still a member of the union and to be honest, there is nothing wrong with that. The issue here is that the union now feels threatened by me as I am now on the other side of the fence when it comes to disciplinary issues." The supervisor, who now seems to be serving the interests of the employer, yet he has always been known to be the organisation's vice president, clearly stated that he was in charge of disciplining fellow workers.

"The union fails to win disciplinary cases against me and that is their gripe. In fact, their intimidated by my position because they know, as much as I do, that I am good and even better than them in winning disciplinary cases."

Union leadership in love relations

Instead of having discussions in the boardroom, some members of the union seemingly prefer taking issues to the bedroom.

This is one serious allegation by some members of the troubled municipalities' workers union, WUSTCSS.

"We also have information that instead of fighting for our rights in the workplace, some

of the committee members *baganene* (are in love relations).

"As a result of this barbaric act our issues are being discussed *kuma* bedrooms," reads a message sent to this publication on the troubled union.

Other allegations will not be repeated because of ethical reasons.

Dead dog almost cost municipal employee his job

A dead dog is said to have almost caused one town council employee his job.

The incident is said to have left many workers dumbfounded when the employee was hauled to a disciplinary hearing by his supervisor.

The line manager is alleged to have assigned three of his employees to get rid of a dog that had been left dead by other workers from the previous day's shift.

However, the three men forgot. The supervisor got mad and charged one of the three. However, it later transpired

that this was a case with roots dating back from the employee and his supervisor's relation at community level.

The staff member had to be changed to another department.

"These so-called *tindvuna* or self-proclaimed supervisors are busy charging their own members, suspending and dismissing them from work.

This is an unfortunate situation that we are seeing and has been going on for a very long time," said one of our source.

The role of unions

Unions play an important role in the workplace.

Some of the key roles include being able to resolve workplace issues by being a voice for employees and acting as a bargaining representative during bargaining negotiations. Other key features of unions include:

- Working with management to help resolve workplace issues
- Being an advocate for employees
- Ensuring employers are meeting their minimum obligations
- Looking into suspected breaches of: workplace laws, discrimination laws and workplace safety laws.

Eswatini Observer

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COPS, THUGS IN SHOOTOUT AT ASIANS HOME

Stories by Zwelihle Sukati

A shootout between police and criminals was what residents of Mountain View village in Mbabane woke up to yesterday morning before sunrise.

This follows an early morning hour robbery that was staged by a group of men who pounced on unsuspecting families of businessmen of Asian origin.

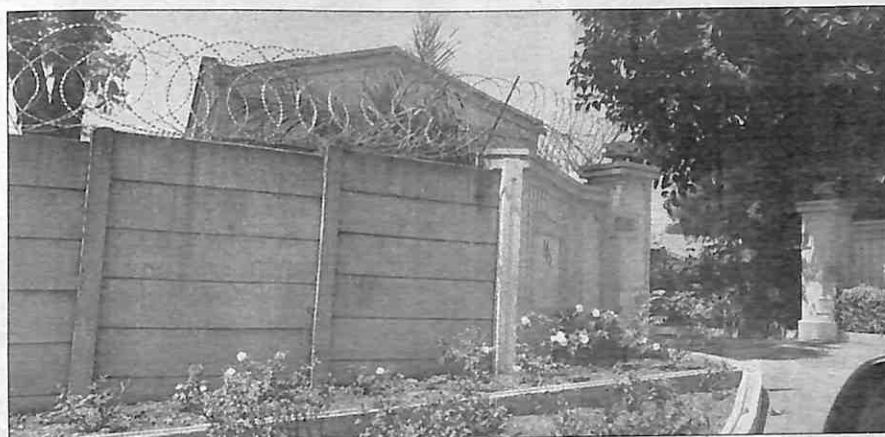
It was between 2am and 3am when the group of thugs attacked armed also with sjamboks, which they used to inflict serious injuries on their victims as they demanded money, cell phones and other valuables.

Safety in numbers is the hypothesis that, by being part of a large physical group or mass, an individual is less likely to be the victim of a mishap, accident, attack, or other bad event.

That was not the case for this family as the daring robbers struck a few hours after the midnight hour.

It was a real life drama that left residents of Mountain View in Mbabane traumatised by sounds of gun shots and unruly commotion at a neighbours residence.

Even though police have confirmed that the criminals were four one of the family members who was still visibly traumatised said the number could be more. The criminals are said to have forced the Asian businessmen into giving cash that they had no choice but to eventually give in. Police mouthpiece Superintendent Phindile Dlamini



said the amount of money stolen could not be precisely ascertained by the time of compiling this report. Some of the attacked family members had to be taken to hospital for medical attention from the injuries suffered.

"Worth noting is that the businessman and their families live together at the suburb compound.

Parked

There are cars parked in and outside the residence and the robbers must have been cunning and daring enough to stage an attack like they did," said one of the residents who said they were equally left started.

Three of the robbers are still on the run but police managed to arrest one.

"It was very bad. I have never experienced anything like this in my life," one of the attacked family members said in a brief

interview yesterday as he had to rush to hospital where the other injured family members were. Not only did the thugs use sjamboks to torture them, they also allegedly assaulted them with the ends of their guns on the heads.

Having gotten the unconfirmed amount of cash and cell phones they then escaped. It is then that the alarm button was hit and police were quick to rush to the scene.

The Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, confirmed the matter saying, "the other three are still at large but we believe that the one in our custody will assist us," Superintendent Vilakati said.

"Money was stolen but the amount is yet to be verified," she also mentioned that giving out all details of the case at the moment would jeopardise police investigations.

Neighbours, residents traumatized

The time spent torturing the Asian businessmen and their families suggests that the thugs were not prepared to leave the home until they got what they wanted.

It seems like the robbers were waiting for the Christmas holidays to stage their robbery before the next normal working day, the 27th of December.

The family is said to have been tortured by the thugs that they eventually gave in to their demands for cash, cell phones and other unmentioned valuables.

One resident from around the community said the incident has sent shock waves

of fear in the neighbourhood. He said never had he thought he would one day wake up to the sound of gun shots and witness so much drama right across the street in the otherwise peaceful area.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the men in blue having given chase to the thugs and combed the surrounding area's forests until one was apprehended. She however did not wish to give out much information save for that police investigations were ongoing and anything else would affect their probe to the case.

Businessmen are advised to use the banking sector

"These thugs must have been after home bankers."

This was said by another resident who requested to remain anonymous. "Police were chasing after the robbers and for the first time I heard gunshots echoing at the height of this real life drama."

The resident said pointers suggest that the hooligans were targeting the foreign nationals because they are known to be home bankers.

"The robbers were not after television sets, computers, furniture and the like.

They must have been after home bankers, who keep their business cash in their homes. How I wish this unfortunate incident will teach them to use the banking sector."

Police mouthpiece Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said she couldn't state how many were injured and other merits to the matter.

SLAIN BANGLADESHI'S BODY ARRIVES HOME

Stories by Bodwa Mbingo

The body of Bangladeshi businessman Yousuf Miah, who was stabbed to death in Nhlanguano last week, has finally arrived in his home country.

The Bangladeshi national was brutally murdered when a meeting to form an association turned violent. Already, two suspects, who are believed to be brothers and operating businesses in the Shiselweni region, have been arrested. One was arrested on the same day of the murder, whilst the other was arrested last Monday whilst recovering in his hospital bed.

Dhaka Tribune reports that the Bangladeshi businessman's body was returned to Dhaka after he was allegedly stabbed to death by the two other Bangladeshi nationals over a dispute in Nhlanguano.

The deceased, Yousuf Miah, of Faridpur district, was killed on December 15 when he was attending a meeting to mitigate some local community dispute, family members told the Dhaka Tribune this week.

According to the publication, the victim is the son of late Alhaz Shafiqullah Mia of Mrigi village under Kotwali Police Station in Faridpur district.

Mir Abdul Motaleb, a family member of the deceased said his body was brought back home on Christmas Eve on an Emirates Airlines flight.

His family said that Miah came to Eswatini in 2001 after completing his bachelors of arts degree and started a business in 2003.

He left behind a wife, a 10-year-old daughter and a five-month-old son. All of them returned to Bangladesh on December 23. It should be noted that

Family wants justice, Bangladesh govt to act

Soon after National Commissioner of Police William Tsitsibala Dlamini condemned the incident of violence involving Bangladesh nationals last week, the family of the deceased has urged the Bangladesh government to take steps necessary to ensure justice for his death.

Miah left behind a wife, a 10-year-old daughter and a five-month-old son. All of them returned to Bangladesh on December 23.

Upon his body being flown back to Dhaka, his family members reached out to their government to ensure that justice prevails on the matter. On Friday last week, Dlamini said the police have prioritised the investigation into this matter. He further said they were also following the reports of the existence of a Bangladeshi mafia in the country and would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the truth was unveiled.

Such brazen and horrific acts of violence, said the NatCom, have no place in Eswatini society. He said they would normally expect that foreign nation-

als, who are in the country on the benevolence of government and Eswatini, in general would do well to abide by the laws of the country, instead of engaging in such wayward antics.

Meanwhile, the prime suspect in the murder Md Melon (31) made his first court appearance last Thursday, facing murder charges. His charge sheet reads:

Charged

He stands charged with the offence of murder in that on December 15, at Nhlanguano's Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF) Flats the said accused did unlawfully and intentionally kill one Yousuf Miah by stabbing him on the left collar bone with a sharp object and thus commit the crime of murder.

His co-accused Lifon Bobary (35), facing the same charges made his first court appearance on Tuesday, last week. Melon has been in hospital as he also sustained injuries during the skirmish. Yousuf Miah is said to have been killed during the brawl, which left several others badly injured. It is

still unclear of what sparked the skirmish, which left even other tenants shocked, but claims are that this had to do with a misunderstanding during the election of a committee for the Bangladeshi community living in the kingdom. The court further told the accused that he would still be needed by police to assist them as they were continuing with their investigations.

The Crown also applied that Melon should have his blood samples taken as part of the police investigations where he said he did not have a problem with that process. He was remanded into custody pending the setting of his trial at the High Court.

On the other hand, Melon also recorded a confession statement before his remand hearing. It is alleged that part of what he allegedly recorded before Magistrate Maphalala was that he killed the deceased by mistake and not intentionally.

Melon, just like his co-accused Bobary, is expected to make his second court appearance on New Year's Eve.

community living in the kingdom.

It is said some of the Bangladeshis were against the elections taking place at the said meeting, as they still needed to consult with the relevant parties and authorities on how to go about with the processes of putting up the committee, but others are said to have preferred the committee to be put in place without even having the consultation process considered.

It is said those who were for the idea to have the meeting not to take place were attacked and it was then that chaos

erupted. In fact, it is said the 'build-up' to the bloody battle started last Saturday, where Bangladeshis from places like Manzini and Mbabane drove to Nhlanguano, with the plan of seeing to it that they met their fellow nationals in Nhlanguano, to have the elections take place, but they met resistance as others were totally against the idea.

Reports are that, with the Bangladeshis divided into two camps, it was then that others resorted to challenging those who were against the idea of electing the committee, while an argument contin-

ued, some never wanted to be questioned and it was then that all hell broke loose.

It is said on the same Saturday (evening), other tenants (some being Eswatini) were taken aback by what was happening, and since they had no idea as to what exactly the Asian nationals were arguing over, they first watched from a distance.

It was, however, when they (other tenants) noticed that there was some confrontation between the (two) Bangladeshi camps, where some of the tenants decided to alert the police that there was seemingly bad blood between the fellow nationals, which also had the potential of turning the premises into a 'battlefield'.

The Nhlanguano Police Station is a stone's throw from the flats. It is said there were close to 50 Bangladeshis in attendance at the said meeting.

It is said on the Sunday, the Bangladeshis met again at the flats and this time the argument and debate on the elections gained momentum, and the confrontation between the two camps became ugly as some were allegedly seen brandishing weapons and threatening one another.

It is said it was at around 3pm when the argument led to a serious confrontation, where knives and other weapons were seen flashing and in no time, one of the Bangladeshis was heard groaning in pain after he was stabbed with a sharp object.

There was pandemonium within the premises, as some tenants ran helter-skelter in confusion as they were not sure of what to do next.

With an arrangement made to rush the injured to hospital, it is said one of them died along the way and two others were reportedly battling for their lives after being admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Hlatikulu Government Hospital.

WEEDING OF ROYAL FIELDS

@ Mfabantfu Royal Fields



WEEDING: It was another busy day for the regiments as they continue with the weeding of royal fields, here they are at Mfabantfu Royal Fields. The weeding continues today. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



IN SONG: Lacwebetelako in song and dance as they go about the work of the day.



IN NUMBERS: A view of the regiments as they conduct the royal duties.



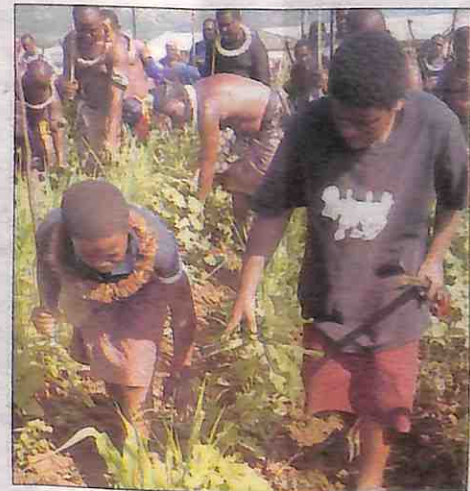
ALSO PRESENT: Chief Sibusani of Mabhukwini, Chief Maliwa Maziya of Maphungwane, MP Jomo Dlamini, Mabhamulane Dlamini and Businessman Sthofeni Ginindza were also at Mfabantfu.



KIYO: Senate Deputy President, MP Mabulala Maseko, Former MP Njabulo Mabuza, Maphalaleni Chief Prince Mshila, Senator Chief Ngalonkulu Mabuza and Tibiyo GM Musa Mdluli were among Lacwebetelako at Mfabantfu.



FOR OUR KING: Officers from His Majesty's Correctional Services were also in attendance.



CATCH THEM YOUNG: Ingaja captured in action as they joined the throngs of regiments on the day.



ROYAL DUTIES: The blazing sun did not deter the regiments as they went about their duties.



GET DOWN: Indvuna Lubandze Khumalo in a conversation with Speaker Petros Mavimbela and Minister Moses Vilakati.

ZOLA 7 FACEBOOK IMAGE GOES VIRAL

By Khetsiwe Khumalo

Bonginkosi 'Zola 7' Dlamini, a well-known South African musician, motivational speaker, poet, actor and presenter has become one of the most talked about person these days.

A picture of him smoking a cigarette went viral and his fans shared their views about the superstar.

The very influential TV personality was well known for his television show Zola 7 which focused on young persons, who with support from Zola, realised their dreams. The humanitarian has travelled the world and has represented South Africa in an effort to encourage the youth on education.

TV or not, 'Zola 7' is apparently continuing with his quest of helping others. One of his many fans took to social media to sing his praises on the work he has done for the South African youth. However, some of the fans also pointed out Dlamini's flaws in their comments.

Penny Ntuli posted on Thursday "Isololokhu you were making people's dreams come true. You fed the needy with your kid's money. You travelled countries representing South Africa as a servant, leaving aboMvelo, Lwandle, Bhambatha, Nyezi emuva with no one protecting your family against all odds. You cried daily when you heard stories of infants whom are not being taken care of. You stood up and influenced big companies like Cell C to help you feed the needy and the orphans. You made dreams come true with your show Zola 7, you left your mother waya emazweni. You took out money from your own pocket and



PHILANTHROPIST: Bonginkhosi Dlamini well known as 'Zola 7', a role model to the youth of South Africa and other countries is seen in this picture smoking a cigarette, something he preaches the youth should refrain from doing.

paid school fees for girls from Tanzania (Dara Salam) who were prostitutes and they changed since that day to become an asset to that country. You represented South Africa in African countries until you were honoured by the Shakur family as the 2pac waseMzansi. Nkosi sikelela I Africa if this is how we are going to honour and celebrate our heroes' downfall... Zola I believe in you I'm sure the whole South Africa do believe in you, I don't care what the media is saying about you. This is not a

downfall to you. This is a temporary setback. You'll bounce back. I'm singing your song 'Ngizokulinda uzubuye' 'cause you promised uzobuya Ngizokulinda uzubuye'. The devil and his people ngeke balunge. I'm singing your song 'Qina ndoda Ekhaya babheke wena'. I wish Steve Biko was still alive to see these journalists who celebrate the downfall of a black man... not just a man but a hero to many. I salute you. I won't believe all they say I will turn around and walk away and I know you Zola 7

MORE FACEBOOK COMMENTS FROM FANS

● **Thobelani SheziShezi:** He tried countless times to make the world a better place I salute the guy Penny. He's a true South African Hero.

● **Bongie Foster Masilela** This one is more than a man, so this is a hero, he will rise & shine again...will always respect uBonginkhosi Dlamini.

● **Gift Mandlenkosi Dlamini** Thank you Penny Ntuli you are my hero too. You are very objective in your analysis. Zola will bounce back.

● **Nelsiwe Nhleko:** What I'm pretty sure of is that God of beautiful gifts blesses a hand that gives, this downfall is taking off ground you still going up the sky can't even limit you because u were not people's servant but u represented God well.

● **Malibongwe Dlamini:** He sowed a seed to many souls and one day he will reap, he is such an influential person and no matter how much a person may fall and how much they can batmouth him they will never take away his gift of being touched when he sees a needy person may he rise above every circumstance.

● **Pimie Motsa:** Zola taught us at a young age to stand for the good of mankind and believe in a better tomorrow. I salute bra.

● **Mpex Nyoni:** This guy was born in Swaziland so he must come back home we mic him as he sings a song 'Phind' uzubuye'.

● **AmbieSamketi:** Once you have a good heart like Zola...more often than not...people will let you down in one way or the other....cina ndoda

● **Leendow Gqobo:** People don't know what they have and they don't know how to appreciate it until it's gone. Let's learn to appreciate the man, he's done more than any artists. He's a hero.

● **Steven Mabuyangwa:** So the journalist bought him cigarette...Long live media freedom, long live...This guy is driving a Mercedes Benz latest E Class...just udlwi ilezinto azid-layo...

● **Thabiso UncleTha Luthuli:** This man, I wish he could bounce back because he really helped lot of people.

● **Vuyolwethu Mbekwa:** You are going to bounce back brother, South Africans are behind you qina ndoda indoda iwa iphinde ivuke.

● **Ruth Mamputa:** What a great star, what a hero. They can say what ever they want about him he will remain popular to some of us uyindoda yamadoda hooola7

● **Bonga Mkhize:** Sadly we know the Zola away from the camera. The abuser. And karma knows that Zola too.

● **EnzokuhleAfikaWam:** He needs us now more that ever, we all need to take a stand for what is good.

● **Destiny Simelani:** What led to his down fall? People should learn a lesson than lamenting.

● **Telex Madalo:** And those journalists don't want to see a black person succeed.

did try to make the world a better place. And for me you still shine like stars ebusuku. I salute you Bonginkosi Dlamini wola 7'. Meanwhile Zola's fans are determined to keep his legacy alive and have been sharing his picture set in tribute to their hero.

Some of the comments that followed this post were mostly from the youth who were encouraging and supportive of the star despite his recent turnout. Some of the fans blamed journalists for trying to tarnish the celebrity's image.

CoLA STRIKE VICTIM WANTS E1.4m FROM COPS

By Khetsiwe Khumalo

One of the victims of the cost of living adjustment strike shot during a demonstration, Fikile Nhlabatsi, is demanding E1.4 million from the police after they assaulted her. She sent a letter of demand in terms of the limitation of proceedings against government.

Nhlabatsi, who was not part of the protest action, was mistakenly shot on the October 2, 2019 whilst carrying on with her daily duties as she worked for an insurance company in Manzini. Nhlabatsi was then taken to hospital after being shot four times at close range. She was hit by two rubber bullets in the right hand and two of her fingers were fractured.

On the day Nhlabatsi was supposedly returning to her place of work when she saw people running away from a police armoured vehicle. When she heard gunshots, she hid in a hedge. The letter directed to the attorney general states that when the client was shot she was no way involved in the strike action

but was carrying out her duties. The letter further stated that the client was thereafter admitted to Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital where her small finger was amputated and is now permanently disfigured and the forth index finger is no longer functioning normally.

The letter further states that there was no justifiable cause for the shooting aimed at her, as she was neither involved in the strike nor a member of the public servants association.

Demand

"Due to the unlawful actions of the Royal Eswatini Police, our client has instructed us to demand as we hereby do in terms of the limitation of Proceedings against Government Act 21/1972 payment of the amount of E953 000," states the document.

When Nhlabatsi was called for comment, she confirmed that she had indeed sent the letter to government written by her lawyer who calculated all the costs necessary.

"When I was first discharged from the hospital, my first stop was the Manzini Police Station where I reported gov-

The damages were broken down as follows:	
Permanent disfigurement	E900 000.00
Pain and suffering	E500 000.00
Medical expenses	E3 000.00
Estimated future medical expenses	E 50 000.00
Total	E1 453 000.00

ernment in my statement.

"I also visited the Human Rights Commission offices and reported to different people on the details of the incident," said Nhlabatsi.

She further stated that after she was discharged from hospital, she expected something to happen but no one came to apologise or tell her how they would compensate her for the injury; that is why she decided to get herself a lawyer. Nhlabatsi added that she was recovering from her injuries but the trauma and pain still lingered on.

She said she had slowly adjusted and was still learning how to do certain things with some of her fingers missing.

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Ocean Basket

Living atop a hill in Malindza, a tiny county in Eswatini's lush east, 56-year-old Ntombi Ndzimandze is the matriarch of her household of 11 women and children.

At the beginning of the year, two of Ndzimandze's grandchildren were bitten by *Anopheles arabiensis* mosquitoes, one of the key vectors of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

The children showed all the usual symptoms of the disease, but when Ndzimandze brought them to the closest clinic they were misdiagnosed.

"After they came back home, I had a suspicion that it could have been malaria, but I was too busy keeping them hydrated," says Ndzimandze. As the symptoms worsened, she took the children to a hospital, where they were finally diagnosed with complicated malaria.

The children survived, but they missed two school terms and are still struggling to recover.

Malaria is a disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant, freshwater environments, such as puddles, swamps or ponds.

Despite its recognisable symptoms, including fever, chills, severe headache, nausea and vomiting, and the fact that the disease is curable given correct diagnosis and treatment, over 400 000 people still die of malaria every year.

Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2017, the region was home to 92 percent of an estimated 219 million cases of malaria worldwide, as well as 93 percent of all malaria deaths most of them preventable.

In Eswatini, malaria transmission is seasonal and unstable, with substantial variations in infection rates from year to year, depending on climate and other factors.

Even in the best of years, however, about 30 percent of the tiny nation's 1.3 million people are at risk.

Over the past 10 years, Eswatini has achieved a drastic reduction in the incidence of malaria.

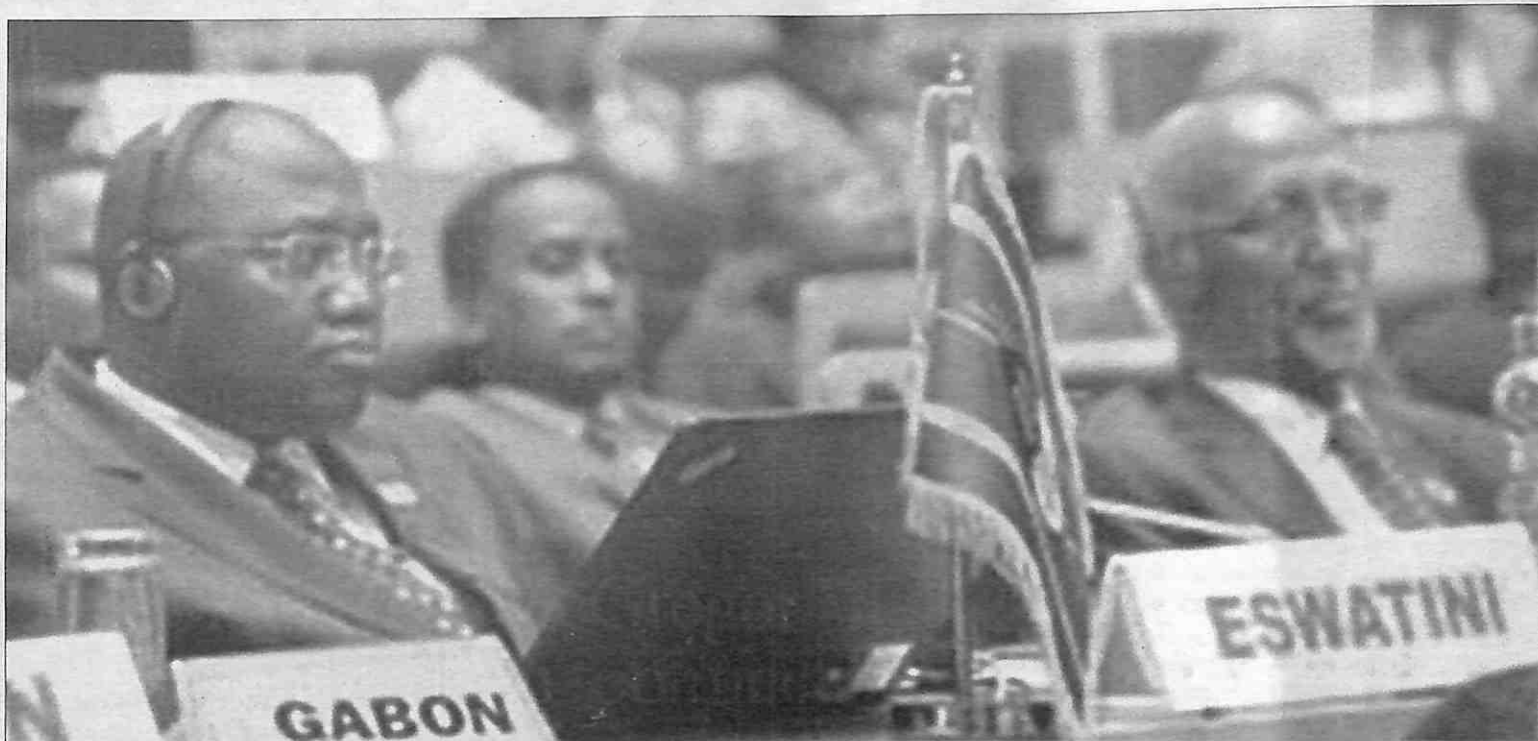
However, this progress has come at a cost—the ongoing use of DDT (or Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), a dangerous persistent organic pollutant targeted for elimination under the Stockholm Convention.

DDT has been linked to cancer in humans and is acutely toxic to fish and marine invertebrates. Mass spraying of DDT has also seen rapid growth in mosquito resistance to the chemical in some regions, as has the overuse of pyrethroids and other DDT alternatives.

Because of its high stability and persistence, decades of DDT use around the globe mean toxic residues can now be found everywhere, from the open oceans to Himalayan glaciers, with the chemical even appearing in polar bear populations in the Arctic and penguin colonies in Antarctica.

While DDT is still permitted for use in indoor vector control where there are no affordable alternatives, governments and international actors

NATURAL WEAPONS PUT MALARIA ON NOTICE: ECO-FRIENDLY INSECTICIDES IN ESWATINI



“While DDT use has been phased out across much of the world, a number of countries in Africa have been faced with the stark choice of either continuing to use DDT or allowing the incidence of malaria to increase unchecked,” United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) chemicals and waste expert Eloise Touni says.

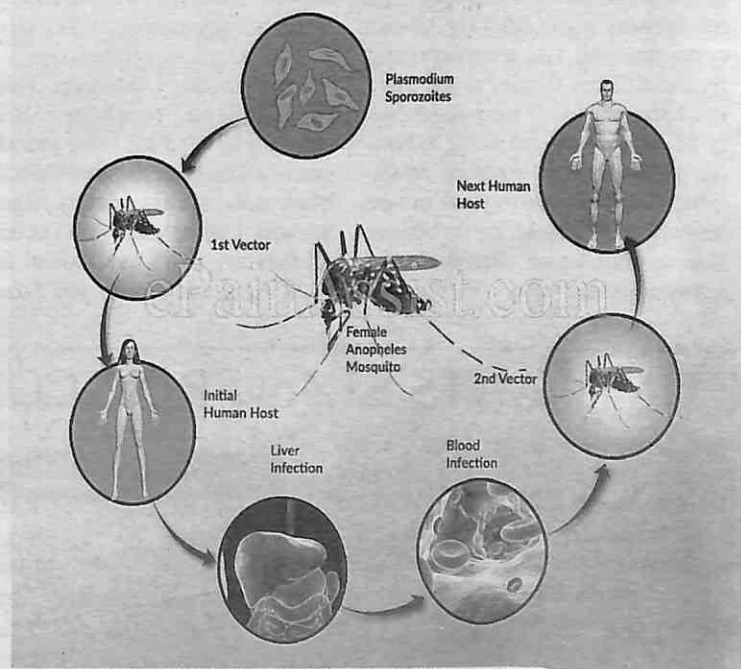
have been fighting to phase out the chemical since the 1970s. Today, only 17 countries worldwide—13 of them in Africa—still use DDT to control insect-borne diseases.

"While DDT use has been phased out across much of the world, a number of countries in Africa have been faced with the stark choice of either continuing to use DDT or allowing the incidence of malaria to increase unchecked," United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) chemicals and waste expert Eloise Touni says.

"However, there are now proven chemical and non-chemical alternatives, including nature-based solutions, alternative and less hazardous chemicals, and integrated approaches that offer non-toxic ways to protect people from malaria and other vector-borne diseases."

Touni oversees the Global

How is this Infection Spread To Humans?



Environment Facility-funded Demonstration of Effectiveness of Diversified, Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Interventions, and Strengthening National Capacity for Innovative Implementation of Integrated Vector Management for Disease Prevention and Control in the WHO AFRO [World Health Organization's Regional Office for Africa] project (AFRO II).

In partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the project is supporting 15 African countries that still rely on DDT, or are considering reverting to it, to introduce newer and safer interventions for disease vector control.

In Eswatini, the project is experi-

menting with biological larviciding as an alternative to DDT, using the *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* bacterium, or 'Bti'. A naturally occurring soil bacterium, Bti contains spores that produce toxins that specifically target the larvae of certain insects including mosquitoes.

By targeting mosquitoes before they reach adulthood—and thus begin both breeding and spreading malaria and other diseases, strategic larviciding can have a significant impact on mosquito populations, as well as reducing the need for the use of toxic insecticides at the household level.

With no toxicity to people or documented resistance to the bacterium as a larvicide, the AFRO II project

team is championing Bti as a powerful new weapon in Africa's fight against malaria.

AFRO II project partner the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology has mapped eSwatini, identifying mosquito breeding areas for biological insecticide applications.

"We selected villages with malaria cases and local transmissions, to which we add a 1 km buffer zone that covers the possibility of mosquitoes flying in," says the Centre's Postdoctoral Fellow Theresia Estomih Nkya.

After the areas surrounding the villages are mapped, the project's field workers sample local aquatic environments for *Anopheles* mosquito larvae and identify areas to be treated with Bti.

"We hypothesize that malaria cases will be significantly reduced thanks to the intervention," Nkya says. "It would reduce the need for the spraying of DDT and other toxic chemicals in people's homes, a win-win for everyone". With the effectiveness of Bti in reducing mosquito larval populations already proven in other countries, the AFRO II team have high hopes for this nature-based solution to one of the world's most lethal vector-borne diseases.

"Biological insecticides have huge potential to both complement and provide an alternative to synthetic chemical larvicides," UNEP's Touni says. "From malaria to other mosquito-borne diseases like Zika, dengue and chikungunya, eco-friendly solutions like Bti have the potential to help save lives worldwide."

[United Nations Environment Program (Nairobi)]

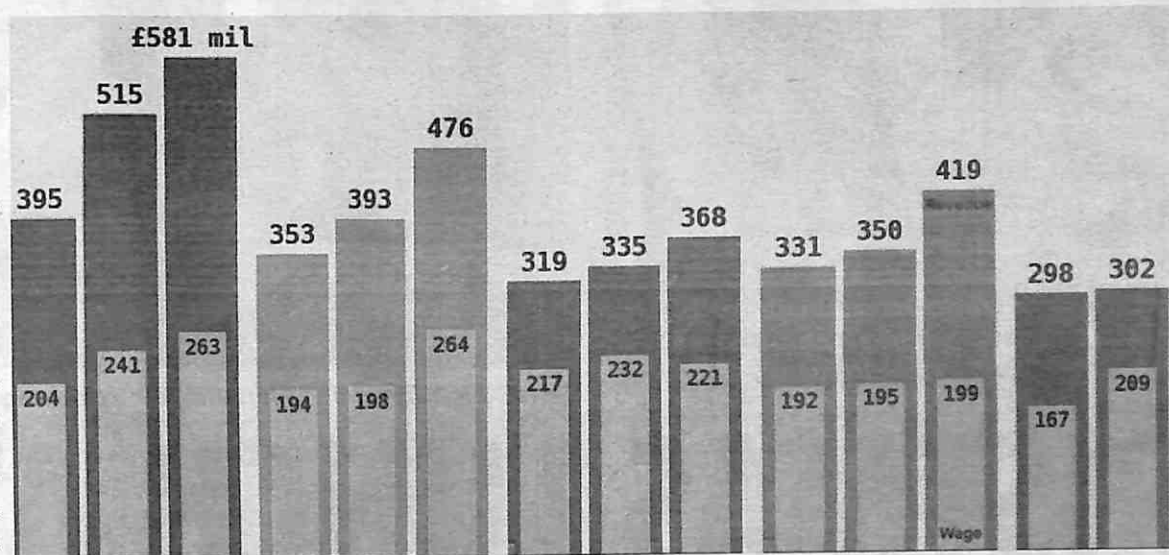
CORRECTIONAL WAGE BILL AT E180M

Stories By Zweliso Sakali

ONLY E178 920 799 was spent in personnel costs at His Majesty's Correctional Services despite a hefty budget of 394 399 969.

The second quarter performance report of the ministry of justice and constitutional affairs for the financial year 2019/20 says the resultant under expenditure is E45 866 469, this translating to 20.41 percent. "The reason for this under expenditure is that vacant posts are not yet filled and some officers have retired from the department," reads the report.

Furthermore, on travel and com-



munication a cool E2 302 522 was projected but E3 358 922 was released;

E4 905 937 was actually spent and the shortfall of E1547 015, trans-

lating to 46.06 percent of the released budget. "E1 500 000 was re-allo-

cated to boost this item because it was insufficiently allocated funds. There were more external trips in the period under review and most of them are beyond the department's control."

On CTA charges; a budget of E18 756 166 was allocated to cater for the Central transport Administration (government garage servicing state owned vehicles) charges. The released amount was E4 147 360. The expenditure was E9 317 174 leaving a negative variance of E5 169 814 (-124.66 percent) of the released budget. The reason for the under expenditure is that this item was insufficiently allocated funds, says the report.

The second quarter performance report of the ministry of justice and constitutional affairs for the financial year 2019/20 says the resultant under expenditure is E45 866 469, this translating to 20.41 percent.

EMASWATI MARRY FOREIGNERS IN FOREIGN LANDS

MORE Emaswati prefer giving a hand in marriage to foreigners in foreign lands than it is the other way round.

This is one reason why a total of 124 applications for Marriage Status Clearance Letters were approved and issued with the confirmation letters of their status to enable them to get married to foreigners in their countries.

According to the ministry of home

affairs second quarter report to parliament, a total of 19 applications for authority to get married in the country by Emaswati and foreigners were received and approved by the department.

Also, during the said second quarter under review the department received applications for change of surnames and 14 were approved and published in the government's gazette. This is as

per the Change of Surname Act 67 of 1962.

The civil registration department under the home affairs ministry is the one tasked with the training and examining of civil rites marriage officers in the country, change of surname and also responsible for the granting of authority to marry in and outside the country, the verification of the authenticity of the certificates.

Ministry of public works promises to fix streetlights

THE public works ministry launched tenders for the maintenance of street lights through the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in the second quarter of the 2019/2020 financial year.

According to the ministry's second quarter report to parliament, the public works ministry received bids from contractors and has commenced the evaluation of the bids.

"It is anticipated that the ministry will be ready to award contracts no later than the end of November, last month, to maintain streetlights during this financial year," the report in part.

"It is also worth indicating that are some contracts from the previous financial year that were not exhausted as a



result of government's failure to pay invoices." It goes to say that govern-

ment had subsequently paid these contractors and work had resumed.

Construction of Bulembu – Pigg's Peak road

GOVERNMENT was engaged Swaziland Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd to undertake the design review and construction supervision of the Pigg's Peak – Bulembu (MR20) and Pigg's Peak – Bulandzeni (MR2) roads.

The project is divided into two phases design review and construction supervision. The design review aspect of the project, according to the ministry of public work's report to parliament, has since been completed where a report has been submitted to the ministry. "The objective of this stage of the pro-



ject was to explore the possibility of value engineering in the project. The project is now ready for the second phase of implementation, which is con-

struction. However, our ministry has not received an allocation for this financial year to carry out activities under this project."

Pastor orders female members to remove underwear so God can enter their bodies

NAIROBI - Religious leaders have a long history of convincing their church members to do unique things, this is no different in Kenya, where one pastor orders his female members to remove their undergarments in the name of Christ.

Kenyan pastor Reverend Njohi has raised not only a few eyebrows but red flags with his unorthodox suggestion of having his female congregants remove their bras and underwear before coming to church, so that Christ can freely enter their bodies with his spirit, according to The Kenyan Daily Post.

Njohi, who is the pastor of the Lord's Propeller Redemption Church in Kenya, reportedly

refers to undergarments as "ungodly." The Bible-toting minister called together a meeting with church officials and allegedly discussed banning the undergarments because people "need to be free in body and spirit in order to receive Christ."

After warning his female congregants about the evils of skivvies, the God-fearing pastor spoke of the damnation they will suffer if they dare not to go bare underneath.

In true fashion, the church's female population reportedly did come to church sans their undies, the Post reports, in order to prepare for their spiritual taking.

The Kenyan Daily Pos





FULL HOUSE: Families had lunch at The George Hotel on Christmas Day for the hotel's delicious cuisine; from sea food to curries. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



WINE AND DINE: The Mkhonta family posing for our lenses.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE



MY KIDS: Lindiwe Shabangu took her children Sinethemba and Amahle Shabangu out for lunch on the special day.



FAM: The Ndwandwe family from Zombodze also came to have lunch at the hotel.

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205/40R17	E600.00		
750R16	E1600.00		
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POSE: Matsidiso Simelane, Carol Mavuso, Oluhle Simelane and Ayabonga Simelane having a good time.



SPOILING MYSELF: Sharon Kelly decided to take herself out for Christmas lunch.



MY BABIES: Lindiwe Mazibuko having fun with her children Andile Mabuza and Luyandza Mkhonta.

GEORGE HOTEL



JUST US: Anthony Dlamini with his wife Darcy and daughter Lindokuhle at the hotel.



DINE: Manotja Maziya spoiled himself with lunch on Christmas Day.

CUDDLE PUDDLE CHRISTMAS



COOLING OFF: The swimming pool at Cuddle Puddle was packed mainly by little ones. Others had picnics on the sides to celebrate the special day. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



CHILLING: People enjoying themselves at the pool area.



PACKED: The pool area was packed as people came from near and far to enjoy themselves.

THE FESTIVE 5

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By Bodwa Mbingo

ESWATINI CCM EXCITED BY E755m GLOBAL FUND ALLOCATION

Eswatini Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) is very excited at the latest Global Fund's whopping E755 million grant allocation to fight malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV in the country from 2022 to 2024.

The allocation shows an increase of E56 million from the current Global Fund grant that started in 2018 and ending in 2020 for malaria, 2021 for tuberculosis (TB) and HIV. CCM Executive Secretary Vulindlela Msibi in an interview with the Saturday Observer first thanked His Majesty King Mswati III for the milestone US\$6 million pledge he made in France during the Sixth Global Fund Replenishing Conference in October. He said the King, other leaders, companies and individuals made it possible for Eswatini and other African countries to get the funding by ensuring that the contributions and pledges reached the US\$14 billion target.

"We're very excited by the new allocation. The King has been instrumental in ensuring that Eswatini and other African countries continue to obtain the funding. In the various Global Fund committees we come before as Eswatini we are now able to present our case with confidence as this was the first time making a pledge at the replenishment conference. Usually it has been affluent countries and individuals that have made meaningful contributions and pledges. We are very happy that there has been an increase in the funding allocation for the country," he stated.

Msibi explained that the Global Fund has a stipulated formula for funding each country and that there are specific areas that are considered for each allocation. He said those include each country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP); the disease burden of malaria, TB and HIV; and the absorption rate of the previous allocation. He said what has positively contributed to the country's increased



EXCITED: CCM Executive Secretary Vulindlela Msibi and Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini.

allocation is the fact that the country's absorption rate is over 90 per cent yet if it was around 40 to 50 per cent it would have meant that the country is not adequately using the funding which then results in the allocated monies being retained by the Global Fund.

"The trend for the last nine years have shown that the allocations for our programmes have decreased and, for instance, for 2015 to 2017 the malaria allocation was US\$4 million and the current allocation decreased to US\$2.5 million. Although we are now at the elimination stage, but the

allocation has increased for the next phase. The same is true for the other programmes as the allocations have increased," he stated.

Processes

Msibi further shared with this publication that as the CCM they have already started the processes of applications for the funding. He said the processes include formulating roadmaps for each programme and consultations with the various stakeholders.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini when making the announcement of the increased funding on December 20 said Eswatini

was highly indebted to the Global Fund for its continued support to the country's health sector which began in 2003, with the new allocation which now adds up to the over E4.2 billion figure.

Encouraged

He encouraged the principal recipients of the grant to intensify their collaboration with all implementing partners in order to fast-track grant implementation projects and processes on the ground and realise tangible benefits for the health sector, ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goal of health for all

is realised.

Intervention programmes that have benefited from the Global Fund over the years have brought this country close to the elimination of malaria, decreased the incidence of TB and saw a reduction of new HIV infections.

The PM further attributed the improved grant to the vision, leadership and commitment demonstrated by His Majesty in the response against AIDS, TB and malaria.

He congratulated the CCM, ministry of health, National Emergency Response to Combat HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) and in-country partners such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), United States government, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) for working closely with government to attract this level of funding from the Global Fund over the years.

He said Eswatini appreciated the role played by the development partners in supporting the HIV and AIDS response. The intervention went a long way towards achieving measurable results and impacted joint response to the development needs of Eswatini. Dlamini said the country had made great progress in HIV.

He further appreciated the role of the UN in fostering cooperation, coordination and enhanced UN coherence in the spirit of 'delivering as one'.

Teenager kills 'paedophile priest who abused him'

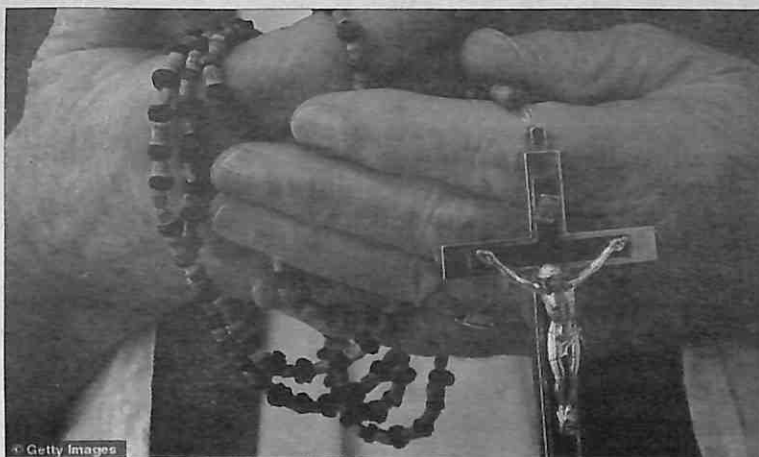
AGNETZ - A 19-year-old housekeeper has killed a suspected paedophile priest who allegedly abused him by ramming a crucifix down his throat and suffocating him. Alexandre V, whose full name has not been disclosed, attacked 91-year-old Catholic Roger Matassoli while working at the holy figure's home in Agnetz, Oise, northern France.

The man was charged for torture, murder and resisting arrest, but had to be transferred to hospital when he was arrested on psychiatric grounds, after he was caught fleeing the scene in the victim's car.

Matassoli had been accused of sexually abusing at least four boys including the victim's father between 1960 and 2000. [dailymail.co.uk]

The priest was found dead by officers with signs of torture on his body and appearing to have suffered asphyxiation.

The incident took place on November 4, but the attacker was not formally charged until December 26. The suspect was employed by the victim as a



NOT DISCLOSED: Alexandre V, whose full name has not been released, attacked the 91-year-old Catholic Roger Matassoli at the holy figure's home in Agnetz, Oise, northern France.

housekeeper.

The suspect's father - named as Stephane by French media - was allegedly abused by the priest as a child as was the suspect.

Stephane's father killed himself when he learnt about the abuse, and Alexandre also tried to kill himself following the

abuse, French reports have claimed. 'This man has shattered a whole family,' Stephane said.

Police are pursuing their investigation based on the hypothesis that this was an act of revenge, according to local media.

The suspect has indicated to inves-



ACCUSED: The priest had been accused of abusing at least four boys including the attacker and the attacker's father. (Stock image)

tigators having no recollection of the events he is suspected of having committed.

After the priest's murder, Beauvais bishop Jacques Benoit-Gonnin said Roger Matassoli had been removed from his duties in 2009 after abuse allegations emerged.

However, conflicting local media reports also state that 2009 was the year that the priest retired due to old age.

It also later emerged that bishop

Jacques Benoit-Gonnin allegedly kept Matassoli on the payroll until 2018, when he took Alexandre and Stephane's testimony into consideration, as well as the testimony of at least two other alleged victims, still according to local media.

Reports allege that the priest had been allowed to carry on working due to 'ecclesiastical errors' and due to a succession of bishops putting off dealing with the issue.

Mail Online

'IDEA OF SA SWALLOWING ESWATINI, OTHERS IMPOSSIBLE'

By Bodwa Mbingo

...South African Advocate says Africa is too divided to unite

A South African political expert Modidima Mannya feels that it is hardly possible to swallow Lesotho and make it one country with South Africa, or have Eswatini, Lesotho and Botswana become one country with theirs.

Mannya also feels that the African continent is too divided to unite.

Modidima Mannya is an advocate, a writer and the Executive Director of Legal Services at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Writing for the City Press, Mannya reminds the readers that Malamulele in South Africa's Limpopo and Matatiele in the Eastern Cape, among other villages, went on fire just to be incorporated into other municipalities just for the mere formality of changing municipal boundaries.

"Now imagine if you wanted to change the borders of a country.

The idea of Africa becoming one country with a single government sounds enterprising, but wholly unreal. Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Guinea are to each other what South Africa and its immediate neighbours, Eswatini and Lesotho, are. The same can be said of Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

If there was any opportunity to have consolidated countries, these would be the easier ones to merge. But political power will not accept any such proposition," he states.

He also notes that from a political rhetoric point of view, the whole thing may make perfect sense.

Provinces

He says in South Africa, it is hardly possible to do away with provinces and other regional or ethnic-based areas, never mind address issues of race, which continue to present complexity.

Added to this, is their inability to define what they want to do with the system of traditional leadership and how they locate it within the context of their constitutional democracy.

"Our political parties are firmly structured with various divisive characteristics and none of them is able to master the basics of a united and cohesive formation. None of our political parties is not one way or the other confronted with major diversity issues. That diversity is not just about power, but goes to the heart of certain critical issues which define the character of each party.

Before we can even imagine one country called Africa, we will first have to imagine a village that is united and cohesive.

"The concept of unity has over centuries derived different meanings and interpretations from different sets of circumstances. Unity starts with an appreciation of diversity and diverse issues.

In the context of Africa, like other continents, there is a history which determines how the peoples define



UNREALISTIC: The idea of Africa becoming one country with a single government sounds enterprising but wholly unreal.

themselves," he adds.

He notes that the fact of their colonisation is not the only factor that impacts on their unity and defines the nature of the relationships that exist. He says the fact of the commonality of problems created by colonisation does not on its own define the ability to become one nation with one government.

"There is already a wealth of history of numerous attempts to unite Africa and define it as one people. There is also a wealth of history of great men and women who did their best to achieve unity of the peoples of the continent. Colonialism, and its effects, is but one factor which impeded their efforts.

"There is also the reality of incessant wars in Africa sponsored by former colonial masters at the insistence of the many despots Africa has had over years. Cultural, religious and other differences have been extensively used by those who have a penchant for power to maintain their positions of power," he stresses.

He also notes that the number of

instances where legitimate governments were overthrown with impunity may easily exceed the instances where nations had the true freedom to elect their own governments. He says Europe is probably the best example of the impossibility of achieving real unity. He says despite European countries being master colonisers of Africa based on their unity in sharing the continent, it is hardly possible to achieve real unity in Europe itself.

Best

"Brexit remains the best example of the extent to which European people have defined themselves. The nearest they could come is a loose federal arrangement. This is the model every other part of the world has adopted. The US is another classic example of the complexity of forming a single state. The federal system of the US is by no means an accident. It was, and remains, a do-or-die situation in which it was about having either one country with many states or nothing.

"The fact that it is hardly possible to agree on who should be defined as an African on the continent must itself be the most pronounced indicator of the impossibility of a united Africa.

Not long ago, we witnessed the extensive abuse and brutality of Africans by Africans in Egypt, when there was enslavement by supposed comrades, and subjection to forms of brutality even the former colonial masters did not visit upon slaves of yore," he states.

Mannya says the obvious silence of Africa on that unfolding human tragedy as it happened told a story. That the people of Western Sahara, he says, continue to be colonised by their own supposed Africans tells another story. He says the Congo is permanently trapped in a civil war. He says Rwanda saw an unprecedented genocide, as was the case with Sierra Leone with horrific war crimes.

"Our immediate neighbours have become wholly unstable politically. Even Botswana teeters on the brink

of real instability.

I can imagine trying to persuade people to trust those they regard as not their own. There must not be any doubt that the idea of one Africa is a noble one and no effort must be spared to achieve that objective if it is at all possible. What is clear, though, is that under present circumstances such an objective cannot be achieved through peaceful means.

History and experience is there to support the proposition that Africa is way too divided to unite in any meaningful way, never mind as one country," adds Mannya.

He notes that it is dangerous to undermine the effort already taken to unite Africa and assume that the continental divisions can be addressed through a simple political, ideological posture.

Like race and gender issues, he says, African unity is as elusive as its peace because of historical and other factors that have contributed significantly to the current divisions.

He is of the view that poverty in Africa, part of which is self-inflicted by self-serving leaders who pay lip service to the people, remains one of the biggest obstacles to peace and unity.

He says tyrants and former colonial masters have found a captive market of those they can always use to advance their nefarious agendas. He says in the same context, religion has become such a major divisive factor in Africa that there cannot be any hope of any form of unity.

"Like dictators, who use wars to assume and retain power, certain religious factions have found a niche market in which to use religion as a tool to advance political interests. We must remember that the Congo and Sudan have recently each split into two countries.

Their recent borders have nothing to do with colonialism per se, but with the lack of unity and peace of the peoples of those nations," he says.

Mannya feels it should be remembered that the two countries have become permanent war zones.

On the face of it, he says, Libya had a good leader until, as we are told, the West engineered his demise, we heard the same about Egypt.

He says the same is to be said about many other countries that neither experienced a sponsored colonial war nor had their borders changed, but the peoples do not agree on anything. "It may indeed be a noble idea.

The founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity thought hard about it and initiated a process. Many liberation movements on the continent must have thought very hard about it. Interestingly, at no stage did they imagine Africa as one country.

The struggle remained for the liberation of various countries.

"If we could not persuade the people of Malamulele and Matatiele, would we be able to persuade the people of Nigeria, Chad, Libya and Ghana that they did not need their borders?

On a continent where a basic thing such as a bill of rights is a swear word, one wonders what kind of country Africa would be as a single entity. Ambition must always be made of tougher stuff," he concludes.



FAMILY: Thwala family having their Christmas Lunch at the Happy Valley hotel on Wednesday. (Pics: Phetsile Mamba)



LUNCH: Shiba family came all the way from Pigg's Peak to enjoy Christmas Day at the hotel.

LOVE, LAUGHTER, GIFTS AT HAPPY

By Phetsile Mamba

Happy Valley Hotel brought smiles to its customers on Christmas during their annual Christmas lunch.

Families came looking beautiful in the colourful outfits that matched the festive mood.

Most of them could not stop smiling and sharing their jokes with their

loved ones they hadn't seen in a while.

Happy Valley Hotel went all out with the decorations and the food. The environment was filled with happiness and love.

A lot of families who were there had one thing in common to say about the hotel, which is their hospitality and delicious food that the hotel offers.



LAUGHTER: Senator Bhutana, Princess Sizakhele Dlamini, Zandile Maphosa, Mngqobi Masuku, Princess Xoli Dlamini, Mdumisi Masuku and Sibusiso Simelane having fun.



THE MAVUSOS: Thobeka, Winile, Canaan, Nelly, Siwakhile and Alwande beaming with happiness.



BEAUTIFUL: Cynthia Mtoko, Fezile Matsebula and Busiswa Mkhonta pose for a picture.



GAMES: Children enjoying kiddies games.



THE MASUKUS: Nomasiko, Sinaye, Philile and Nosipho looking colourful at the Christmas Lunch.

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THE DLAMINIS: Siwakhile, Sakhiwo, Hylis, Nimrod and Simiso enjoying their Christmas lunch.



HAPPINESS: The Rust, Webb and Seabra families.

VALLEY ON XMAS DAY



OUT FOR LUNCH: Ziyane family from Siphocosini celebrating their Christmas at the hotel, they loved the food and entertainment.



SMILES: Thandi Mdluli, Busiswa Mdluli, Siphile Kunene and Mpendulo Kunene pose for a picture.



POSING: Eva, Belinda, Patrick, Naomi Du-pont having a great time as family.



THE MAGONGOS: Silindile, Bamindile and Sthembile looking beautiful and colourful. They said that they chose the hotel because of the hospitality and the good food.



Public Service Pensions Fund

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PUBLIC NOTICE/ SATISO

OUR NEW MANZINI BRANCH OFFICE LOCATION

WE WISH TO INFORM ALL OUR CLIENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT OUR MANZINI BRANCH OFFICE SHALL BE RELOCATING TO OUR NEW PREMISES SITUATED AT ESTEL HOUSE PREMISES NO: 4, ON 07 JANUARY 2020.

INDZAWO LENSJA YELIGATJA LELIHHOVISI LEMHLALA PHANSI LAKAMANZINI

LIHHOVISI LEMHLALA PHANSI LATISA SIVE NEMAKHASIMENDE ALO KUSUKELA MHLAKA 07 BHIMBIDVWANE 2020 LIGATJA LALO LAKAMANZINI LIYASUSWA LIYA ESAKHIWENI SASE-ESTEL HOUSE PREMISES NO: 4.

VESTS JUST TOO HEAVY FOR THOSE GUARDS

Stories by Zwelihle Sukati

Some cash security guards are refusing to wear bullet-proof vests because they are too heavy, something which they say puts their lives at risk.

As a result, a security guard from one cash security firm was recently given marching orders for his persistent refusal to wear the bullet vests. The fired security guard is a trained former soldier.

He is not the only one who has issues with these vests as other guards share similar sentiments. "I am a trained former soldier and I know these things. The vests used by these cash security companies are just too heavy for one to take swift action during a gun attack," concurred another former soldier, Madoda Dlamini.

"Even though they will not say it on record, these companies are well aware of what we mean," Dlamini suggested that the companies should engage their suppliers to have the weights of these vests reduced.

"After I left the army, I was later employed by a cash security company. What was meant to be a simple job as I am a trained soldier, turned out to be a life threatening experience," he said.

"You cannot take swift actions, roll about and fight back when wearing those things."

He mentioned one incident that took place in Manzini when cash security guards had bullets pumped into their bodies during the heist as the thugs tried to disarm them. A cash guard from Cash Security Services was shot dead and another seriously



GUARDS IN ACTION: Images from the internet showing security guards in those heavy vests.

injured during the heist at the Riverstone Mall, in 2012.

The robbers made away with two money bags after a shootout at the main entrance of the mall.

One of the robbers was shot in the arm and leg, but still managed to escape.

"Two men came inside the mall and sat on the benches next to the entrance while the security cash guards were already upstairs."

"When they came down with the cash from the ATMs, the two men quickly covered their faces with balaclavas and started firing at them," a security guard at Riverstone Mall, who preferred anonymity, was quoted by the media.

The security guard said the men

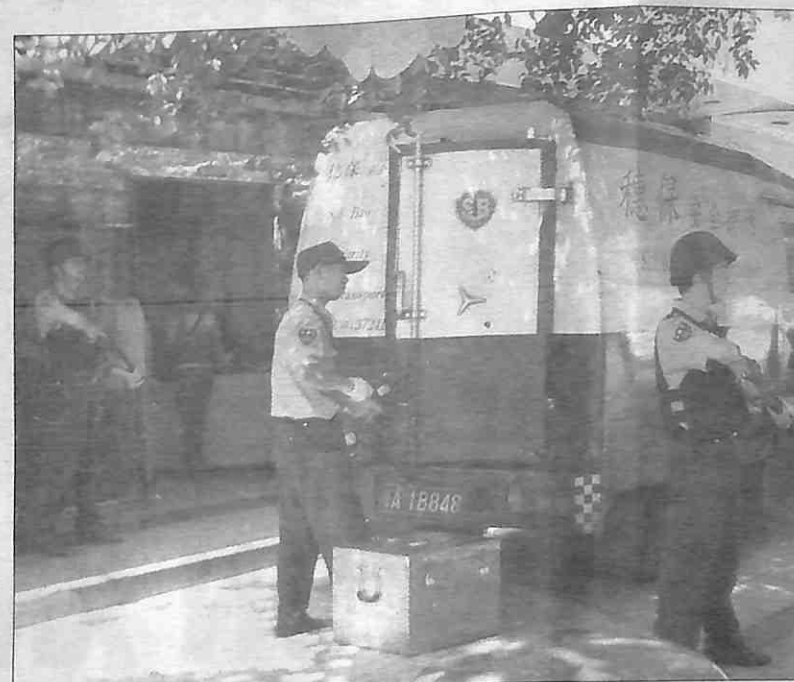
fired the shots while one of them tried to disarm the cash guard who was later shot twice in the stomach.

"The one who was carrying the two huge red bags with the cash inside was assaulted with open hands and kicks by one of the robbers," he said.

The security guard said after he was assaulted he fell to the ground and had to surrender the cash and hide next to the security company vehicle which was parked in the middle of the entrance.

While the security guard was being interviewed by the press, his immediate boss quickly whisked him away and told journalists that the information already sourced was enough.

"Pay particular attention to this; there was no way those security guards



could rely on reflex actions; even a trained soldier took cover and failed to fight back in time because of those steel heavy jackets meant to protect

you," Dlamini said, adding that he decided to quit his job as a cash security guard as he was exposed to death almost every day.

The evolution of body armour

As domestic threats continue to increase, so does the need for better protection for law enforcement officers.

While many advances have been made since the first bullet-resistant vests were developed, it should be noted that the vests worn by most patrol officers or regular duty officers do not stop every type of bullet, nor is any vest entirely bulletproof.

Known

Bullet-resistant vests, also known as ballistic vests or body armour, (body armour can also be used to describe helmets, leg and arm protection) are the reason many people are alive today.

According to a report carried by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) report:

"During the past three decades, ballistic-resistant soft body armour has saved the lives of more than 3 000 police officers."

LEVELS OF PROTECTION FOR BODY ARMOUR

Just like bullet resistant glass, ballistic body armour is rated for levels of protection and the most commonly used levels are II, IIIa and IV.

This is according to information sourced from Total Security Solution's

online official page.

Levels II and IIIa protect against common firearms (9mm/.44 Magnum). Level IV is generally worn for higher level of protection (long guns). SWAT and emergency response teams typically wear Level

IV, whereas regular patrols likely utilise Level II or IIIa.

While vests can be worn covertly (under uniforms and plain clothes) an increasing number of officers choose to wear them overtly – or over their uniforms. Some feel that

wearing it this way acts as a deterrent. However, the overtly-worn vests are generally heavier and bulkier. No matter what type of vest is chosen, it is necessary to get a proper fit in order for the vest to function as intended.

The hard and soft body armour

There are two basic categories for body armour: hard and soft. Soft (such as that made from DuPont™ Kevlar® fiber) is worn by most officers and stops most handgun bullets.

Hard body armour provides protection from faster-moving ammo such as rifle rounds. Today, most regular duty officers wear vests that consist of a carrier (the fabric part) with pockets that contain bullet-resistant, removable panels. Threat Level IIIA vests

typically weigh between 2 to 3 kg. This is according to Total Security Solution's official webpage.

Total Security Solutions plans, produces and installs bullet proof barriers that are aesthetically pleasing, reads their website. "We specialise in custom bullet resistant barriers, bandit barriers and bulletproof enclosures that fit the design of your work environment, including a variety of standard and custom bullet proof doors and bullet resistant windows."

Police body armor performance depends on proper maintenance

The best way to keep body armour fully functional is to take care of it by following the manufacturer's guidelines. A few basics sourced from manufactures' online pages are:

● Many fabric carriers can be machine washed, inspect

the manufacturer's label first
● Body armour fabric should never be dried in direct sunlight (UV damage can compromise the fabric)

● The removable panels are sponge clean only – never submerge in water

● If your vest sees regular use, it needs to be replaced about every five years.

Coca-Cola doesn't have plans to enter cannabis market

LONDON - Coca-Cola is dousing speculation that it's getting into the cannabis business.

Speculation surged after a video posted to YouTube - since deleted - by a user with the screen name 'Gabor the Blind Guy' showed a Coca-Cola can with a childproof lid.

The man in the video says that his father is a head engineer for a company that "produces bottling and capping machines for many major pharmaceutical and food companies."

He then says that Coca-Cola is planning on debuting a new line of its clas-

sic drink in Canada that will feature CBD extract, the non-psychoactive ingredient in marijuana that treats pain but doesn't get you high.

"These rumours are untrue," Coca-Cola said in an emailed statement to Bloomberg News. "As we have stated many times, we have no plans to

enter the CBD market."

A saved copy of the video was posted on Reddit's WallStreetBets forum. Coca-Cola said in 2018 that it was looking at the cannabis drinks market. The news fuelled stock gains for companies like Aurora Cannabis. The Atlanta-based soft drinks maker was

in talks with Canadian marijuana producer Aurora Cannabis to develop the beverages, according to a report at the time from BNN Bloomberg Television. Aurora did not respond to inquiries from Bloomberg News on Thursday about a possible partnership with Coca-Cola. News24

MP DECRIES NKONJWA DOUBLE MURDER

By Sifiso Dlamini

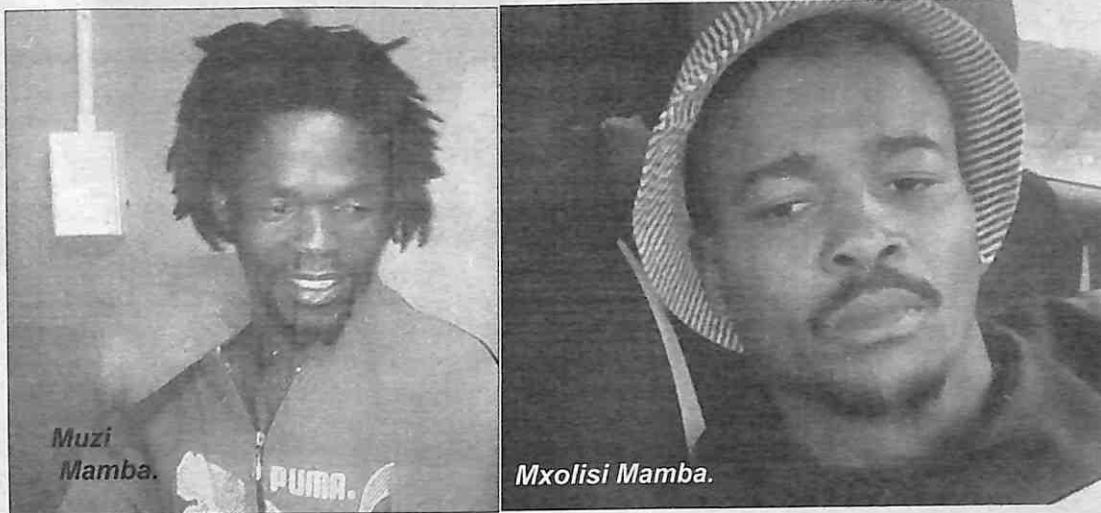
Sithobelweni MP Bhekithje Dlamini says the rate of crime at Nkonjwa is a cause for concern.

Nkonjwa community is living in fear following multiple incidents of criminal activities and violence.

Earlier

He said earlier this year a traditional healer Gcina Vilakati (42) and his mother Liphinah Vilakati were attacked at their homestead and shot to death by armed men, an incident that shocked the community members.

Dlamini condoned the criminal behaviour, saying as community members, they needed to resolve disputes amicably instead of resort-



Muzi Mamba.

Mxolisi Mamba.

ing to violence.

"This is very concerning as this year we witnessed a number of incidents of violence in the area," he said.

He mentioned that as a community, they needed God's intervention as people around the area were living in fear. He stated that as community members, they needed to be united and have humanity instead of acting impulsively.

Mentioned

He also condoned the actions of the mob, saying they should have not taken the law into their own hands. He urged the community members to stay calm and united during these troubling times.

This comes after 20 enraged residents allegedly attacked two brothers and killed them.

The brothers are Muzi and Mcolisi both Mamba of Letindze at KaNkonjwa in Sithobelweni.

The mob used an assortment of weapons including pangas, spears, axes, stones, among others.

These will be used as exhibits in court.

It is said the bone of contention was that Mcolisi allegedly stabbed another resident during a drinking fight but the matter was resolved. However, that did not stop the community members as they were baying the blood of the two brothers.

Mule nabbed crossing border with dagga

Stories by Delisa Thwala

While others celebrated Christmas and Boxing Day, Lucky Dlamini was caught red handed with dagga estimated to be 2.335kg at Ngwenya Border gate.

Dlamini appeared before a magistrate yesterday and pleaded guilty to all the charges.

He conducted his own defence.

"Your Worship I hereby plead guilty to possession of dagga on December 26 at Ngwenya border Post.

"My Lord I do not know what I was doing and, therefore, am pleading for leniency," said Dlamini in mitigation.

He added that he was a first time offender and begged for a lesser sentence. Dlamini was fined E1 500 or face 15 months in prison.



Accused won't find something for magistrate to work with

Mangaliso Motsa was apprehended by the police for driving under the influence.

Motsa was nabbed driving around the New Mall in Mbabane under the influence. Before handing out his verdict, the magistrate said Motsa should plead and ask for mercy.

However, given this opportunity Motsa did not give the magistrate satisfactory answers hence the presiding officer had to ask him to give him something to work with.

"You are quiet, the court needs something. To work with so we can be lenient with you. The way you are doing, it is like you do not want to be pardoned," said the magistrate.

In response, Motsa said he was sorry, adding that he did not mean to drink and be on the road. He claimed he was always a sober driver and on the fateful day he was dropping his friends off.

"Your worship I will never drink and drive ever again.

"I'm very sorry, next time I will respect the rules of the road and never touch the steering wheel while drunk. I hereby plead for leniency," said Motsa.

In the same court, Nathi Shongwe was given an option fine of E1 500 or five months in prison for driving under the influence around Msunduzi.

A slap in the face costs Msibi E500

Bheki Msibi, accused of slapping one Nhlonipho in the face, was given a E500 fine or five months in prison for the offence.

It is said the fight ensued after Msibi had taken one too many.

"My Lord I admit I slapped him but it was not my intention. "On this particular day, I

was controlled by alcohol. I'm sorry Your Worship," pleaded Msibi.

Msibi asked to serve his sentence by cleaning any of the police camps.

Good

"Your Worship, I'm not usually like this, I'm also good at cleaning and I can clean the police camps," closed Msibi.

Renew TV licence by Tuesday

By Khetsiwe Khumalo

As the deadline for TV licences renewal is nearing December 31, 2019, TV License Project Coordinator Phumelele Dlamini is urging subscribers to renew or pay the yearly fee of E50 for equipment and accessories used to receive, record and display television signal.

These include decoders, set top boxes (*sigujana*) and DVD gadgets.

There has been an outcry from some subscribers that they were not aware of the payment.

The payment is stipulated in the Television Authority Act of 1983 and its regulations.

"We would like to thank individuals and businesses alike who had paid their TV licences in time year after year.

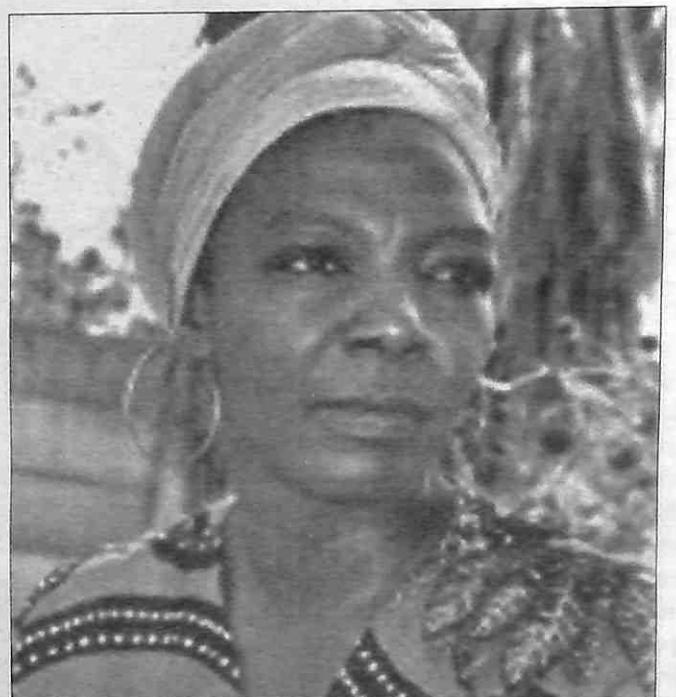
"We would also like to thank companies that supported the initiative throughout the year," said Dlamini.

Increase

She said in the last two weeks they have seen an increase by approximately 25 per cent in the number of new devices and renewals of TV licences for 2020.

"Individuals and businesses alike are making sure to renew or pay their licences to avoid incurring the additional cost or penalty of 50 per cent," Dlamini added.

She said about 1 340 individuals and 13 businesses made renewals of TV licences for 2020 through the post offices, approximately 335 individuals and business owners paid cash at the TV license office (walk ins), 123 paid using MTN Mobile Money about 15 individuals paid and renewed through Eswatini Mobile email and about 96 businesses which



TV license Project Coordinator Phumelele Dlamini.



is inclusive of banks, corporates and some retailers dealing in the trade of television sets opted to pay through the Project's Nedbank account EFT.

Noting

Meanwhile it is worth noting that the Television Viewers (Certificate & Licences) Regulations of 1983 stipulate that a person who owns a video recorder, shall pay E50 for a licence which shall be renew-

able annually. The video equipment and accessories is defined in the Video (equipment, accessories and cassettes) Regulations of 1986 as a television receiver or electronic device capable of receiving, recording or displaying video images and sounds.

"A TV licence costs E180 per year per device and a decoder, set top box (*sigujana*) costs E50 per device per year," said Dlamini.

SOARING HIGH CELEBRATES EARLY XMAS WITH 50 NEEDY CHILDREN

By Bodwa Mhango

Last Saturday 50 children from various Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in Motshane were showered with gifts and treated to a scrumptious lunch by Soaring High It's a Girl Thing (SIGT) organisation.

SIGT is a non-profit organisation based in Motshane and founded by Siphesihle Shongwe, who is daughter to the late, former minister of health and social welfare and Motshane Chief Siphon Shongwe.

It truly was an early Christmas for the children as SIGT donated to them clothes, food parcels and toys as well as groceries to their respective caregivers.

The day ended with a mouthwatering meal that was prepared for the children. SIGT founder and Director Shongwe stated that as a young person living in the Motshane community she felt it was necessary to share with those in need.

"In this season of giving it was pivotal to extend a helping hand and to be a blessing to others because no act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted.

Planting the seeds of kindness and generosity to these children will enable them to grow up and spread kindness and love to others as well," she further emphasised.

When the SIGT team was asked what the highlight of the day was, they stated that there was nothing as beautiful and as heartwarming as putting a smile on children's faces because all children are beautiful flowers that make the world a beautiful garden and, therefore, being able to make them smile was their greatest joy.

The SIGT team is composed of young people who are zealous and eager to make great changes in their communities by touching and changing many lives within their communities.

Shongwe added that SIGT is a vehicle that propels children to fly to higher trajectories and that last Saturday the organisation truly lived up to its motto which is;

"We are the wings to propel change in the lives of children, we are the hands that feed and the feet that walk children to their great destinies".

In her closing remarks Shongwe thanked all those who contributed towards the success of the event and they included Dr F. Tshabalala, Ms Andrea, Mrs C. Nxumalo, Mrs V. Masuku, Terndai Cheperera and others.

To find out more, Shongwe urged interested individuals to follow their instagram page on @s.i.g.t._eswatini.



POSE: The SIGT team joined the caregivers and the children.



CHEESE: Shongwe posing with more children.



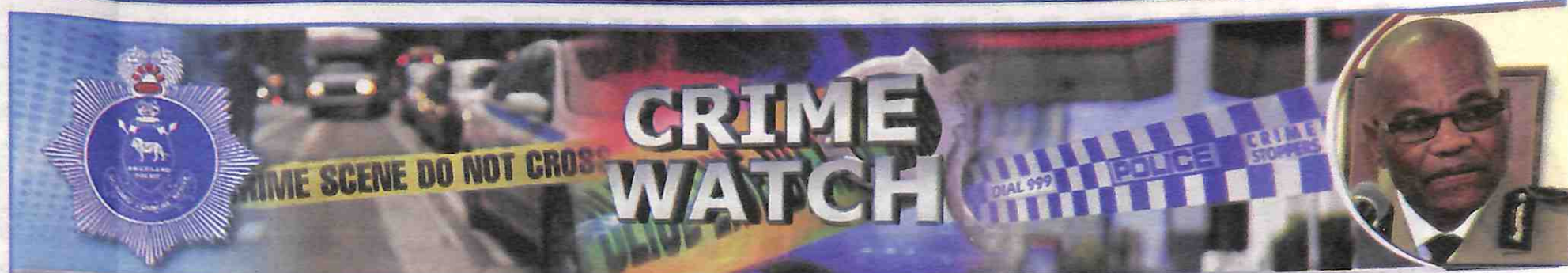
PRESENTS: Nonduduzo Nhlabatsi, who is also part of the SIGT team presents a gift pack to one of the children.



ASSETS: Shongwe (R) being assisted by one of the caregivers in preparing food for the children.



ATTENTIVE: The children joined by their caregivers listen attentively to what their benevolent visitors had to say.



INTERACTION: National Commissioner of Police William Tsitsibala Dlamini talking to a motorist during the launch of the campaign.



BUSY DAY: MP Magongo and the National commissioner attending to a motorist.

BE SAFE ON THE ROADS, ARRIVE ALIVE IN THE NEW YEAR

...follow the rules of the road

The festive season is already underway and road safety is one of the priority areas that the Royal Eswatini Police Service is focusing on to ensure a safe and secure crossover to the New Year.

Last Friday REPS with other stakeholders launched a road safety campaign at Motshane which is aimed at highlighting the importance of road safety for all users, be it motorists or pedestrians.

A road safety information centre has been mounted at Motshane, where motorists get vital road safety rules from the police officers manning the facility.

Excitement

Speaking during the launch, National Commissioner of Police William Tsitsibala Dlamini said the launch was important to the operations of the service as it presented a perfect opportunity to re-emphasise the issue of road safety during the festive period which is always characterised by excitement and celebration.

Dlamini stated that the police service is in full support of the Kingdom of Eswatini Strategic Roadmap as the organisation was tasked with focusing on the prevention and reduction of murders and road deaths.

He said for the country to achieve this, the responsible use of roads needed to be encouraged at all times and the community has to be involved.

The National Commissioner said road fatalities do not only affect the concerned families but they also have a negative effect on the economy and road infrastructure at times.

He said there have been fatal accidents since the beginning of December



BE SAFE: The National Commissioner of Police also took time to get into public transport spreading the safety message.

but the statistics are showing a decline from last year, which is a good thing. He urged all road users to be cautious and follow the rules of the road during the ongoing festive period so that the loss of life can be minimised.

Escalating

The Police Chief stated that if the necessary remedial steps are not taken, accidents have a tendency of escalating and many lives are lost even before the crossover to the New Year.

He said with the launch of the road safety campaign the police service is aiming to make the road network safe

not only for Eswatini but also for those who are currently visiting the country. He said it is the responsibility of all road users to adhere to the rules of the road as some are always found to be on the wrong side of the law.

Motorists are also warned against overloading, over speeding, driving while under the influence of intoxicating substances and using a cellphone while driving.

Stray livestock was also cited as one of the main causes of fatal road accidents, Dlamini urged farmers to ensure that their livestock is not left to wan-



IN ATTENDANCE: Police officers and stakeholders who were present during the launch.

Tips to follow in order to be safe on the roads:

- Plan the route to follow to your holiday destination and allow yourself enough time to reach your final destination.
- Make sure that your vehicle is roadworthy before embarking on your trip.
- Do not overload
- Do not drink and drive.
- Try and recognise potentially dangerous drivers and pedestrians, keep clear of them.
- Always wear your seat belt and make sure that all your passengers are wearing them.
- Respect the designated speed limit on the road.
- Avoid distractions while driving such as texting or talking on a hand held cellphone.
- Pedestrians must use designated crossing areas and they should also wear bright colours especially when walking at night.
- Do not spin cars on the road.
- Sitting and lying on the road and railway lines is discouraged and must be avoided.

der into public roads.

He urged people to avoid indulging in alcohol as statistics have shown that alcohol is usually at the centre of many incidents of violent crimes and road carnage.

He also encouraged the Nation to be vigilant at all times on and off the road, practice neighbourli-

ness and ensure that suspicious behaviour is reported to the police promptly. Lastly the National Commissioner appealed to Eswatini to practice responsible behaviour and conduct to avoid any potential risk during this busy period so that everyone crosses over to the New Year.

VAN PLUNGES INTO CANAL, KILLS MKHULU, 75

By Saturday Observer Reporter

On Boxing Day near Swazi Candles on the way to Malkems, a Toyota van plunged into a canal, killing a 75-year-old passenger. The driver died later undergoing treat-

ment.

Eight other passengers, all from Mahlangatja, were seriously injured and rushed to Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital. In another accident on the same day along Nhlanguano/HluthiMR11 public road

at Kamlimi (Thunzini), a motor vehicle driven by an unknown motorist knocked down a 38-year-old male pedestrian of Qinisweni, who died on the spot. This was a hit and run accident. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent

Phindile Vilakati is asking anyone with information that may lead to the arrest of the driver of the hit and run vehicle to contact Nhlanguano Desk Officer Assistant Superintendent Sidwell Mthembu on 7603 3571 or Nhlanguano In-charge Traffic Inspector Kenneth

Mavimbela at 7603 5588 or Police Emergency 999/9999. On Christmas Day, a 29-year-old man of Lulakeni died after being stabbed in the neck with a sharp object while at Total Sports ground at Lulakeni.

During the accident, eight other passengers were seriously injured and rushed to Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital

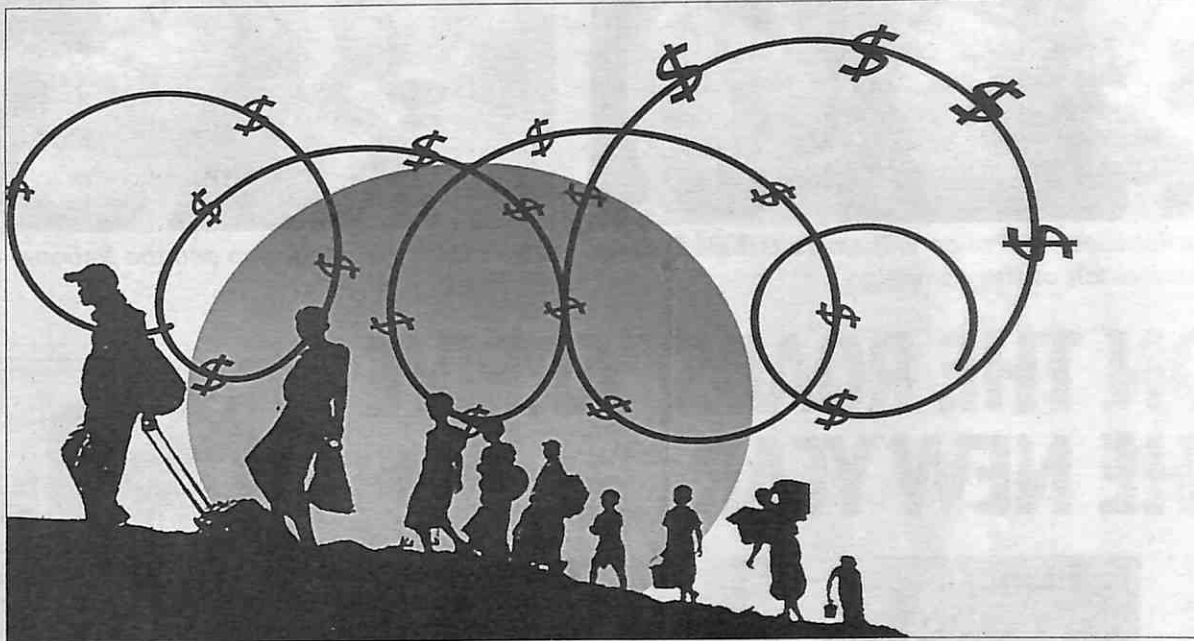
Funding options for African countries hit by climate change

The debate around climate change often focuses on the targets that need to be achieved.

Another aspect of the discussion is increasingly gaining attention; that is the funding required, for African countries in particular, where climate change has hit the hardest.

The Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) recently convened an indaba titled 'Supporting African countries to unlock and absorb climate adaptation finance' at the 25th edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) in Madrid, Spain.

A panel discussion of climate experts provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the ACCF among stakeholders at international level. The event, moderated by African Development Bank's Manager of Climate Finance Gareth Phillips aimed to showcase the ACCF's work to support African countries in unlocking and absorbing climate adaptation finance through a pipeline of 15 projects. Phillips provided an overview of the ACCF, a \$15.3 million trust fund with contributions from Germany, Italy and Flanders, which provides grants to African governments and non-governmental organisations to scale up access



to climate finance and pilot adaptation initiatives in line with Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Phillips cited the fund's current portfolio of eight projects, six national (Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Eswatini and Zanzibar) and two regional. He said the projects aimed to sup-

port beneficiary countries to implement small-scale adaptation initiatives and to access international climate funds. This is by supporting the development of project proposals for submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and by building capacities of national experts on proposal writing, project management and/or

resource mobilisation. These projects also support the accreditation process of national institutions to the GCF. Phillips also introduced new projects approved by the ACCF and presented funding needs to satisfy the fast-growing demand of African countries. Lassina Coulibaly, coordinator of the ACCF's project on

supporting the transition to a climate-resilient green economy in Mali, said: "The development of a national environment finance strategy is critical to boost the country's resource mobilisation efforts and a portfolio of five projects for consideration by the private sector."

Balgis Osman, climate change expert at the African Development Bank, shared the experience of the regional project to enhance access to information in Africa through 25 country climate change profiles. Osman indicated that, "With this project, we are helping African countries to get climate information."

Aissata Boubou, head of the climate finance unit at the Centre de Suivi écologique in Senegal gave an overview of the ACCF's efforts to support south-south cooperation through a Community of Practice of Direct Access Entities, which is a joint government and civil society initiative to enable sharing of best practices around accessing international climate finance.

Clifford Polycarp from GCF presented the partnership opportunities with the GCF to enable African countries to mobilize resources to implement their climate change projects outlined in their Nationally Determined Contributions. **ACCF**

ManziniTrade Hub



WORKS: Construction of Manzini Trade Hub is moving at a relatively fast pace after Eswatini got financing from COMESA for the works where small traders, mainly women dealing in handicraft will conduct their business as opposed to operating from the satellite bus rank on the other side of Mzimnene River. (Ackel Zwane)

REPORT CARD: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

By Saturday Observer Reporter

Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza in her budget proposal for 2020-2023 cites great strides already accomplished by the ministry in rolling out its mandate. We asked the minister to provide highlights of her programme of action and the accomplishments, she had this to share:

- Signed a MoU with UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) for the strengthening and support to Grade 0
- Improved access by opening nine new schools; two primaries and seven secondary schools
- Conducted a right sizing exercise for primary schools teaching service
- Introduced Competency Based Curriculum at primary level (procurement of books, stationery, training teachers, and M&E and inspections)
- Initiated the implementation of the qualification beyond EGCSE - Stakeholder consultations conducted and will be followed by engagement of consultants to develop the syllabuses.
- Removed English as a passing/failing subject in Grade 7 and Form 3 to reduce inefficiencies (repetition and dropouts)
- SiSwati Language Board put in place to preserve culture and indigenous language (i.e translated strategic roadmap, localising and creation of new vocabulary)

- Provided modern training equipment, capacity building for staff and technical assistants at ECOT and VOC-TIM through donor support.

- Reviewed the TVET Policy to guide the coordination and implementation of TVET programmes in the country

- ECOT admitted 100 students mostly girls from vulnerable backgrounds under the Taiwan President Scholarship

- Verified foreign qualifications through the Higher Education Regulations of 2016

- Universities and colleges diversified their courses and programmes to meet market demands (UNESWA decentralised services to cater for all Swazis thus saving them money)

- Introduced ECCDE programme at SANU and ICT at WPTTC)

- Initiated the computerisation of teacher file records a project charter and project working team in place, and request for information issued

- Provided meals to learners through the school feeding programme to sustain it, a pilot project for home grown school feeding aimed at sourcing food from local small holder farmers has commenced in 50 schools

- Integrated ICT into teaching and learning as well as leaving no one behind in education; SEN has loaded the E-Books into learner gadgets namely Prodigy Connect 12 for learners with low vision and Braille Note Touch for totally blind learners.

- Trained senior inspectors on the revised Care and Support for Teaching

and Learning (CSTL) national model.

- Unbalanced expansion of access to education and training and skills development—access to EECDE 29%, NER; primary 94.5%, lower secondary 32%, higher secondary 14%

- Doubtful quality and relevance of education at all levels

- Very low use of ICT as a support for teaching and learning and administration of schools

- Limited funding for education and training programmes—official development assistance 0.5% (2017/18)

- Programmes Implementation: Inability to transfer capital funds to implementing agencies

- Transport: Monthly fuel rationing coupled with break down of vehicles has negative effects on the quality of education as it is very difficult for the inspectorate visit schools

- Filling of vacant posts: In line with government's effort to control the wage bill, the ministry has a lot of vacant positions which cannot be filled but are occupied on acting basis. The recruitment process now takes longer. MOET will need to provide teachers for JICA operated schools.

MANDATE

Providing access to relevant quality education that is affordable at all levels to all Swazi citizens; taking into account all issues of efficiency, equity and special needs

VISION

Attainment of equality in educational

MISSION

To provide relevant, quality and affordable education and training opportunities for the entire populace of the Kingdom of Eswatini in order to develop all positive aspects of life for self-reliance, social and economic development and global competitiveness.

GREAT STRIDES:
Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza.



ESWATINI WELCOMES VISITORS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Saturday Observer Reporter

Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati has welcomed all travellers visiting the kingdom during the festive season.

Eswatini has recently been selected as the number one destination in Africa and top five in the world by Lonely Planet for tourists to explore in 2020. The minister reassured those who wanted to explore the wonders and cultures of the Kingdom that they would be treated to unparalleled beauty and hospitality.

"Petite, pleasant and packed with culture, adventure and legendary wildlife," is how Eswatini was described by the world-renowned travel authority, Lonely Planet saying it was now easier than before to visit the beautiful Kingdom.

Many South African travellers visit the country at this time of year, and the minister said he wanted the experience to be one that would make them want to return again. Vilakati also emphasised that safety and security was of utmost importance to any traveller hence was a national priority for government.

"May I also remind our visitors and all Emaswati that our laws strictly pro-



ALWAYS WELCOMING: Tourism and Environmental Affairs Minister Moses Vilakati with Eswatini Tourism Authority CEO Linda Nxumalo.

hibit drink-driving in order to curb road accidents and carnage.

"We urge all service and front desk personnel to extend our renowned friendliness and resourcefulness to our visitors to ensure they feel at home and consider coming back to the country in the future."

Vilakati said Eswatini's tourism sec-

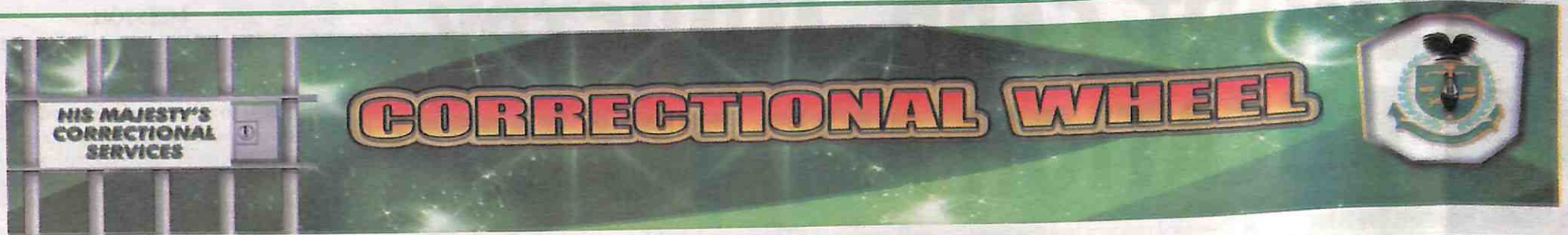
tor was geared towards growth and this was a key focus area for government. He stated that among recent accomplishments this year were national and privately-run events across culture, business, sport and entertainment - all which attracted scores of Emaswati and visitors. He mentioned that Eswatini campaign was success-

fully marketed to throngs of world travellers through its participation at various tourism trade shows in and outside Africa.

"May I welcome all visitors to Eswatini, as well as our returning citizens who are based outside the country," said the minister.

"Let us work together to keep Eswatini

an irresistible destination where visitors return time and time again because of the lifelong friendships they make and the enjoyment of our tourism products, grand accommodation, exciting attractions and adventure, our unique culture as well as unparalleled events. "Eswatini welcomes you to explore its wonders this festive season."



A GOOD YEAR: Minister of Justice Pholile Shakantu, Commissioner General Phindile Dlamini and HMCS Choral Choir pose during the Senior Officers' end-of-year party held at the staff college.



REMARKS: Minister of Justice Pholile Shakantu addresses officers during the event.



APPLAUDS: Commissioner General Phindile Dlamini makes her remarks.

COMGEN APPLAUDS OFFICERS' COMMITMENT THROUGHOUT 2019



HONOURED: Retired Assistant Commissioner Vusi Mndzebele being congratulated by the minister as he receives a gift from the commissioner general.



COMMITTED: Chief Officers Goodwill Hlophe, Tengetile Dladu and Lungile Zwane were also part of the event.



GREAT DAY: Matsapha Officer-in-Charge Norma Sibandze, Assistant Commissioner Tiffany Mhlanga and Zuzu Zubuko.

What we are today is a gift from God but what we shall become is a gift to God." One can never deceive himself or herself about the role that lies ahead of each and every correctional officer.

A gigantic task embedded in this noble profession remains and shall be carried out with utmost commitment, diligence and utter honesty.

A responsibility and calling that has to be carried out in order to ensure that society remains the peaceful and better place it once was.

A duty that knows no holiday, vacation nor closure but derives satisfaction and joy in knowing that those who have been in contact with the law are constantly and continuously shown the right path through a number of rehabilitation programmes and given a second chance in life.

It is their reformation that brings delight to every correctional officer, for they are aware that the world needs their input for successful development both socially and economically.

It is for this reason that Commissioner General Phindile Lamakhosini Dlamini recently applauded officers for their commitment and relentless efforts which they have exhibited throughout the year.

This was during a senior officers' end-of-year function held at the Staff College in Matsapha where the commissioner general, her executive and senior officers converged to reflect on the triumphs and challenges that we encountered throughout the year. During the event Dlamini thanked officers for their splendid performance and contribution towards achieving the department's desired goals and objectives since the beginning of the year.

She said throughout the year, officers displayed a high level of commitment, discipline and vigilance while undertaking operational orders.

Despite the number of challenges faced by the department emanating from the widely known economic situation, Dlamini said officers have continued to work hard ensuring that security is not threatened throughout all correctional centres thus eradicating any forms of incidents that could have tarnished the department's reputation.

The commissioner general also took time to congratulate the group of retired officers who stood firm during their tenure and fought until their last day.

Dlamini said through these officers' contributions the department is what it is today. She also



SWEET MELODY: Toti entertain officers during the ceremony.



COMPLEMENTS: Chief Assistant Commissioner Davies Zwane shakes hands with his colleague Lilly Motaung while Superintendent Nokuthula Zwane looks on.



FESTIVE MOOD: Nomcebo Mkhota, Zandile Ntentesa and Sandzisile Simelane following the proceedings.

expressed her gratitude to the department's executive command who have also worked hard together with other officers.

She said as the entire personnel was bidding farewell to the year 2019, she was optimistic that offi-

cers would carry the same energy to the year 2020. "I urge you to continue with your courage, determination, hard work and relentless desire to fulfill the department's goals and objectives in the coming year."

www.observer.org.sz

**OBSERVER
ON SATURDAY**

COLUMNS & OPINIONS

INSIDE:

Choosing
healthy fats

P. 25

Think, do things
differently and
better in
businessDamn the choosy
joystick,
diligent elsewhere
embarrassingly
shy at home!

P. 24

P. 27



**COME
TO
THINK
OF IT**

Ackel Zwane

Saturday Observer Editor

When His Majesty's Correctional Services requested visitors to dress up primly it showed to what extent some of the residents cannot be trusted.

Women visitors were advised this festive not to wear ladies skin tight pants, bum shorts, crop-tops, miniskirts, tights, tops and dresses that expose the stomach or chest and see through clothing. Otherwise, a visitor wearing such was encouraged to bring along a kanga (*lihiya*) to cover up at the entrance and do away with it when you leave.

The argument is that sexually provocative clothing may get the inmates aroused and then they will be tempted to escape in order to satiate their sexual appetite. This sounds rather logical, hoping the same rule also holds for male visitors to the Mawelawela Female Prison, that even those women may be tempted to jump on the visitor or to escape in order to service their sexual needs.

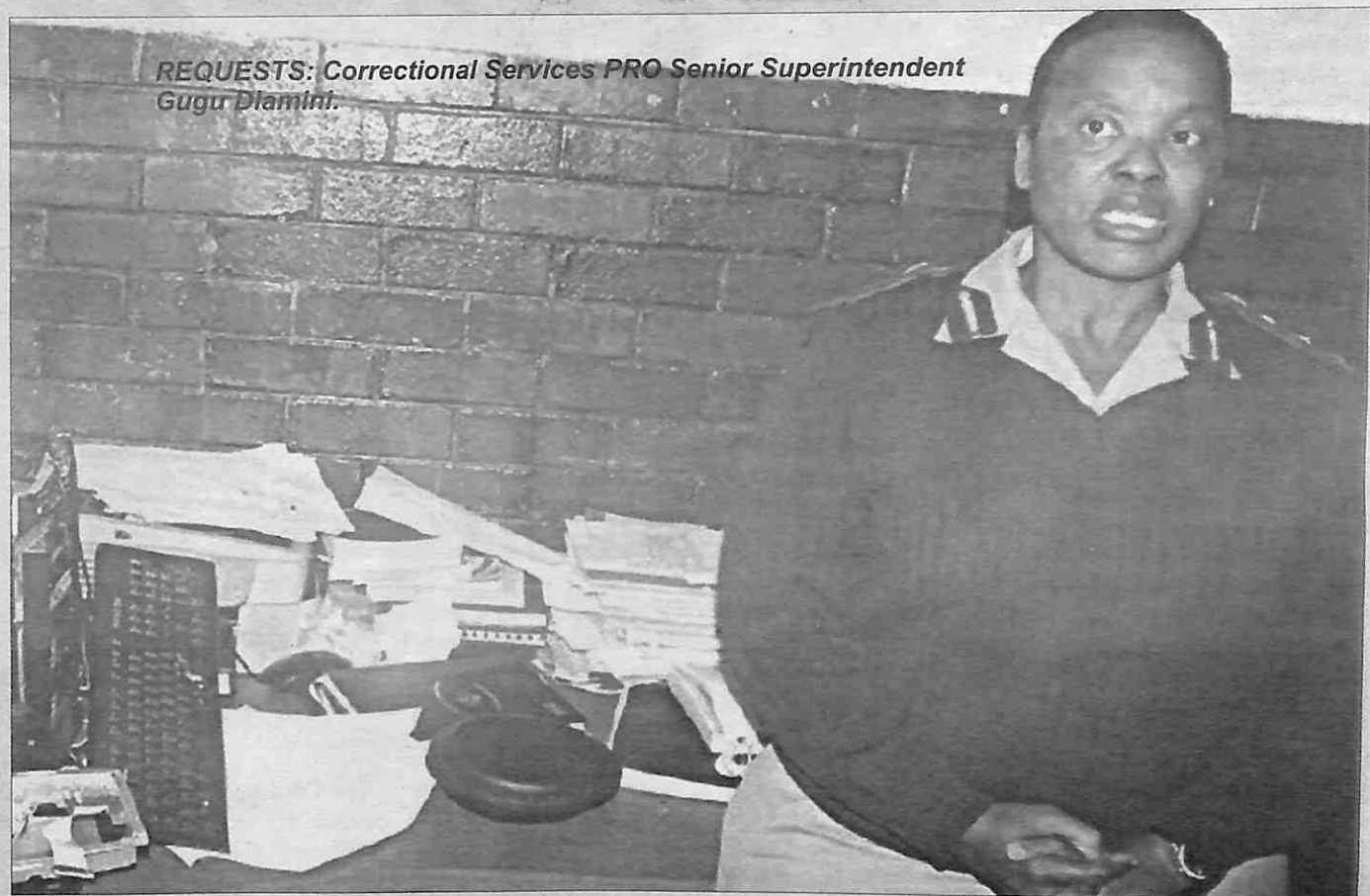
Other prisons already have guides, complete with officers from the cleavage detachment. These guides are made available to all visitors and prior to coming into the prison the visitors would know how to dress; they are also made aware of the consequences of not dressing properly.

"The same applies even to male visitors when visiting females in lockdown. Muscle top and tight shorts or pants that trace body parts are discouraged. Imagine visiting your partner who has been doing time for a while and you come wearing clothes leaving little to the imagination. The image she will have after your visit, since she is also human, will be tormenting psychologically as she will left wondering with whom will be spending the rest of the day-and night- after leaving. *Siyacela esiveni kutsi singaba hawukiseli*," said Gugu Dlamini at Corrections.

This arrangement sounds bells of a lot of sexual starvation behind bars but elsewhere we have been told of active sexual relationships on the other side of the iron door with inmates living together as couples. In some correctional facilities they literally distribute contraceptives to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections even though authorities feel embarrassed to discuss this subject matter and admit that there is sex in prison among people of the same sex.

This reminds one of the story of the sex change teacher who ran a rundown kindergarten at Moneni. His presence among young children sent parents into a frenzy and the teacher was accused of molesting the children (s)he was supposed to teach. On arrival at the Zakhele Remand Centre the whole prison came alive, that they would be served some-

KINKY DRESSES EXCITING INMATES AT THE PRISON PRECINCT



REQUESTS: Correctional Services PRO Senior Superintendent
Gugu Dlamini.

thing fresh. This is the person who masqueraded either as Patricia or Petros depending on what suited his circumstance. The warders

were not certain whether to take him to Mawelawela or Zakhele but when they checked his parts they found very potent tools and so he was housed at the Remand Centre in Zakhele.

We are still to deal with the subject matter of sexuality in the prisons, how people of transgender or LGBTI are housed and the set up of their restrooms.

But nonetheless the emphasis on the dress code for visitors can never be over emphasised. Come to think of it, a buxom fat lady shaking her behind packaged inside a tight transparent chiffon skirt with a G-string wrapping strutting towards the visitors' lounge filled with convicts doing life.

Certainly we have not experienced the case of an inmate escaping from custody just to enjoy sex then handing himself in after satisfaction. Maybe it is because former prisons Chief Mzuthini Ntshangase once proposed that spouses should bring their tools to enjoy with loved ones doing time in prison. It had been anticipated that some top brass politicians

accused of corruption would be rounded up and prosecuted resulting in long prison terms. This arrangement was to allow these to continue enjoying conjugal rights while in prison. Now the spouses visiting for sexual purposes would definitely be categorised under a completely different dress code.

These are the visitors that must come prepared to arouse their spouses to spring to action given that the time allocated for such activity is very limited.

These are the spouses that must come with the cleavage showing from a distance or if it is the male the *bazooka* must have taken positions.

To crown it all Gugulethu says the traditional attire is nothing seductive and therefore it is readily acceptable in the prisons: There is nothing seductive with our traditional attire as it is modest in all aspects. And we know that one cannot wear *Indlamu* (which is worn by maidens during the reed dance ceremony) and move around town as that traditional attire is worn occasionally.

“

**Come to think of it, a
buxom fat lady shaking her
behind packaged inside a
tight and transparent chif-
fon skirt with a G-string
wrapping, strutting towards
the visitors' lounge filled
with convicts serving life**



Dealing with Diabetes

WITH: Nomalungelo Ginindza

Diabetes
Eswatini PR

QUOTE

Diabetes is a great example whereby, giving the patient the tools, you can manage yourself very well.

- Clayton M. Christensen

Columns & Opinion

FOR CORRESPONDENCE, CONTACT;
e-mail us on: diabetesswaziland@gmail.com
CELL: 7607 1889 TEL: 2505 3487

Diabetes is a condition not a disease, travelling should not be a problem even for diabetic people; they just need the right things to carry where ever they go. Today we are talking about the things people need to know when they want to travel.

People with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes can travel all over the world – diabetes is no barrier. Make the right preparations and you should be able to minimise any potential problems.

The diet for people with diabetes is the same healthy diet recommended for everyone so you should be able to choose items from the usual menu while away from home. If you are travelling alone, you may like to let the staff know when you check in as a precaution in case you become unwell during your stay.

Things to check before you go

According to American Diabetes Association,

- Carry diabetes ID and a letter from your doctor (GP), which says you have diabetes and the medication you need to treat it if you are carrying insulin or an injectable medication.
- Take twice the quantity of medical supplies you would normally use for your diabetes.
- Find out where you can get supplies of insulin at your destination, in case of emergency. Contact your insulin manufacturer before the trip to see if your insulin is supplied in the country you are travelling to. It's also worth checking that it is sold under the same name. You can get your prescription sent to your destination by courier.
- Flights often cross time zones. If you treat your diabetes with medication or insulin, it's important you check with your diabetes care team. If you need to make any changes to your regime be mindful that a hot or cold climate may affect how your insulin and blood glucose monitor work.
- Buy travel insurance.

Packing for your trip

- Split your diabetes supplies in separate bags.
- If flying, make sure you have some diabetes supplies in your hand luggage in case your bags get lost.
- Pack extra snacks in case of delay with your journey.
- Make sure you have all your diabetes medication and equipment packed.
- If you are carrying syringes and insulin on your flight take a letter from your doctor.

Considerations when flying

Heightened airport security means that it is essential for people with diabetes to plan ahead in order to avoid running into last-minute problems. Airport restrictions are subject to change, so contact your airline directly.

If you treat your diabetes with a pump or use a continuous glucose monitor (CGM), it is essential that you contact your airline prior to travel, if possible a few weeks before you fly.

Some airlines will require you to notify them of your medical equipment in advance and fill in additional paperwork before you fly. Failure

TRAVEL AND DIABETES 1



to do this can, in some cases; result in passengers not being allowed to board the aircraft with their pump.

You should also speak to your diabetes team – should you need to remove your pump for any reason, they can provide you with any extra equipment such as insulin pens and help plan your doses throughout your journey.

Important: Caution around insulin pumps is due to wireless functionality, which may interfere with aircraft communication and navigation systems.

If your pump cannot function without a wireless signal, then you may need to be prepared to remove your pump and administer insulin with an insulin pen for the journey. You would also need to test your blood glucose levels manually with a standard blood glucose meter.

Security regulations

Current security regulations state that liquid items are only permitted in hand luggage if they are in containers of less than 100ml.

There are a few exceptions including essential medicines for the period of your trip, which may be permitted in larger quantities above the current 100ml limit, but will be subject to authentication. Passengers are also permitted to carry essential medical equipment through airport security, though all medication and equipment must be supported by documentation from a relevant qualified medical professional.

Find out where you can get supplies of insulin at your destination, in case of emergency

The Civil Aviation Authority states: "It is essential that diabetic passengers carry adequate equipment (glucose meters, lancets, batteries) and medication in their hand baggage. It is also important that insulin not being used in the flight is not packed in the hold baggage as this may be exposed to temperatures, which could degrade the insulin."

In addition, there is also the potential that luggage may be lost en route. Take a letter from your doctor or clinic, which explains that you have diabetes, the medication you use and all the equipment you need to treat diabetes, including insulin, insulin delivery devices, needles, blood glucose monitors, glucose tablets or liquid and ketone test strips.

It would be helpful if the letter explains the need to carry all medications and equipment with you in your hand luggage and to avoid storing it in your luggage in the hold – problems will arise if luggage goes missing or your medication is spoiled. It would also be useful to take a recent prescription with you.

Before travelling, find out where you can get supplies of insulin at your destination, in case of emergency.

Contact your insulin manufacturer before the trip to see if your insulin is supplied in the country you are travelling to.

Tablets

There is no restriction on the quantity of tablets you take through airport security, but you would still need to take documentation from a medical professional or your prescription for authentication.

Is it safe to go through the X-ray machines or full-body scanners?

The advice given on the Civil Aviation Authority website regarding pumps and scanners is as follows:

● "There are a number of manufacturers of insulin pumps and unfortunately they do not all give the same advice. This varies from assurance that the pumps can safely go through any screening equipment, including X-ray equipment, to advice that the equipment may be affected by even the low-dose X-ray equipment used in some whole-body scanners."

"If you use an insulin pump, it is therefore important to contact the manufacturer of the particular pump that you use for advice. It is also sensible to contact your airline and the airports you will travel through, to find out their requirements if the manufacturer advises that your pump cannot go through some screening equipment."

For pumps that are not able to pass through body scanners, the advice is as follows:

● "There are some airports where you will not be allowed to travel if you refuse to be scanned. It is therefore advisable to check with your airline and the airports you will be passing through to see if they do allow an alternative check."

What meal should I choose from the menu?

Airlines can provide information on the times of most meals so you can plan your insulin.

It is best to order the standard meal, though this may not supply you with enough carbohydrate if you are on insulin or certain diabetes tablets. Cabin crew is usually able to provide fruit, crackers or rolls. What hypo treatment should I take with me? Glucose tablets, Lucozade and fluids used to treat hypos can be carried on board along with longer-acting carbohydrates such as biscuits. Should you have any problems buying glucose tablets or Lucozade after going through customs, remember the following are effective in treating a hypo: any sugary non-diet drink, sugary sweets, fruit juice. Then, to prevent blood glucose from dropping again, follow with longer-acting carbohydrate, such as a sandwich, fruit or biscuits.

What do I do about snacks?

On long flights, you may require snacks in between meals and at bedtime to prevent blood glucose levels going too low, so try to carry extra starchy carbohydrate foods, such as biscuits, cereal bars or fruit buns, on board the aircraft. If you are on insulin, monitor your blood glucose levels frequently and be prepared to make changes to your dosage. Get tested for Diabetes!

Lifestyle & Entertainment

31

The year that was

For last year's words belong to last year's language



- #X Change
- #MTN Spotlight
- #FNB Smoothfest
- #Luja Festival

New beginnings 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

1/20

FIND YOU 2020
CALENDER
INSIDE

"Cheers to a new year and
another chance for us to get it
right."

Happy New Year

I want to be the best
- Thamsanqa

PAGES 2-3



WRITER'S NOTE

WITH NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

I might as well say it now, Happy New Year. Well that might be a bit too early but I promise you, the content we have for you today is as relevant as amapiano music.

On pages 2-3, we have the usual, on Young and Upcoming, we speak to a young rapper Thamsanqa Mamba.

According to him, he started recording music in 2013 during his high school years with his high school friend. In 2014 he joined another group named the 'Beneath Mixture'. Mamba states that from that time until now he has recorded over 100 records

Read through and get to know more about our young and upcoming artist. On Try the Trend we give the best trick for the coming year, which is not to make any new years resolutions. Yes, you heard that right, DO NOT make any resolutions this year.

Think about it if statistics show that 65 per cent of people are still on track after one month and less than half of us continue working on our goals six months into the year. If we give up so easily, it's plain to see why we keep making the same resolutions year after year.

On L&E Guide we give you the low-down on how to celebrate your crossover. You know what they say the common thread is a gratified goodbye to the previous year so you can welcome the beginning of the New Year. You might be celebrating with your family, a few close friends or thousands of strangers. Either way, here's hoping your celebration brings you memories to last a lifetime.

On pages 4-5 we have your 2020 calendar personalise with your favourite stars of 2019. We have stars that changed the food, music and all round entertainment industries. Grab the spread and feel free to paste it on your wall just remember not to make any New Year's resolution on it.

On page 8, we also take a look at some of the best publications of Lifestyle and Entertainment that were seen in 2019.

Continue to follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages, we love hearing from you and be safe as you cross over to 2020.

Hope you read and enjoy and most importantly we hope you get inspired.

**Till Next Year
Enjoy!**

YOUNG & UPCOMING

T H A M S A N Q A M A M B A

'I WANT TO BE THE BEST'



With a new year comes new resolutions for most of us, but do we still remember our resolutions, and have we achieved all that we had hoped for.

In today's Young and Upcoming we get to know musician Thamsanqa Mamba from Siphofaneni, who, this year has been all about working on

his resolutions and achieving his dreams.

According to the 22-year-old, music has always been part of his family. During the beginning of the year, he resolved to chase his dream as a musician, a dream he has been working tirelessly on.

"Growing up in a religious household we would always sing and the only thing we knew then was acapella, where my love for music grew from that," he says.



Try the trend

It's really the in thing, Ask yourself, how many times you have made New Year's resolutions and end up forgetting about them; too many right. Well that should be a sign. Our trick this year is not to make New Year's resolutions but since it is hard, we have tricks and ways on what you can do instead.

Research shows that only about 10 per cent of people who make New Year's resolutions successfully implement lasting change.

The other 90 per cent fail. This failure can be very discouraging and often undermines future efforts to change our lives for the better. It leads most of us to believe that we do not possess the necessary willpower to overcome bad habits.

Why do most people fail at keeping their resolutions? The reason is that most New Year's resolutions are flawed to begin with.

People make resolutions while they are still excited and do not even look if these 'resolutions' are achievable.

Research also shows that when you resolve to do something you've never before been able to accomplish, you know you are in for a seri-

Do not make New Year's resolutions



ous struggle. If you haven't been able to make it stick before, what will change this time?

That makes motivation a key factor in success. If you are only making a resolution because it's that time of year again and all your friends

and family members are doing it, that just isn't good enough.

A way that many of us fail in achieving our New Year's resolutions is that we think about them as brief, fleeting goals. Statistics show



According to Thamsanqa, he started recording music in 2013 during his high school years. In 2014, he joined a group called 'Beneath Mixture'. Since then he has recorded over 100 songs.

He has recently dropped a four-track EP titled 'Love Affairs' which came out December this year.

"This project is to prepare music lovers for my upcoming album titled 'My Bedtime Stories: Keep You Awake,' which will drop in May 2020. The project is about my life growing up".

Thamsanqa's wish is to have his music feature on Billboard hot list and he will not stop until he sees his dream come true.

"I want to work with so many artists

and hone whatever skill of life lesson they can teach me on how the industry works. Outside music, I would love to start my own charity and pursue acting. Right now, my goal is to get 'INTERVIEW ME' a lot of content. Honestly, I want to

achieve a lot of things and with God's grace I will," he says.

By Setsabile Nkambule



DO NOT MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

New Year Resolutions

that 65 per cent of people are still on track after one month and less than half of us continue working on our goals six months into the year. If we give up so easily, it's plain to see why we keep making the same resolutions year after year.

It's like being on a weight-loss diet; once you lose enough pounds to reach

your target weight, it's natural to go back to old habits. This is because you are thinking of it as a "diet," a short-term solution for a lifetime problem.

So this year, enjoy a No-Stress New Year.

If you haven't yet made any New Year's resolutions for 2020, don't despair. It doesn't make you a bad person and it doesn't mean you won't better your life this year. It's okay to wait until you are ready to commit to your goals and make sure they last for a lifetime.

By Nokwanda Sibandze
(Additional info: Sixty and Me)

● People make resolutions while they are still excited and do not even look if these 'resolutions' are achievable. Research also shows that when you resolve to do something you've never before been able to accomplish, you know you are in for a serious struggle.



Lifestyle Guide

How to celebrate New Year's at Home

We all know that the New Year is one of the most internationally recognised holidays. Different regions celebrate in their own way. Luckily Eswatini has a number of events around the country that one could visit and enjoy his or her crossover to the New Year.

If you have no idea where to go, check Eswatini Observer's Friday Publication for the gig guide that will help get you where you need to be.

The common thread is a gratified goodbye to the previous year so you can welcome the beginning of the New Year. You might be celebrating with your family, a few close friends or thousands of strangers. Either way, here's hoping your celebration brings you memories to last a lifetime.

Attending an official event

Go to an "open-air" event. These "street party"-type events often include performances by live musicians or DJs, confetti, and a fireworks display. Some require tickets to be purchased ahead of time, and some are free to attend.

There are many New Year's Eve events all over the world that are interesting to attend, find one and make your way there.

Many cities offer open-air celebrations and street parties that you can attend. If your city or town doesn't already have an

open-air party, you can start one!

Go to a dance club

If you're looking to party hard while ringing in the New Year, gather your friends and go to a club. Clubs will bring in the best DJs they can find and offer competitive drink specials.

Attend a formal event.

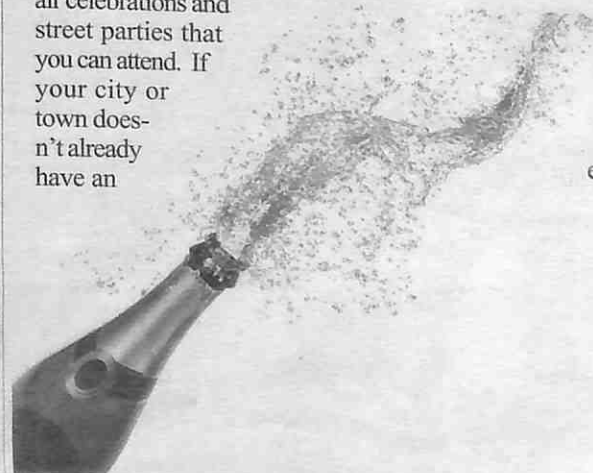
Many upscale hotels and restaurants host catered New Year's Eve galas. They will have performances from orchestras, jazz bands, or professional singers and musicians. Tickets have to be purchased ahead of time. Most of these formal events require formal, or "black tie" attire.

Go to a casino

Aside from playing cards and slot machines, casinos often host New Year's Eve celebrations that include dinner and a show from professional singers, tribute bands, or comedians.

Attend a midnight church service

Some people will attend a midnight service that's held on New Year's Eve, called a Watch-Night service. They'll often include food, singing, and a message from the church's leadership.



SATURDAY
Observer

Lifestyle & Entertainment

2020 CALENDAR



1

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	



2

FEBRUARY

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3

MARCH

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4

APRIL

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MAY

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31						

5



JUNE

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6



JULY

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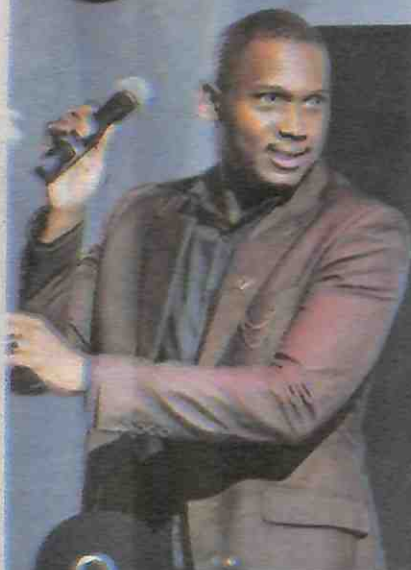
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AUGUST

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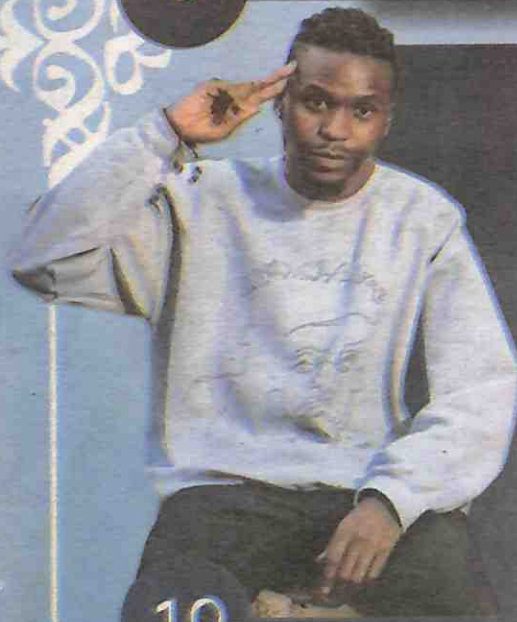
8



SEPTEMBER

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9



OCTOBER

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10



NOVEMBER

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11



DECEMBER

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12

Lifestyle Celebville

01 KHAYA MTHETHWA, WIFE HEADED TO SPLITSVILLE



JOHANNESBURG - The 32-year-old gospel crooner and television host's wife Ntandoyenkosi Kunene Mthethwa broke the news of the split on social media's Instagram on Tuesday.

The former Miss South Africa said the couple had called a family meeting on Sunday, and informed family of their mutual decision to amicably file for divorce.

"In the last few days my husband and I have had in-depth discussions about our marriage and our young family challenges. On Sunday we met my in-laws and informed them of our mutual decision for us to amicably file for divorce. I also informed my mother and the rest of my Kunene family who were disappointed with the divorce decision but appreciated the fact that I represented them well at the Mthethwas," she said.

Kunene-Mthethwa went on to address the couple's co-parenting arrangements of their son, who she says she has will have custody of.

Sowetan

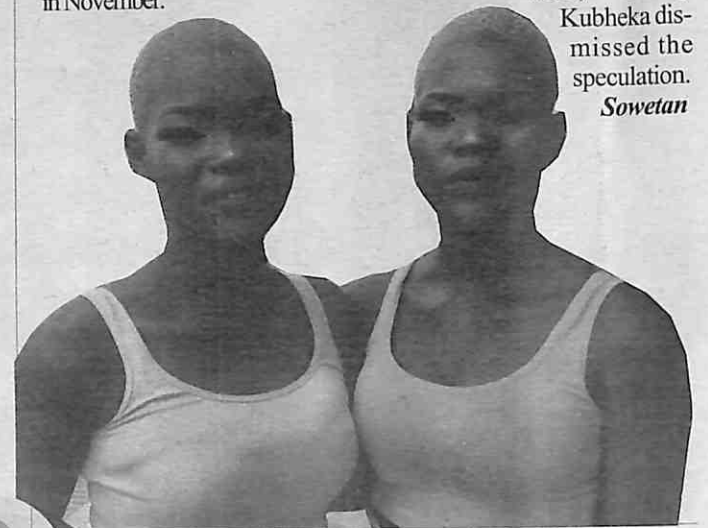
02 THE QWABE TWINS WIN MZANSI OVER

DURBAN - Ever since twins Vicky and Virginia Qwabe made their debut on the past season of reality show, *Idols SA* they became firm fan favourites. Each week they won more fans over with their singing abilities and versatility. Die-hard fans were convinced that they would emerge victorious at the end of the competition but things took an unexpected turn when Virginia was eliminated from the show in November.

Hours after Virginia was axed, her sister Vicky announced that she had decided to withdraw from the competition as well. Shortly after Vicky's announcement of her departure from the show, social media was filled with speculation that there was more to her withdrawal than met the eye.

The rumour mill went into overdrive, with claims that the twins could have been bullied. However, the HOD of PR and publicity of M-Net's local entertainment channels, Philly

Kubheka dismissed the speculation. *Sowetan*



05 How Zozibini Tunzi led the natural hair movement

JOHANNESBURG - Miss SA Zozibini Tunzi instantly became an inspiration to black women when she scooped the prestigious crown, while rocking her natural pixie cut.

Zozibini's decision to not wear a weave during the pageant instantly inspired other women to embrace their natural hair and beauty.

Soon after winning the title, she shared on Instagram that she hoped to make SA proud in her first post as Miss SA.

"Here sits the crown, beautifully so on my kinky coarse hair. I hope I make SA proud."

Since her win, Zozibini sparked a nationwide movement that inspired women to rock their natural crowns.

Giving testament to this was the marketing director of American Swiss Zimbini Peffer, who told TshisaLIVE that a sim-

ple conversation with Zozibini, prior to her win, inspired her to rock her natural hair, which she dyed red to pink ombre.

She said when American Swiss unveiled the Buhle crown on August 5, Zozibini asked her why she wore a weave, as she'd seen pictures of her with natural hair.

"Zozibini then gave me the advice to rock my hair short and I am proud to say that I am rocking my hair short today, with a pop of colour. I believe that she is already starting to change lives."

When asked why she chose her hair colour, Zozibini said it was because red signified energy and passion, and pink signified love and caring. "The colour is me expressed in colour. Plus, I have been told I look younger in my natural hair." *Times Live*



03 Kylie Jenner drops US\$12 000 for Beanie Babies Bear

(TMZ)

LOS ANGELES - Kylie Jenner still loves Beanie Babies because she just dropped a fat stack of cash to bring home a blinged-out bear!!!

Our sources tell us Kylie threw down a cool US\$12 000 for a custom Beanie Baby bear covered in crystals this after seeing the piece at Justin and Hailey Bieber's Paddle eight auction.

The super rare Beanie Baby is designed by Los Angeles-based artist Dan Life, and it's one of only three ever created. Dan's known for his nostalgic works inspired by his 90s childhood he makes a lot of flashy Pokemon art as well and this bear is his twist on the classic Erin Beanie Baby from back in the

day. We're told Dan already dropped the bear off with Justin, and the Biebs is gonna hand-deliver it to Kylie! Sure, it's a lot of money to spend on a toy Stormi will never get to play with but the money raised from Justin and Hailey's auction benefits needy families in L.A. so Kylie's supporting a good cause. And, if you've got an extra \$12k laying around Dan's got a pair of crystal-encrusted Princess Diana Beanie Babies for sale at Nordstrom NYC.



04 Pharrell swatted days before Christmas after bogus 911 call

NEW YORK - Pharrell's crib was the scene of a massive police presence after someone called 911 claiming a person there had been fatally shot but it was nothing more than a swatting call.

Law enforcement sources tell TMZ cops rushed to the artist's LA-area home Monday night around 6:30 PM after someone called police claiming a friend had been accidentally shot in the stomach and died.

Our sources say when police got to the house, people inside were confused as to why cops had shown up at all. We're told cops checked everyone to make sure nobody had been shot. Law enforcement, we're told, ultimately determined it was a swatting call. Our sources say Pharrell was not home at



the time. Cops are continuing to investigate.

You'll recall it was just a few years ago there was a string of celeb swatting calls. Lil Wayne had had it up to

here and was getting tired of it. Tom Cruise, Diddy, Selena Gomez, Justin Timberlake and Rihanna were just some of the many celebs hit by a slew of swatters. *TMZ*

Movie watch



ALWAYS AND FOREVER

PG13 | 1H 50MIN | COMEDY, DRAMA, FAMILY

A marketing exec Lucy makes a trip back home to support the inherited store during its final Christmas season before she sells it, but then two people make her understand why her grandfather's shop's so special.

DIRECTOR: Siobhan Devine

WRITER: Blaine Chiappetta, Damon Tod Hill

STARS: Lexi Lawson, Mark Ghanimé, Beth Broderick



PAGALPANTI

PG | 2H 53MIN | ACTION, COMEDY

Three men, considered as losers in their lives by the people, plan to get rich along with their girlfriends by fooling two gangsters and robbing their money.

DIRECTOR: Anees Bazmee

WRITER: Anees Bazmee, Shreya Dev Verma (content head)

STARS: Anil Kapoor, John Abraham, Ileana D'Cruz



LAST CHRISTMAS

PG13 | 1H 58MIN | COMEDY, DRAMA, ROMANCE

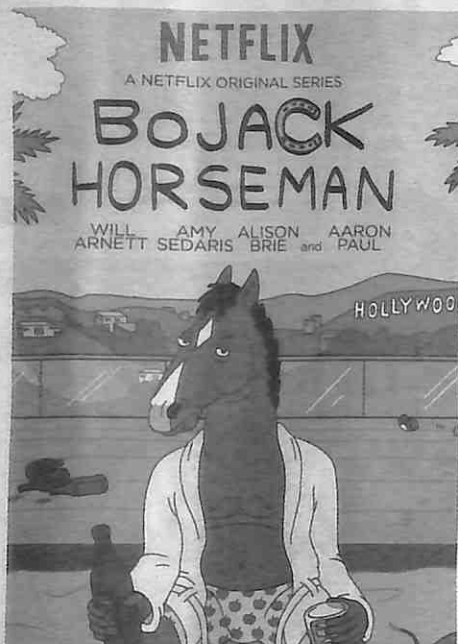
Kate is a young woman subscribed to bad decisions. Working as an elf in a year round Christmas store is not good for the wannabe singer. However, she meets Tom there. Her life takes a new turn. For Kate, it seems too good to be true.

DIRECTOR: Paul Feig

WRITER: George Michael (inspired by: the song "Last Christmas", written and composed by), Emma Thompson

STARS: Madison Ingoldsby, Emma Thompson, Boris Isakovic

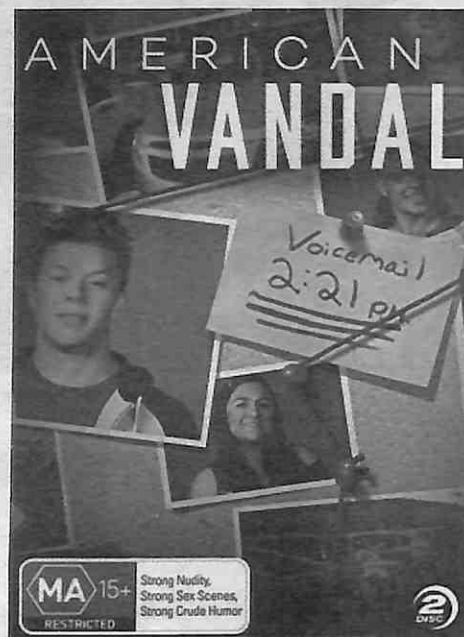
TV Shows (Series)



BOJACK HORSEMAN

5 SEASONS, 60 EPISODES

Netflix's best series is also one of its most underrated. Set in a world where anthropomorphic animals and humans live side-by-side, BoJack Horseman is about a horse named BoJack (Amett), the washed-up star of the 1990s sitcom 'Horsin' Around. After a decade boozing on his couch and sleeping around, BoJack tries to resurrect his celebrity relevance with decidedly mixed results. His agent and on-again, off-again girlfriend is a Persian cat (Amy Sedaris); his rival (Paul F. Tompkins) is a golden retriever; he's in love with a human woman who works as a ghostwriter (Alison Brie); and he has a layabout roommate (Aaron Paul) with whom BoJack has a co-dependent relationship. On the face of it, it's a zany satire of Hollywood and celebrity culture. What's unexpected, however, is that BoJack Horseman may be television's most honest and thorough examination of depression.



AMERICAN VANDAL

2 SEASONS, 16 EPISODES

In theory, American Vandal sounds silly and sophomoric, and it is, but it's also a genuinely brilliant, incredibly clever, smartly written satire of true-crime documentaries. It plays just like any other true crime docuseries — interviews, investigations, multiple suspects, and numerous conspiracy theories — only the crime here is not a murder. It's a high school student who has been accused by the school board of spray painting d*** on 27 cars, a crime that threatens his ability to graduate. It's a brilliant whodunit that just happens to also be the best parody of 2017, and it even earned a Peabody Award earlier this year. With the show's second season, the guys are investigating a new mystery: the case of the cafeteria's contaminated lemonade. If you thought there were a lot of d*** jokes in season one, just wait until you see how many sh*t takes the've got planned.



RUSSIAN DOLL

1 SEASON, 8 EPISODES

Natasha Lyonne stars in this Groundhog Day-from-hell remake about a woman who's forced to relive the last day of her life over and over again. It's been done before, but this series stands out thanks to its mix of dark humour and a tinge of the supernatural. Lyonne is one of the often overlooked OITNB stars, but it looks like this series is giving her a chance to show off her comedic chops as her character, Nadia, endures a constant loop of partying, dying, then waking up to do it all over again. As bleak as the premise is, Lyonne manages to find a silver lining, a universal message that basically reads, "The world is sh*t, let's help each other out if we can."

SONG OF THE WEEK

Mzwaa featuring Velemseni - Lutsandvo

[VERSE 1] (MZWAA)

Ngitsandza wena wedvwa babe

Noma bangatsini ngawe

Emehlo ami avulekile

UMdali ungibusisile

Ngitsandza wena wedvwa babe

Noma bangatsini ngawe

Umoya wami uyajabula

Inhlitiyo yami ifuna wena

[PRE-CHORUS] (MZWAA)

Angizange ngibenalo Lutsandvo lolunje

Ngiyafisa, sibe munye

[Chorus]

Uyahlabela, umphefumulo wami

Uyahlabela, umphefumulo wami

Uyahlabela, umphefumulo wami

Uyahlabela, umphefumulo wami

[VERSE 2] (VELEMSANI)

Wangitsandza ngisemncane babe

Ngisengakaboni nekutsi ngiyatsandzeka

You really gave me something baby, something like a holy treasure (Yeah)

Kuba ngatsi ngiyagula, 'mawungekho ece-

leni kwami

'Manginawe, umoya wami uyajakadvula

Ya! Yahlal'imhlophe inhlitiyo yam

[CHORUS]

Uyahlabela (oooh), Umphefumulo wami

(Yeaahh) Uyahlabela Umphefumulo wami

Uyahlabela Umphefumulo wami

Uyahlabela (hmmm) Umphefumulo wami

Uyahlabela (hmmm) (oooh) (yeaah)

Umphefumulo wami

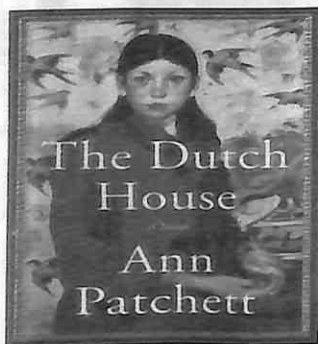
[OUTRO]

Sonhke Siyaludzinga Lutsandvo, Luyimphilo

Let us love one another, Let us embrace

love

Book Review

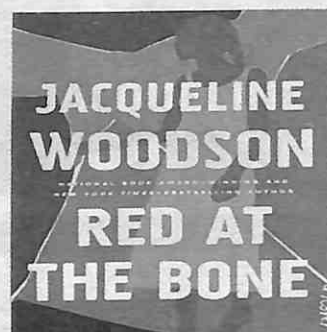


THE DUTCH HOUSE

BY ANN PATCHETT

A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick!

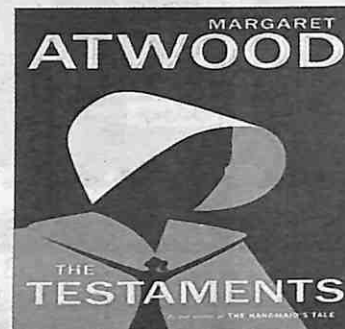
From the New York Times bestselling author of Commonwealth and State of Wonder, comes Ann Patchett's most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood.



RED AT THE BONE: A NOVEL HARDCOVER

BY JACQUELINE WOODSON

"An exquisite tale of family legacy....The power and poetry of Woodson's writing conjures up Toni Morrison." — People
"In less than 200 sparsely filled pages, this book manages to encompass issues of class, education, ambition, racial prejudice, sexual desire and orientation, identity, mother-daughter relationships, parenthood and loss. With Red at the Bone, Jacqueline Woodson has indeed risen — even further into the ranks of great literature." — NPR



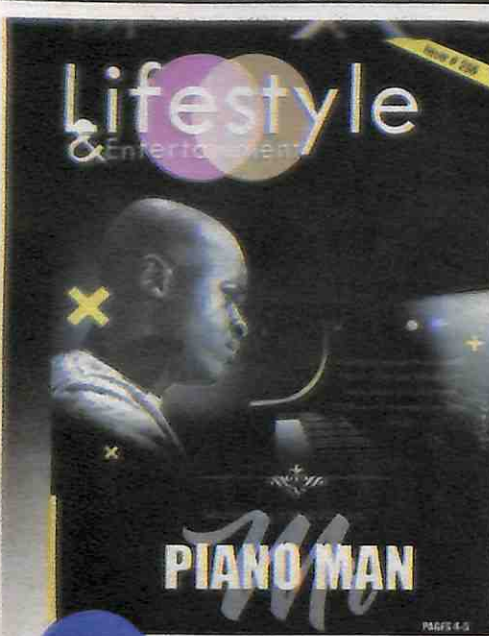
THE TESTAMENTS: THE SEQUEL TO THE HANDMAID'S TALE

BY MARGARET ATWOOD

Margaret Atwood's dystopian masterpiece, The Handmaid's Tale, has become a modern classic—and now she brings the iconic story to a dramatic conclusion in this riveting sequel. More than fifteen years after the events of The Handmaid's Tale, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results.

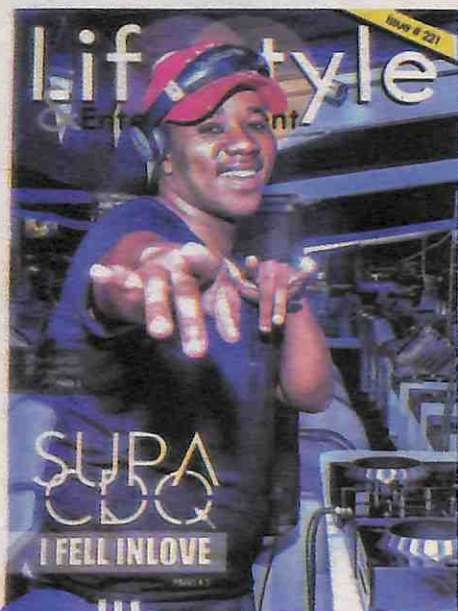
What A Year

Here are some of the best issues L&E covered



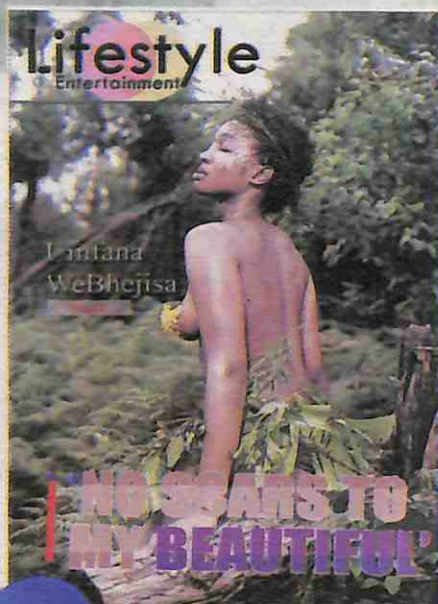
1

#Sibusiso is Mr Piano man



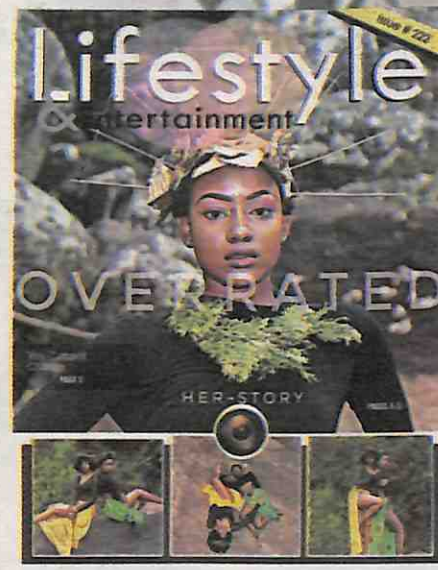
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#supaCDQ FellInLove



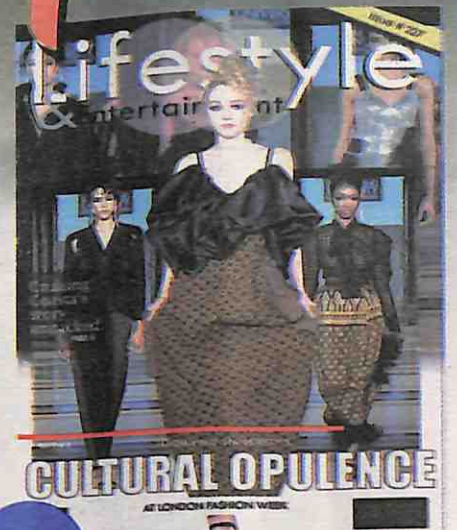
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#No scars to my beauty



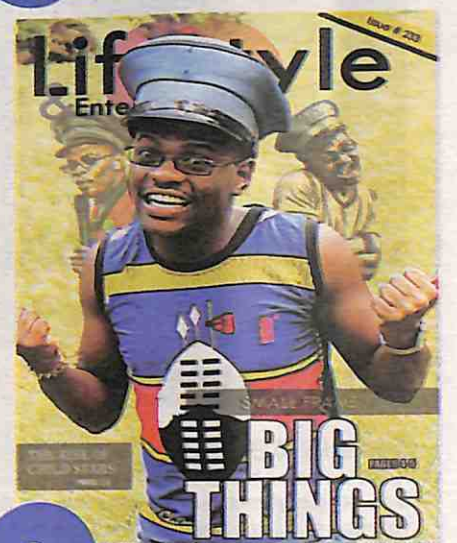
6

#Overrated - Her Story



8

#Limo's Cultural Opulence



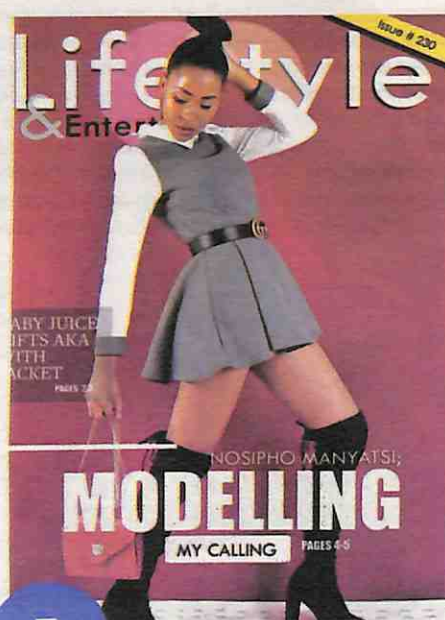
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#Small frame. Big things



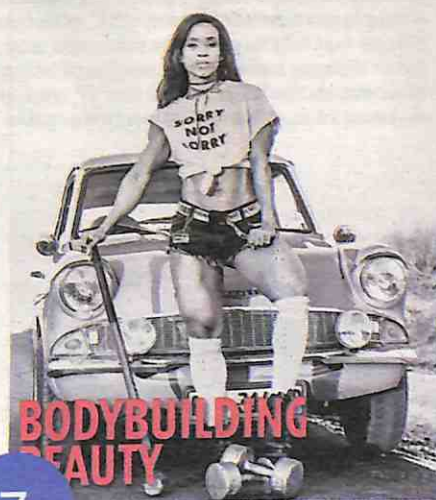
3

#Listen to her move



5

#Modelling is my calling



7

#body building beauty



10

#She's 25 and she's a doctor

● For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.

- T.S. Eliot

TUE 31 DEC

ALL WHITE NEW YEAR'S EVE Party

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
SWAZIBOY ENTERTAINMENT & SO FRESH

VENUE
ESIBAYENI LODGE

ALL WHITE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY COMPETITION

Win a ticket

Answer the following questions and stand a chance to win a ticket to the 'All White New Year's Eve Party' brought to you by Swaziboy Entertainment and So Fresh

1. Ntando Duma and Lady Amar are twins. True or false?

2. Name one local headliner for the All White New Year's Eve Party.

After filling in your answers, cut out the strip and submit to the Eswatini Observer offices located at Lilunga House, Mbabane PO Box A385, Swazi Plaza.

Columns & Opinion



WITH GERARD COUZENS FOR MAILONLINE

QUOTE

The British pastor and his two children who drowned in a Costa del Sol swimming pool could not swim, it has emerged.

Gabriel Diya, 52, his daughter Comfort Diya, nine, and his son Praise-Emmanuel Diya, 16, were today named as the tourists who died at the Club La Costa World complex in Spain on Christmas Eve.

Diya, who was a Christian pastor in south-east London, and his daughter are both understood to be British while his son was travelling on a US passport. His wife Olubunmi Diya, 49, and younger daughter Favour Diya, 14, were also on the holiday but were unharmed.

On Thursday they told investigators that none of their relatives could properly swim and only nine-year-old Comfort had 'some idea'.

It is feared that the family could have fallen victim to a suction problem which made it impossible for the nine-year-old girl's father and brother to rescue her after she got into difficulties at the resort near Fuengirola.

It was revealed that police divers had found her swimming cap as they investigate the Christmas tragedy.

But the exact circumstances of their deaths remained a mystery as resort chiefs said they had been given permission to reopen the pool and insisted a police investigation had found 'no concerns' with it.

Diya, who also ran his own property business, was a pastor at Open Heavens London in Charlton, south-east London, which is part of a network called the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

It is part of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, which posted in tribute on Facebook: "With heavy hearts, we extend our condolences to the family, parish, friends and associates of Area Pastor Gabriel Diya who sadly passed away, along with two of his children ... in a tragic incident while on a family holiday in Spain."

"At this very difficult time, our prayers are for Pastor Gabriel Diya's family, the parishes that were under his supervision, friends, associates, members of RCCG and the general public."

A neighbour of the family told the PA news agency she was "really devastated" to learn of the deaths, describing the Diyas as 'very religious, very friendly, very humble.'

Added

Speaking outside her home in Charlton, south-east London, Lara Akins, 59, added: "I still can't comprehend it, it's still shocking."

"They are so nice, that is why everybody is shocked... we are very friendly with each other."

Emma Morris, 38, daughter of another neighbour of the Diyas, said her mother Pauline Morris, 64, knew them as 'really nice people'.

She told PA: "They were just a really nice family, they spoke to everyone here. It's so sad, it's such a shame." Another neighbour, Pauline Hicks, 63, said: "I'm so heartbroken for the woman. They were all just so nice, they were always smiling."

Autopsies performed at Malaga's Institute of Forensic Medicine have confirmed that the British father and his two children died by drowning.

Pathologists found no signs of any external injuries, or evidence they had been poisoned, during the examinations. Medical experts have also found nothing pointing to nine-year-old Comfort's sister Favour suffering any chlorine poisoning.

The 14-year-old was examined after police were told she had been swimming with her younger sister shortly before the Christmas Eve drama unfolded.

Police said yesterday ahead of the autopsies that they were keeping an open mind and 'all options' were being examined.

Comfort's parents are understood to have found the nine-year-old in difficulties under the water after rushing to the pool when the older girl returned to their holiday apartment alone and they quizzed her on her sister's whereabouts.

Diya and his 16-year-old son Praise Emmanuel jumped in the water in a failed bid to save her which

BRITISH PASTOR, TWO KIDS DROWN AT COSTA DEL SOL HOTEL

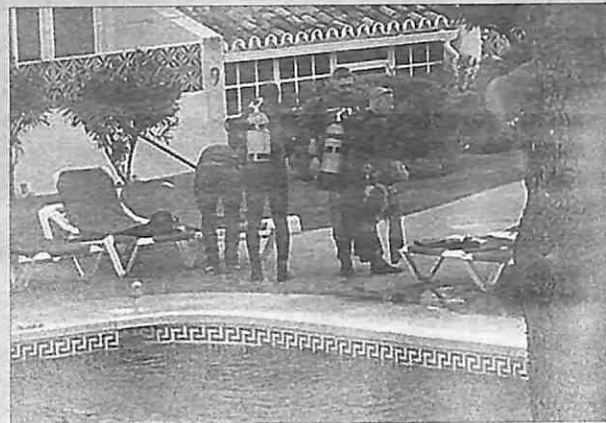
...could not swim, family tell police - amid claims they were sucked to their deaths after girl's swim cap was found in pump



TRAGEDY: Gabriel Diya, 52, his daughter Comfort Diya, 9 (pictured together in 2016), and his son Praise-Emmanuel Diya, 16, died at the Club La Costa World complex. (R) Gabriel Diya is pictured with his wife Olubunmi, who was on holiday with him and their children at the time.



DIVERS: Police divers are pictured at the poolside of the Club La Costa World resort in Spain after three members of the same British family died there.



ended with them also drowning, it is believed.

Yesterday a witness told how mother Olubunmi, a systems analyst who owns her own software development firm, 'stayed calm' and prayed as she performed CPR with resort staff on the three tourists.

Father-of-three Josias Fletcher, from Manchester, said in a moving account of how he tried to save them: "The mum was praying for them to come back to life."

"She was calm. She was touching their bodies. She continued praying even after the ambulance people arrived and had stopped trying to revive them."

"She exercised her faith to the limit. I was performing CPR on her husband but I'm a believer and I prayed as well. "She strengthened me in the way she reacted. It just wasn't meant to be."

Reports say a resort worker who dived into the water to recover the three bodies has said he had also experienced difficulties reaching the surface and exiting the pool.

But late last night resort chiefs said the Civil Guard, the police force leading the investigation into the triple tragedy, had given them permission to reopen the pool.

The pool is one of several on the sprawling holiday

complex but was being little used because it was not heated like some others.

Resort operator CLC World Resorts and Hotels put out a statement which said: "All at Club La Costa World resort are devastated by the tragedy that unfolded on Christmas Eve where a father and his two children were found unresponsive in a swimming pool and despite the best efforts of our first response team and the emergency services, could not be revived."

Investigation

"The Guardia Civil have carried out a full investigation which found no concerns relating to the pool in question or procedures in place, which leaves us to believe this was a tragic accident which has left everyone surrounding the incident in shock."

"Naturally our primary concern remains the care and support of the remaining family members."

"We would therefore request that their privacy be respected at this traumatic time."

They also confirmed the Civil Guard had authorised the reopening of the pool, indicating that police feel there is no risk to bathers of a repeat of the Christmas Eve horror.

Civil Guard investigators have yet to make any

official comment on the swimming cap find.

According to newspaper Diario Sur, the discovery was made by specialist police divers.

A pool expert quoted by the newspaper described as 'very remote' but not impossible a situation in which drains on the pool floor could become dangerous and suck people underwater if skimmers and other cleaners stopped working.

In 2009 British schoolboy Nathan Clark drowned at a Thai water park after apparently being sucked into a pool's pumping system.

Last summer a 12-year-old Russian girl died after she was reportedly trapped underwater when her arm was sucked into a pool pump at a Turkish resort.

Counsellors are now comforting the widowed mum affected by the latest pool tragedy and her survivor daughter. Relatives have flown from the UK to be by their side. Well-placed sources said the teenage son who drowned was travelling on an American passport but described her husband and nine-year-old girl as British passport holders.

An FCO spokesperson said after news of the tragedy emerged: "We are offering assistance to a British woman following an incident in Spain."

(AFP)



ECONOMICS TODAY

WITH: George Choongwa

QUOTE

I believe that economics is based on scarcity of markets. And it's possible to monetize your art without compromising the integrity of it for commerce.

- Nipsey Hussle

Columns & Opinion

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Southern African Research Foundation for
Economic Development - SARFED
Nurturing sustainable growth

Before going to war, it is important to understand the nature of war to be fought. It is therefore, relevant to have a clear understanding about what entrepreneurship is all about and what rules or principles can one take into consideration when practicing it. Remember that the entrepreneurship is a practice, meaning it is a way of doing something as part of life. Just like the word discipleship, entrepreneurship denotes a life style of a person in making ends meet. It is a survival technique.

In typical terms, the word entrepreneurship first emerged among the French speaking countries during the period of economic evolution of 1850s. This was the period when the global economy was going through a transformative process which saw a wider span of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The world had taken a positive growth trend and social goods were becoming limited compared to the growth patterns of the population. Most governments could not provide enough for the society which lead to the formation of human survival practice called entrepreneurship.

It's about human survival

In support to this human survival phenomenon, in the period of 1930s, entrepreneurship attracted a number of academicians such as Joseph Schumpeter and other Austrian economists such as Carl Menger, Ludwig von Mises, and Friedrich von Hayek who saw the emergency of the entrepreneurship as a solution to the economic downturns and possible trigger for positive economic survival and sustainability.

This is because "entrepreneurship" described a set of activities that were undertaken by people (*entrepreneurs*) served as a bridge from one economic generation to the other, hence its direct translation in French as "*entrepreneuriat*" or "Entrepreneur". This term is made of two distinctive words namely "Entre" means between and "Preneur" which also comes from the French word "prendre", meaning "to take." Hence, a more precise and literal translation of the word "entrepreneur" would be an undertaker, not as a person who manages burials, but undertakes or pursues something. Therefore, in French this would be translated as an "*Entrepreneur de pompes funèbres*", but it also important to argue by the fact that the word "ship" is used in the definition of entrepreneurship, it also mean a philosophical or way of life of someone. Therefore, entrepreneurship becomes an Anthropological subject because it entails a manner of human life in various contexts. Therefore, entrepreneurship can collectively be described as activities of individual persons that contribute to economic growth at individual, firm, region, industry, and national level, but due to the rationality and transformative nature of human beings, entrepreneurship has taken a new dimension of innovation and creativity as sustainable stances for societal development also termed as socioeconomic development.

Poverty makes better entrepreneurs

All these technicalities about entrepreneurship, in Africa, this practice has a perfect fit as a survival technique for livelihood. This is due to the fact that most of the African countries were and are still faced with socioeconomic turbulences which live the citizens with no choice but find their own ways for survival. Poor Africans must find their way out of the debris of economic instability. This art of survival, however does not come from without, but from mastery of certain principles practiced by those who made it through.

The true meaning of entrepreneurship in Africa



Not a copy and past

It must be noted that entrepreneurship is not an act of copy and paste, but a practice that subconsciously drives someone into finding ways of getting out of a socioeconomic situation. Therefore, this can mean that the dimensions of entrepreneurship can take the form of either learned skills for survival, or as an inborn trait that one can have as means of making ends meet.

Perceiving entrepreneurship from this perspective then gives us a better understanding that an entrepreneur must be one who does not only want to make money, but to come out of a socioeconomic problem. For example, in Africa there are various challenges such as high unemployment, high poverty levels, corruption, and the like. These challenges exclude and disadvantage the majority from benefitting what the government can provide for them. Therefore, as means of making ends meet, entrepreneurs always finds a way out in order to stay afloat.

Best entrepreneurship is among the informal sector

In the absence of socioeconomic hardship, there is no entrepreneurship. This is the reason why one can find best innovative human practices among informal sectors or economies where human livelihood was dependent on social initiatives. These informal sectors are known to have

deprived of social basics such as decent jobs, housing, education, and health. Nevertheless, since these elements were vital to human survival, the dwellers of these deprived societies always find ways of making ends meet which we call entrepreneurship. Real entrepreneurs are found in the ghetto and the quicker one learns this philosophy, the sooner and better will be reward in vesting.

Why Africa is the target for investment

From a global map, Africa is considered a ghetto to continent where things were still considered in total disarray.

Everything is still in the state of madness characterised with poor service delivery and infrastructure, hence giving higher levels of bringing up better entrepreneurs. In other words, the best breeding ground for entrepreneurs in the world is Africa and the sooner, this is realised, the better and faster the continent can grow.

Therefore, governments in Africa should not be too strict with the new survival ideas being developed among people because the true nature of an entrepreneur is characterised with high level of findings ways of coming out of challenges through what can be termed as crazy ways of doing things. We can safely state that entrepreneurs are 'crazy people' who always look for ways of survival.

They are hustlers in nature as they always look for the way out. They don't die that easily.

However, to a non-entrepreneur, this can look crazy or total madness. This is reason why most governments in Africa despite supporting the concept of entrepreneurship as a solution to the employment, they are still not ready to face the reality and activities of a fully blown entrepreneurs.

Liberal economies are better grounds for entrepreneurs

Think of countries that seem to be crazy in doing things like Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Mozambique, and Kenya among many others where due to socioeconomic hardships, the citizens have learnt survival the hard way, where more entrepreneurs as compared to those countries whose governments either somehow provided for their social needs or being strict to the traits and formation of entrepreneurship traditional practices of wildness like forcing them into being formal and other restrictions have had poor and less innovative entrepreneurs. Some of these countries include South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, and Namibia.

Therefore, if your government in Africa seems not to see the light of an entrepreneur, find the way out and outsmart it. Remember that entrepreneurs are survivors; hence they always have their own way out of the economic depression. The absence of such trait is a sure demonstration of having a wrong notion about what entrepreneurship is all about.

Columns & Opinion

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2404 7231 / 2404 6363

QUOTE

Eating is so intimate. It's very sensual. When you invite someone to sit at your table and you want to cook for them, you're inviting a person into your life.

- Maya Angelou



LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE,
EAT WISELY

Ministry of Agriculture Home
Economics Section

For years, nutritionists and doctors have preached that a low-fat diet is the key to losing weight, managing cholesterol, and preventing health problems.

But more than just the amount of fat, it's the types of fat you eat that really matter. Bad fats increase cholesterol and your risk of certain diseases, while good fats protect your heart and support overall health. In fact, good fats such as omega-3 fats are essential to physical and emotional health.

Making sense of dietary fat

Dietary fats are found in food from plants and animals. The four major types are:

- monounsaturated fats
- polyunsaturated fats (including omega-3s)
- trans fats
- saturated fats

Despite what you may have been told, not all fats are bad guys in the waistline wars. While dietary fats all contain nine calories per gram, they can have very different effects on your health as well as your weight. "Bad" fats, such as trans fats, are guilty of the unhealthy things all fats have been blamed for weight gain, clogged arteries, and so forth. But good fats such as omega-3s have the opposite effect. In fact, healthy fats play a huge role in helping you manage your moods, stay on top of your mental game, fight fatigue, and even control your weight.

Unsaturated fats and oils

Unsaturated fats are considered "good" fats and are encouraged as part of a healthy diet. Eating foods rich in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fat can improve blood cholesterol levels and lower your risk of heart disease. These fats may also benefit insulin levels and controlling blood sugar, which can be especially helpful if you have type 2 diabetes. These good fats include:

Monounsaturated fats

- Avocados
- Olives
- Nuts (almonds, peanuts, macadamia nuts, hazelnuts, pecans, cashews)
- Natural peanut butter (containing just peanuts and salt)

Polyunsaturated fats

- Walnuts
- Sunflower, sesame, and pumpkin seeds
- Flaxseed
- Fatty fish (salmon, tuna, mackerel, herring, trout, sardines)

Damaged fat: When good fats go bad

A good fat can become bad if heated. Light or oxygen damages it. Oils that are high in polyunsaturated fats (such as flaxseed oil) must be refrigerated and kept in an opaque container. Never use oils, seeds, or nuts after they begin to smell or taste rank or bitter. Cooking at high heat with some monounsaturated or polyunsaturated oils can also damage the fat.

Getting more good fats in your diet

The best sources of healthy monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats are fish, nuts, seeds, and cold-pressed vegetable oils.

Make friends with olive oil. Use cold-pressed extra-virgin olive oil to dress salads, cooked vegetables, or pasta dishes. Also use olive oil for stovetop cooking, rather than stick margarine or

canola oil. For baking, most chefs prefer butter or ghee (clarified butter).

Dress your own salad. Commercial salad dressings are often high in calories, saturated fat, or made with damaged trans fat oils. Create your own healthy dressings with extra virgin olive oil, flaxseed oil, or sesame oil.

Eat more avocados. Try them in sandwiches or salads or make guacamole. Along with being loaded with heart and brain-healthy fats, they make for a filling and satisfying meal.

Reach for the nuts. You can also add nuts to vegetable dishes or use them instead of bread crumbs on chicken or fish.

Snack on olives. Olives are high in healthy monounsaturated fats. But unlike most other high-fat foods, they make for a low-calorie snack when eaten on their own. Try them plain or make a tape-nade for dipping.

Trans fat: eliminate this bad fat from your diet

Small amounts of naturally occurring trans fats can be found in meat and dairy products but it's the artificial trans fats that are considered dangerous. These are normal fat molecules that have been twisted and deformed during a process called hydrogenation. During this process, liquid vegetable oil is heated and combined with hydrogen gas. Partially hydrogenating vegetable oils makes them more stable and less likely to spoil, which is very good for food manufacturers and very bad for you. Trans fats raise your LDL ("bad") cholesterol and lower your HDL ("good") cholesterol and increases your risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. No amount of trans fats is healthy.

- Commercially-baked goods (cookies, crackers, cakes, muffins, pie crusts, pizza dough, breads

like hamburger buns)

- Packaged snack foods (crackers, microwave popcorn, chips, candy)
- Solid fats (stick margarine, vegetable shortening)
- Fried foods (French fries, fried chicken, chicken nuggets, breaded fish)
- Per-mixed products (cake mix, pancake, and chocolate milk)
- Anything with "partially hydrogenated" oil listed in the ingredients.

Saturated fat: good or bad?

Saturated fats are mainly found in tropical oils, dairy, and animal products such as red meat, while poultry and fish also contain some saturated fat. Eating saturated fats won't lower your risk of heart disease like monounsaturated or polyunsaturated fats, but the latest studies suggest that not all saturated fat is a dietary demon, either. People who eat lots of saturated fat do not experience more cardiovascular disease than those who eat less. In fact, recent evidence suggests that consuming whole-fat dairy may even have beneficial effects for some people, including helping to control weight. Of course, not all saturated fat is the same. The saturated fat in whole milk, coconut oil, or salmon is different to the saturated fat found in pizza, French fries, and processed meat products (such as ham, sausage, hot dogs, salami, and other cold cuts) which have been linked to coronary disease and cancer. And just as saturated fat varies according to its source, the effect of saturated fats on blood cholesterol varies from person to person, depending on genetics and other health factors.

Making smart choices about saturated fat

Avoid saturated fat from processed meats, packaged meals, and takeout food.

- Don't replace healthy sources of saturated fat with refined carbohydrates or sugary snacks.

- Don't eat just red meat (beef, pork, or lamb) but vary your diet with free range chicken, eggs, fish, and vegetarian sources of protein.

- When you choose to eat red meat, look for "organic" and "grass-fed".

- Roast, grill, or slow cook meat and poultry instead of frying.

- Enjoy full-fat dairy and choose organic or raw milk, cheese, butter, and yoghurt when possible.

- Avoid breaded meats and vegetables and deep-fried foods.

- Avoid snack foods such as corn or potato chips.

General guidelines for choosing healthy fats

If you are concerned about your weight or overall health, rather than avoiding fat in your diet, try replacing trans fats and saturated fats from fried or processed foods with good fats, such as fish, olive oil, nuts, avocados, and high-quality dairy.

Try to eliminate trans fats from your diet. Check food labels for trans fats or any kind of "partially hydrogenated" oil. Avoiding commercially-baked goods, margarines, and limiting fast food goes a long way to cutting out this dangerous fat from your diet. Reduce or eliminate fried food. While there's a movement to ban trans fat in the U.S., that won't necessarily make your French fries any healthier, especially if the food industry decides to cook them in vegetable oils that oxidize when heated. The safer option is to cut down on fried foods altogether. Eat omega-3 fats every day. Good sources include fish and fish oil, walnuts, flax seeds, and flaxseed oil. Try adding ground flaxseed meal to your breakfast cereal or instigating a "fish Friday." Choose your oils carefully.

REPEAT

PET OBSERVER

HILLARY HAGUE
SWAZILAND ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY (SAWS)
FOR VACCINATED AND STERILISED
PETS

QUOTE

Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend.
Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

- Groucho Marx

Columns & Opinion

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In 2010 the US Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 3 fireworks-related deaths and 8 600 injuries treated in hospital emergency departments, of which 40 per cent were children. Fireworks caused a reported 15,500 fires. Every year people die and are injured and houses burn down just from fireworks.

But that is not the only damage they cause. Dog and cat ears are more sensitive to higher amplitudes of sound. Humans can hear sound frequencies up to 20,000 Hz, dogs to about 45,000 Hz and cats to 64,000 Hz. Cats can hear sounds at about 1.6 octaves above the range of a human and 1 octave above dogs. You are most sensitive to sounds of around 3,000 Hz (most human voices are near that pitch), while your cat is most sensitive to sounds of around 8,000 Hertz.

This means cats and dogs hear sounds that we can't hear. What you hear is not what they hear.

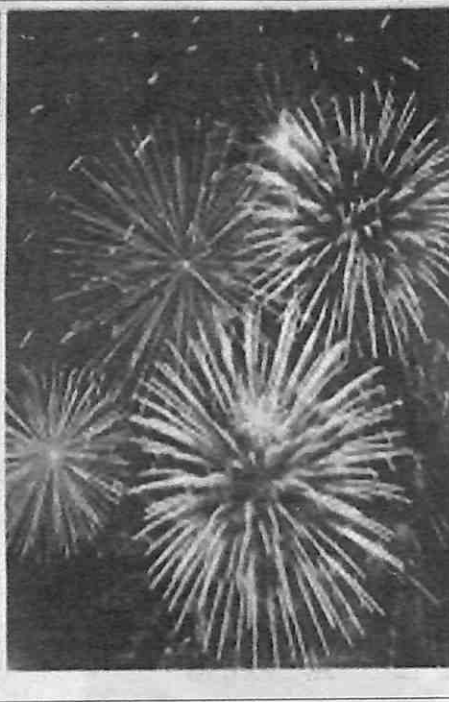
Dogs hear about four times the distance of a human with normal hearing. Cats' ears are uniquely designed to draw sound into the ear canal, which enables them to hear sounds like a mouse rustling in the brush 30 feet away. Their reaction to loud music and excessive noise is an instinctive act of self-protection. Imagine wearing a hearing aid on full volume in front of a heavy metal band.

It is cruel to expose animals to loud noises such as fireworks.

The noise they hear is so terrifying that they may go temporarily crazy. They are often so badly affected that they run to escape the torture and become hopelessly lost. More dogs and cats go missing during fireworks displays than at any other time.

Fireworks are not suitable for residential areas for fire risk, personal injury and for the sake of pets. In any event massed fireworks

FIREWORKS ARE DANGEROUS!



are much more effective, so take your fireworks to the park and make a big display with everyone else. Leave pets safe at home in a quiet residential area. They do not want to watch fireworks. All that they are aware of is a terrifying, insanely high-pitched noise which

their brains are not able to cope with.

Here are a few pointers to make the fireworks season if not a happy time for your pet, then at least less terrifying -

- Secure all fences, gates and doors. Keep

your dog on a leash if you have to take it out of the yard.

- If the dog or cat is a very bad case, ask your vet for calming medication and follow the prescription precisely.

- Don't get cross with your dog or cat for being scared, it will only make him more frightened.

- Ignore the noises yourself and don't try to soothe your frightened dog. He may get the impression that there is something to fear and it may even reward him for being scared. He may also think you are the only person who can soothe the fears and then he may panic if you are not around the next time he hears fireworks.

- When he relaxes, pet him and give him a treat such as a small dog biscuit.

- If your pet is so frightened that he cannot relax, put him in a quiet, familiar room, curtains and door closed, with his own bed or at least his blanket to burrow in. If he is to be in the room for more than an hour, give him water and make sure he has a toilet break immediately before and immediately after. Don't forget, he is terrified and may make a mess. It's not his fault.

Happy New year to all and please look after your pets.



Eswatini Standards Authority

The Kingdom of Eswatini being a developing country still receives substantial aid from the first world and thus has to guard herself from potentially harmful donations whose primary aim is window dressed public displays and marketing strategies.

Such philanthropy being encouraged, allowed and proudly displayed as social responsibility. A wise man once said "give me fish, you have fed me for the day but teach me to fish then you have given me a livelihood".

Philanthropy (in this context understood as giving to charitable causes) can have a positive impact on society. However, it should not be used by an organisation as a substitute for addressing the adverse impacts of its activities on society and the environment.

Organisations should not shoulder the blame alone; individuals also need to be socially responsible. We have become more familiar with "corporate social responsibility" than we are with "social responsibility". It is important that we realise that social responsibility is applicable to all

Social responsibility – The ISO 26000 way

organisations, individuals and not just those in the business world.

Taking a microscopic view of the situation, I realise that social responsibility has certain characteristics the essential of these being the willingness of an organisation to take responsibility and be accountable for the impacts of its activities and decisions on society and the environment. This implies both transparent and ethical behaviour that contributes to sustainable development, including health and the welfare of society, takes into account the expectations of stakeholders, is in compliance with applicable laws and consistent with international norms of behaviour, and is integrated throughout the organisation and practiced in its relationships.

The expectations of society involve an understanding of the broader interests and expectations of society. Social responsibility also entails actions beyond legal compliance and recognition of obligations to others that are not legally binding. These obligations arise out of widely shared ethical and other values.

Although the expectations of responsible behaviour will vary between countries and cultures, organisations should respect international norms of behaviour such as those laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Identification of and engagement with stakeholders are fundamental to social responsibility. An organisation should determine who has an interest in its decisions and activities so that it can

understand its impacts and identify how to address these impacts. While stakeholders can help an organisation identify the relevance of particular issues to its activities, stakeholders do not replace broader society in determining norms and expectations of behaviour.

Because social responsibility concerns the potential and actual impacts of an organisation's activities and decisions, the ongoing, regular daily activities of the organisation constitute the most important behaviour to be addressed. In some cases, an organisation may need to work with others to address its responsibilities. These can include peer organisations, competitors or parts of the value chain, or any other relevant actor party within the organisation's sphere of influence.

Although many people use the terms social responsibility and sustainable development interchangeably, and there is a close relationship between the two, they are different concepts.

Sustainable development is a widely accepted concept and guiding objective that has gained international recognition. Its challenging goals are the elimination of poverty, health for all, social justice, and meeting the needs of society while living within the planet's ecological limits and without undermining the needs of future generations. Numerous international forums have reiterated the importance of these objectives over the years since 1987 – such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. The

objective of sustainable development is to achieve a state of "sustainability".

Social responsibility has as its focus the organisation, not the globe. Social responsibility is, however, closely linked to sustainable development because an overarching goal of an organisation's social responsibility should be to contribute to sustainable development, including health and the welfare of society. This is one of the major differences between philanthropy and social responsibility. Like any other phenomenon, social responsibility is guided by certain principles; accountability, transparency, ethical behavior, respect for stakeholders interest, respect for rule of law, respect for international norms of behavior and respect for human rights.

Imagine a world where all these principles are norms. A world where human rights are respected and human trafficking, child labour and discrimination, amongst others, are non-existent. A world where meaningful and productive work is an essential element in human development; standards of living are improved through full and secure employment.

The ISO 26000 standard seeks to promote socially responsible societies and to promote common understanding in the field of social responsibility. It also encourages an organisation to undertake activities that go beyond legal compliance, recognising that compliance with law is a fundamental part of any organisation's social responsibility.



Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini

QUOTE

There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness.
- Friedrich Nietzsche

Columns & Opinion

Every man regardless of age, height, looks, status and position has suffered an embarrassment in the presence of a woman in the nude, when the Third Member of legs absolutely refuses to come to the party. When all has been negotiated, agreed upon and the table set for *umnumzane* by a woman who is cognizant of what she has to get in return for all the trouble she has gone through *kusuke nje kungasukumilutfo* from the masculine sparring partner.

This could be anywhere, anytime and every time a man attempts to have sex with a woman he is married to, dating or has organised for that moment. That is a general plight not one man breathing and biologically blessed with an added leg can ever deny. *Iyajama lemoto le umsebenti umkhulu phambikwayo!* However, there is even more and acute imbalance when the joystick notoriously also fails a husband in the bedroom with his wife. *Naloko sekuwavelelelonkhe emadvodza lanebafati bawo-* females, wives Societal Scales refers to here.

Damn the choosy gadget, it will suddenly come to amazing action elsewhere especially with friendly matches having dismally failed in official fixtures. It would appear the marathon league is a huge problem for the joystick hence *bonkhe bomake bakhala ngendala* in the bedroom with their husbands reported to be "lazy", soft and docile.

Wherein the joystick has been diligent, *ikipila, icuphule tindzindzi* with a girlfriend out there, it could be the woman, your wife is expecting tons of sex in the house and getting *fakori*. Often times the man will fail to make providence of what is legally and maritally expected of him. Women have always known when they are being cheated on. She would be demanding the sex in the first place so that she could prove to him that she can tell she has been cheated on.

The crux of the matter is that husbands are finding it very hard to make love to their wives after. If there is sex in the marital bedroom it is often times far-in between, a week is normal believe Scales, it could be a month, several months before the couple do justice with the equipment and packages they have for the desirable activity.

That said, the man is amazingly active outside, not with one girlfriend or two, three four even. All his energies are released and they synergise with that of the girlfriend *kube nenjabulo lengenamkhawulo*. The situation has deteriorated to the extent that women themselves have come to accept this sad fate and are now outsourcing the service. *Sebayagana bafati* and make sure they tell the new guy that they want sex and lots of it. With the modern and civilized world of technology that becomes very easy. They would make an appointment with another for sex the very next day right under their husbands' noses. Scales ain't sure who is to blame for such sexual scarcity.

A beautiful lady teacher couldn't get anything beyond half-past from her handsome teacher boyfriend who was married by the way. They tried many times, at different places and times but it just wouldn't work notwithstanding that the woman was quite a package and very tempting. Ultimately, the relationship hit the rocks as the woman became sulky every time *Thishela* Tsabedze was around her apartment. She knew *noma angashikisha kuphi kwengca* eNkhaba down to Mnyokane *akusukumi lutfo*. As a matter of fact she accused the chap's wife of bewitching him so that he wouldn't cheat. She



Damn the choosy joystick, diligent elsewhere embarrassingly shy at home!

“

Often times the man will fail to make providence of what is legally and maritally expected of him. Women have always known when they are cheated. She would be demanding the sex in the first place so that she could prove to him that she can tell she has been cheated on

was wondering how this could happen because normally only wives are starved of sex and not girlfriends.

There are several reasons why men would ultimately fail in the bedroom where their wives demand and dish sex only to be studs in the most of unlikely places. For starters it could be the adrenaline pumping from the naughtiness of doing it outside the legal perimeters and also the mutual feeling from the girlfriend.

Societal Scales has been duly advised that sex in the bedroom can be tense and comes laden with a lot of conditions. When a man wants or demands sex, his beautiful wife would possibly refuse.

She has a lot of issues she is not happy about. Rather, the woman would have the husband addressing these matters before she would consent to sex. It could be the same attitude for a week, weeks, months or even a year-believe Scales here. In that impasse in the bedroom, the man is likely to solicit sex elsewhere and becomes accustomed to the fact that the best of sex that meets his masculine sexual desires are begotten elsewhere.

The guy would have totally lost interest in the house wrongly or rightly so. Even in the event there is an uprising down south, he will only go as far as his little enthusiasm will take him *vele njelokwemuntfu kugodle emandla ngoba sitoko sako lesinengi* is outside the marital bedroom.

This simply talks to the issue of not handling and solving marital conflicts and the direct result of it is a choosy joystick. It will do wonders for the man out there and flop dismally in the house, at times when he has change of heart and truly wants to please his wife *ngemtsetfo longcwele*.

It is beheld, literally and metaphorically that as a man grows older, his balls become smaller and smaller. First from the over-inflated balloon as a toddler and infant, the soccer ball as a teenager and a stud, the tennis ball as he mellows into manhood and finally the golf ball he plays when he is over the cliff. That holds true for men when they do sex.

He finds the ball in the bedroom too big for him with all the fights, conflicts, tensions and

vendettas shared between him and his wife. He prefers the small golf ball- the girlfriend who asks no questions.

The moment a girlfriend responds to a call to be with *umnumzane* she knows it's all about sex. There could be an exchange of money there but the pleasure is equally rewarding to the man. Your wife, *uLaMsitsini umakhele hulumende wendlu*, big cars and *umtalisie bantfwanalabahle*, will still find a reason to fight and sanction you sexually. However, the excitement and pleasure of being accepted by a beautiful young thang can spring any Joystick to a wonderful action. Truth be told *kute umuntfu lomdzala* not desirous *kuganwa lichikiza njeleliphetele*.

The point is, like in all other indulgences in the world, people have learnt to hold themselves back. It's either *lijaha lelidzala* lacks the courage, the means or has scales his chances to nil.

However, *laba, betimbasha sibili* will try their luck, throw in a few coins in front of the woman and you find sixty-year old man doing great sex with a twenty-five old woman. The world will wonder in support of the wife what an old man could be doing with a young lass. *Imphi yaphansi ayibukelwa-* there could be magic going on there. The joystick can be a damn choosy gear shift. Engaging here and totally uninspired and getting loose, flabby and disappointing in the house where it was destined to work!!

● Societal Scales hopes you enjoyed your Xmas and please do enjoy the fresh year coming. we value and appreciate your readership. It has been a wonderful 16 years!!!

QUOTE



7 FAQs for this Festive Season

With the festivities going on, many of us are excited this season and will be celebrating it with our loved ones and partners. Some celebrations, however, can lead to risky sexual behaviours. It is important to practice safer sex during this period. Condoms provide protection to avoid regrets later. This week, therefore, we answer our most commonly-asked questions about condoms.

Q1. What are the benefits of using condoms?

A. Condoms prevent: 1) The transmission of HIV and 2) other STIs, as well as 3) unwanted pregnancy. **Condoms are the only device that can provide this triple protection.**

Q2. Which condoms are the best?

A. All condoms are quality condoms. Condoms are available in different flavours, colours, shapes, and textures, yet they are all made from the same material and are rigorously tested.

Q3. What about free condoms?

A. Even condoms that are distributed for free are quality condoms. The free condoms are free to the user, because governments and donors have already paid for them. All condoms are manufactured and tested to global standards.



Q4. Do condoms reduce pleasure?

A. No, condoms are designed to give maximum pleasure. Condoms with little ridges or studs can be used by people who say they cannot feel anything when wearing a condom.

Q5. Does a person who carries condoms have loose morals?

A. Carrying a condom shows that you are responsible enough to prepare to protect yourself from HIV, unwanted pregnancy, and other STIs.

Q6. Do condoms break when they are stretched?

A. Condoms rarely break, except when they are:

- Expired
- Exposed to direct heat
- Worn inside out
- Worn without squeezing the tip to keep the air out
- Pierced by nails, teeth, or anything sharp
- Used with oil-based lubricant

Q7. Can condoms slip off in the vagina?

A. Yes, male condoms can slip off when a condom is put on before the penis is erect or when the penis is withdrawn from the vagina after losing its erection.

Condoms can be accessed from retail outlets, public toilets and health facilities. If you have questions on where to access a condom whether free or commercial, nearest to you, call 1212 to be assisted accordingly.

We would like to hear from you. Contact us for your feedback or question. Call 1212 for free and follow us on social media.



Litsemba Letfu
Got it? Get it
New start Swaziland

Special Feature

Carla Faith from Colorado Springs has been charged with child abuse.

In November, police visited the daycare and she ran out of her home amid reports of overcrowding.

She was uncooperative and did not want to let the place inside.

They heard children in the building so they went in and discovered the 26 toddlers in the basement with two adults.

Faith (58) has been charged for hiding 26 toddlers in a basement using a false wall after parents complained of overcrowding at her home.

Faith had her daycare, Play Mountain Place, shut down in November after officers went to her property and discovered the children, all of whom were under three, being hid them inside.

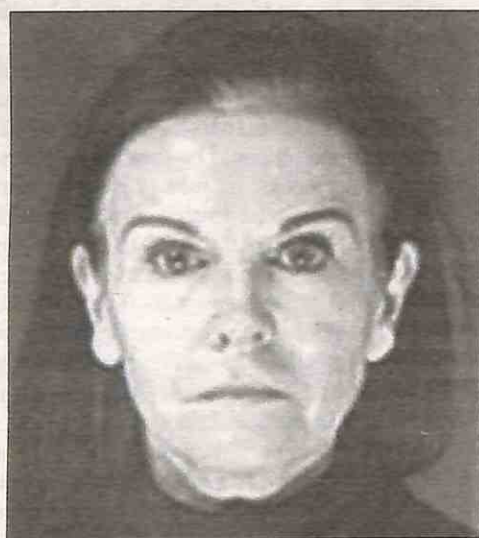
She had been operating the daycare with a license for just six children and, it is believed, when police arrived she hid them from view. Officers persevered because they could hear the children inside.

They shut down that property and another three that she was operating. Faith has now been charged with child abuse and charges relating to child abuse.

Her bond is \$3,000. Authorities first visited the home in November amid reports of overcrowding. At first, Faith refused to let them in.

"The owner, identified as 58-year-old Carla Faith, refused to cooperate with officers; however, officers could hear the noises of children coming from her home," Lt. James Sokolik with the Colorado Springs Police Department said at

Daycare owner hides 26 toddlers in her basement



OWNER: Carla Faith, 58, had her daycare, Play Mountain Place, shut down in November.

the time.

He added that when police got inside, they found a 'false wall' which led to the basement.

Once they got to the basement, they found the 26 children and two adults.

"Officers immediately began working with [The Colorado Department of Human Services] to release the children back to their parents" he said.

Three daycare workers were initially arrested for misdemeanor child neglect but the charges



HERE: The Play Mountain Place Daycare (right) where the children were found in November

against them were dropped.

Katelynne Nelson, 31, was later arrested for a felony drug charge and child abuse.

It has since emerged that Faith was cited for other violations while running daycare homes in California in the 1990s.

31-year-old Katelynne Nelson, is facing a felony drug charge and child abuse



Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Shembe Church faction accuses KZN premier of favouritism

JOHANNESBURG - The Ebuhleni faction of the Nazareth Baptist Church is accusing KwaZulu Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala of favouring their rivals, the Thembezinhle faction.

Zikalala announced his government would intervene in the nine-year succession battle but the Ebuhleni faction says the intervention is not noble.

The battle for control of the church started soon after the death of church leader Vimbeni Shembe in 2011.

Vimbeni's son Mduduzi leads the Ebuhleni faction, while his father's brother, the late Vela Shembe who died in 2017, headed the Thembezinhle faction.

Tensions between the two resurfaced after a court ruled that Vela was the rightful leader of the church.

The Shembe church is one of the biggest religious organisations in the country with an estimated five-million members.

eNCA



COMPLAIN: Spiritual leader of the Nazareth Baptist Church Mduduzi Shembe leads over 50 000 followers of the Nazareth Baptist Church, also known as the Shembe Church as they leave their church in Ebuhleni, 45kms, north of Durban.

3 officers, 19 guards questioned over SANDF weapons theft

PRETORIA - Three South African National Defence Force (SANDF) officers and 19 guards are being questioned in connection with the theft of 19 automatic R4 rifles from the Lyttelton Tek Base in Pretoria earlier this week.

According to National Defence Union Secretary Pikkie Greeff, the weapons were recovered in Hammanskraal on Wednesday morning.

"Three officers who had direct access to the keys have been arrested," Greeff told News24 yesterday.

"On Wednesday, about 19 guards were being questioned."

Greeff said an operation of this nature could only have been an inside job. "This is of grave concern for the SANDF. You can't just walk into a base like this and get access to weapons. There are strict access control measures in place. Only authorised personnel have access to such weapons."

"The question that needs to be answered is why these weapons were stolen. Who was the intended end-user of these weapons?"

Greeff said the motive could have been to sell them, but said that these particular weapons didn't have much value on the black market.

He tweeted that an obligatory SANDF board of inquiry would be held. On Tuesday, SANDF Spokesperson Sipiwe Dlamini confirmed the robbery, News24 reported. The ANC and DA have condemned the incident.

In a statement on Tuesday, ANC whip Thabo Mmutle said: "It is horrific to imagine the safety of the public when there are dangerous warfare weapons on the streets, as this poses a serious safety risk to citizens and leaves much to be desired about the security of the republic."

DA Defence Spokesperson Kobus Marais said in a statement: "It is outrageous to even consider that access could be gained into a supposedly highly protected military facility and further grind open a vault where ammunition is kept."

"Having such arms on the streets poses a threat to the safety of citizens and the security of the republic," News24



EFF HAS A NEW MARSHALL

JOHANNESBURG - Newly elected EFF Secretary-General Marshall Dlamini (42) enters the party's headquarters in Braamfontein, Gauteng, at exactly 11.30am for this interview, as scheduled.

He is casually dressed in black track-suit pants, a red golf shirt and an EFF branded cap.

A colleague observes that "uyab-hampa mayehamba" - a reference to Marshall's easy-going gait. His appearance is a far cry from what it was eight years ago, when he qualified as a finalist for a business award.

He was nominated in the category of emerging entrepreneur, after having founded a successful company in 2005.

Dlamini said at the time that he was "never a good employee" because he

did not like "restrictive environments".

Now, sitting at the table where the EFF's major decisions are made, he respectfully declines to speak about himself or his past life. "I am the elected secretary-general of the EFF. My responsibility is to do the work of the party, so the position that I am in now is determined by the EFF. This is exactly what [party president Julius Malema] was talking about [when he said] we must never be tempted to use EFF positions for self-promotion - because once I start speaking about my private life ... that would be self-promotion."

"Once you tap into your personal space, you have become dishonest to the organisation. They give you the responsibility to promote the interests of the organisation, and then you take that same platform for your personal

promotion; it is never done like that," he says, gesturing for emphasis. These are the same hands that slapped a plain-clothes police officer after President Cyril Ramaphosa's state of the nation address in February. A scuffle had broken out between some EFF MPs and security officials, and Dlamini was caught on video slapping the police officer, who subsequently opened an assault charge against him. Dlamini claimed that he was acting in defence of Malema. Besides displaying signs of being a *phuma silwe* - a person who is always ready for battle - Dlamini is also credited for breathing new life into the EFF in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal, after support for the party grew significantly in the May 8 polls.

City Press

Candidates sought for youth agency board

Cape Town - Parliament is in search of members of the public suitable to fill vacancies on the board of directors of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

This is as a result of the term of office for the board of directors coming to an end in May 2020.

The board, consisting of executive chairperson Sifiso Mtsweni, Khomotjo Joy Maimela, Ndumiso Thokozani Mokoko, Itiseng Kenneth Morolong, Yershen Pillay and Zandile Majozi, was appointed in 2017 by former president Jacob Zuma. The

late deputy minister of mineral resources and energy Bavelile Hlongwa served as deputy chairperson.

Hlongwa died in September this year after she and four other people were run over and killed by a truck on the N1 outside Polokwane. The decision to appoint new board members was taken earlier this month by the parliamentary joint sub-committee for the portfolio committee on women, youth and persons with disabilities and the select committee on health and social services.

The committee agreed that advertise-

ments calling for nominations be published in newspapers on December 15 and also resolved that the closing date would be January 24, 2020. In terms of the sub-committee's programme, applicants and nominees will have an extra week after the deadline to submit a questionnaire - until January 31. The shortlisting of candidates will take place between February 25 and 27, with the interviews scheduled for March. The committee plans to wrap up its work by March 17 and make its recommendations to both houses of Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, for approval.

Political Bureau

M1 South Bridge 'did not collapse

JOHANNESBURG - On Wednesday, the M1 South Bridge at the Booysens off-ramp was reported to have collapsed by the Joburg metro police, with motorists being told to drive with caution when using the off-ramp.

But on Thursday, the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) confirmed that the bridge had not collapsed.

After a full inspection by JRA engineers on Thursday, it was concluded that the stormwater drainage system meant to take water from the top of the bridge to the bottom had failed.

This led to water running down the bridge joints and causing erosion to the paving and soil that make the bridge embankment and abut-

ment.

JRA spokesperson Zoleka Jika said they are committed to providing a well maintained and safe bridge. "The bridge structure is sound and safe for use at the moment."

The JRA, through its maintenance team, is in the process of putting in place holding measures.

Jika said the situation will be monitored until full rehabilitation is concluded. He said the stormwater system required urgent rehabilitation, but due to the holidays, the rehabilitation could only be done next month.

"The JRA would like to assure road users that the safety of roads and bridges remains JRA's top priority," Jika said. *The Star*

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

YOUTUBER JAILED FOR FOUR YEARS

RABAT - A Moroccan YouTuber has been arrested and sentenced to four years in prison for 'insulting the king' in a video broadcast across social networks, his lawyer said.

Social media star Mohamed Sekkaki was sentenced by a court in the western city of Settat on December 26 after posting a video in which he called Moroccans 'donkeys' and criticised King Mohammed VI, whose is considered 'inviolable' under the constitution. The YouTuber, who is known as Moul Kaskita, will now spend four years in prison for the broadcast, his lawyer Mohamed Ziane confirmed.

Sekkaki, whose videos usually exceed 100,000 views, was arrested in early December after posting a controversial 12 minute video in which he said the leader's speeches were not followed by results. His lawyer Ziane has said his client would appeal the verdict.

The conviction of the YouTuber comes less than a month after Moroccan rapper Mohamed Mounir, widely known as Gnawi, was sentenced to a year in prison for 'insulting a public

...for 'insulting the king'



JAILED: Social media star Mohamed Sekkaki.

official'. The musician, who is currently being held in Laâjrate Prison in Salé, Morocco, was arrested on November 1 and charged with 'offend-

ing' public officials after he posted a video in which he insulted the police.

In a separate case on Thursday, a Moroccan journalist and activist was charged and detained over a tweet that had criticised a court decision, his defence council said. Journalist Omar Radi, 33, was detained in Casablanca and is being prosecuted for a tweet published nine months ago criticising the judge in charge of the case against the leaders of the Hirak protest movement. He now faces trial, his lawyer Said Benhammani confirmed. Morocco's criminal code punishes 'insulting magistrates' with imprisonment of between one month and one year. The group Reporters Without Borders in its latest annual press freedom index ranked Morocco 135th out of 180 countries.

The cases come after the Moroccan Human Rights Association had deplored in July an 'escalation of violations of human rights and public and individual freedoms' in Morocco.

Daily Mail

BOTSWANA PRESIDENT CALLS FOR PATRIOTISM

GABORONE - President of Botswana Mokgweetsi Masisi has called on the nation to revive patriotism during the Christmas Holidays.

"It is time to re-energise our patriotic spirit and other values of nationhood," Masisi made the remarks when addressing the nation on national television.

He said the holidays are a time to reflect on the country's challenges and successes to chart a way forward, ahead of the New Year.

"We are mindful of the challenges that continue to affect humanity, such as climate change, whose impact on the lives of Botswana and the world at large is devastating," said Masisi.

The president asked people to celebrate the festive season as responsible citizens. "Let us avoid engaging in anti-social activities ... which are not reflective of who we are but instead destroy the moral fabric of our society," he added.

Xinhua

'I know you are suffering'

HARARE - In his Christmas day message Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa admitted that people in his country are suffering.

Most Zimbabweans spent the holiday enduring shortages of cash, electricity and fuel.

The southern Africa country is in the grips of its worst economic crisis in a decade with the second highest inflation in the world. Close to half of its 14-million people face hunger after a ravaging drought.

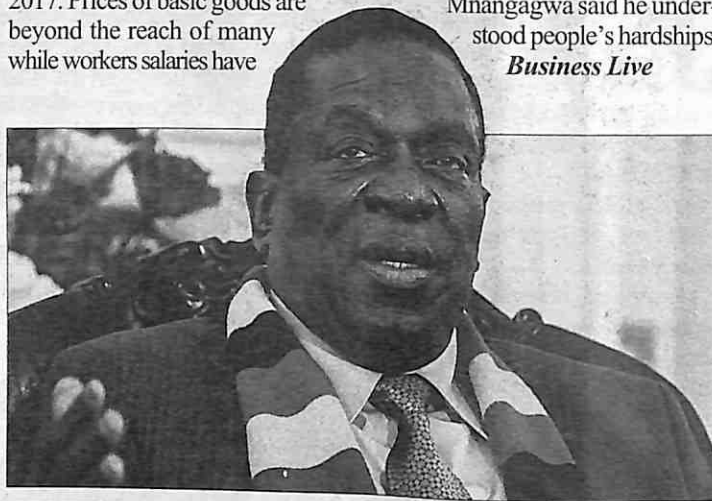
The International Monetary Fund has said Zimbabwe's economy will contract by 6.5 per cent in 2019, its worst decline since 2008.

This is the worst holiday season since Mnangagwa wrested power from Robert Mugabe in November 2017. Prices of basic goods are beyond the reach of many while workers salaries have

been eroded by inflation. On Christmas Day residential suburbs in the capital Harare were without electricity for hours, while many motorists spent much of the day in fuel queues, dampening the festive mood. Doctors who have been on strike demanding higher wages, continued with the industrial action. Some people who spoke to Business Day in Harare said they had failed to travel to their rural homes — as is the norm during holidays in the country — because of high costs of public transport.

Many Zimbabweans now say they were better off under Mugabe as Mnangagwa's administration has been accused of mismanaging the economy and failing to clampdown on rampant corruption. In a Christmas message to Zimbabweans, Mnangagwa said he understood people's hardships.

Business Live



ADMITS: Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mozambique lays on military escorts after attacks

MAPUTO - The Mozambican Government announced it would organise military escorts for vehicles travelling through the centre of the country following attacks in the bastion of former Renamo rebels.

Armed men launched Tuesday three ambushes against vehicles travelling along national route 1 — the main road linking the north and the south — in the Chibabava District of Sofala Province, according to several sources.

At least 10 people were killed in the attacks, a bus driver told local media.

Interior Minister Basilio Monteiro, who visited the sites of the attacks on Wednesday, confirmed the ambushes

but said there had been no deaths.

"We have decided to reinforce the escorts along the national route," he said, adding soldiers would be mobilised.

"We are certain we can re-establish peace," he added.

The government accuses the former rebel movement Renamo, which is the main opposition party, of being behind the ambushes.

Renamo has denied the attacks, which took place the day after Mozambique's constitutional court validated the results of the October general elections.

President Filipe Nyusi won a new five-year term after his Frelimo party, which has been in power since Mozambique

gained independence in 1975, secured an absolute majority. Renamo, like the rest of the opposition, had denounced fraud during the elections. But it has also promised to disarm its troops in accordance with the peace deal signed in August with Nyusi.

But a rebel faction has labelled the peace deal "treason" and claimed a string of attacks just before the election that caused several civilian deaths.

Its leader was unreachable on Thursday to comment on the latest attacks. The faction has vowed to prevent Nyusi from being sworn in to office for the new term on January 15.

AFP

BRIEFS

Buyanga dragged into messy divorce

HARARE - Zimbabwean businessman Frank Buyanga has been dragged into the messy divorce between that country's 63-year-old vice president Constantino Chiwenga and his jailed wife, Marry. A report in the Zimbabwe Morning Post alleges that the South African-based Buyanga had been "scouting for properties" in South Africa on behalf of Chiwenga's estranged wife. The story in the online publication surfaced a few days after Marry was arrested and charged for allegedly taking huge sums of US Dollars out of Zimbabwe.

IOL

3 children drown at waterlogged park

PRETORIA - Three young boys have drowned at a waterlogged park in Pretoria after presumably going swimming following heavy rains in the area. According to Tshwane Emergency Services Spokesperson Charles Mabaso, the children drowned at a park in Refentse, formerly known as Stinkwater, around 12:00pm on Thursday. Mabaso said that, by the time paramedics arrived, the bodies of two boys - aged 8 and 9 - had already been recovered by members of the community.

News24

Skylight set to be Africa's largest hotel

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Skylight hotel in Addis Ababa will soon be the biggest in Africa with a room capacity of 1,000. The hotel which was opened nearly a year ago with 375 rooms has begun the second phase on construction of 640 additional rooms as part of the eight and night strategic business unit of the Ethiopian Airlines Group. According to Esayas Woldemariam Hailu Chief Commercial Officer for Ethiopian Airlines Group "This is in a way to accommodate the Meetings Incentives, Conferences and Events as well as the leisure tourism arrivals into Ethiopia." *IOL*

'Shebeen king' with bogus licence

BATLHAROS - A Northern Cape "shebeen king" has been forced to close shop after police officers from the Batlharos Police Station caught the 36-year-old in possession of a fraudulent liquor licence. According to Police Spokesperson Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, the suspect was arrested on Christmas Day during a compliance inspection by a designated police officer and members of the Visible Police Unit, accompanied by the station commander. A compliance inspection was conducted in and around the Batlharos and Maruping Villages, about 20km north of Kuruman.

News24

Focus on World News

Global News

STATE TERRORISTS KILL 11 CHRISTIAN HOSTAGES ON CHRISTMAS DAY

DAMASCUS—Eleven Christian hostages were killed by Islamic State terrorists in Nigeria on Christmas Day, it has been reported. The Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) claim they killed the captives to avenge for the killing of their leaders Abu bakr al-Baghdadi and Abul-Hasan Al-Muhajir in Iraq and Syria.

A video released on Wednesday showed 13 hostages, 10 believed to be Christian and three Muslim. ISWAP claimed they spared the lives of two of the Muslims, local media reported.

The deaths came after an earlier video saw the hostages plead with the Christian Association of Nigeria

...to 'avenge the deaths of their leaders in Iraq and Syria'

(CAN) to negotiate their release.

In a statement, ISWAP said: "We killed them as a revenge for the killings of our leaders, including Abu bakr al-Baghdadi and Abul-Hasan Al-Muhajir in Iraq and Syria."

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres offered his condolences, with his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric saying in a statement: "The Secretary General is deeply concerned about reports that civilians have been executed, and others abducted, by armed group in northern Borno State, northeastern Nigeria."

"He expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the victims

and reiterates the solidarity of the United Nations with the people and Government of Nigeria." Jihadis Boko Haram and its IS-affiliated Islamic State West Africa Province faction have recently stepped up attacks on military and civilian targets in Nigeria. Boko Haram killed seven people on Christmas Eve in a raid on a Christian village near the town of Chibok in northeast Nigeria's Borno state.

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

Boko Haram and its IS-affiliated Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) faction have recently stepped up attacks on military and civilian targets. "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. In April, Boko Haram raided Kwarangulum, 10 miles,

from Chibok, stealing food and burning the entire village.

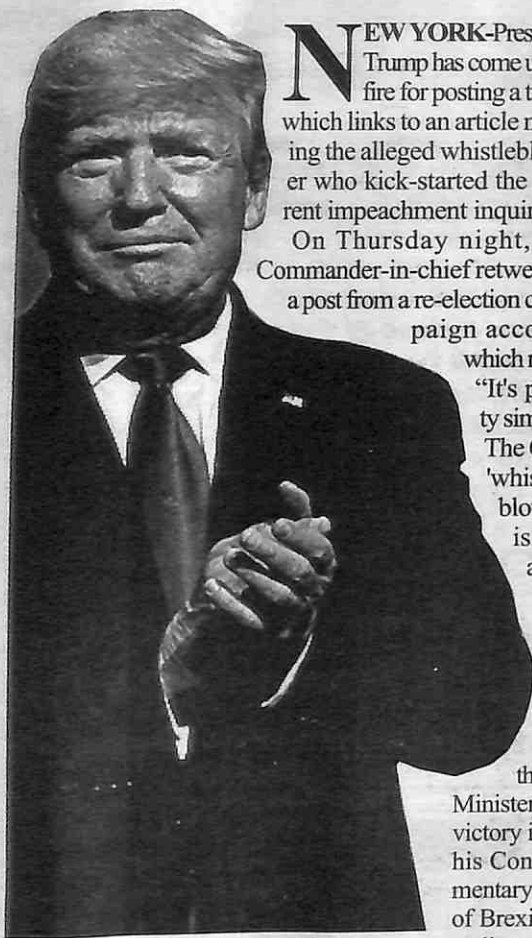
Residents had managed to flee before the arrival of the jihadists following tip-off from people who saw the gunmen heading toward the village.

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

Fifty-seven of the girls escaped shortly after the kidnap. Another 107 have been either rescued or released after negotiations while 112 remain in captivity. Troops have been stationed in Chibok since the kidnap but deadly Boko Haram raids continue in the area. The decade-long conflict has killed 36,000 people and displaced around two million from their homes in the northeast, according to the United Nations.

The violence has spread to nearby Niger, Chad and Cameroon, prompting a regional military coalition to fight the jihadist groups. *Daily Mail*

Trump faces backlash for retweeting whistleblower article



UNDER FIRE: United States President Donald Trump.

NEW YORK—President Trump has come under fire for posting a tweet which links to an article naming the alleged whistleblower who kick-started the current impeachment inquiry.

On Thursday night, the Commander-in-chief retweeted a post from a re-election campaign account which read: "It's pretty simple. The CIA 'whistle-blower' is not a

real whistleblower."

The post additionally linked to an article from conservative outlet The Washington Examiner which names the alleged CIA agent who first reported Trump's now-infamous July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Democrats claim the phone call shows evidence that Trump was trying to dig up dirt on political rival Joe Biden, whose son once served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company. Democrats have also steadfastly insisted on keeping the whistleblower's name a secret in order to protect his or her safety.

In contrast, Trump has repeatedly pushed for the person's identity to be revealed, claiming it will show that they are a partisan operative motivated by left-wing bias. Meanwhile, Trump's tweet comes despite the fact that

several of his closest confidantes have tried to dissuade him from pushing for the release of the whistleblower's name. According to The Daily Beast, Ivanka Trump and White House Counsel Pat Cipollone, had privately cautioned the President against saying or posting the name in public. However, Trump has repeatedly called upon members of the media to publish the whistleblower's name in recent months.

Several weeks ago he was filmed telling reporters: "You guys ought to release the information."

"The whistleblower should be revealed because the whistleblower gave false stories. Some people would call it fraud. I won't go that far but, when I read it closely, I probably would."

Daily Mail

Britain on the brink of Brexit, but...

BRUSSELS - Many EU leaders have welcomed the certainty brought by Prime Minister Boris Johnson's sweeping victory in a snap election that gave his Conservatives a large parliamentary majority, making passage of Brexit legislation largely a formality.

Since the election, Johnson has

shown British voters his determination to complete Brexit by the end of 2020, with a promise to enshrine in law the deadline to negotiate a new deal on future relations. That leaves him just 11 months from January 31, the date agreed for Britain to begin the formal severance of its ties to the European Union. Throughout this transition period, little will change as EU law continues to apply to

Britain.

Many analysts say that timetable is all but impossible, warning that negotiations on future relations between London and Brussels could drag on for years. EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, who will lead the talks for Brussels, reportedly called the end-of-2020 goal "unrealistic," adding that, with so little time, "we cannot do it all." *DPA*

Magnitude 5.1 earthquake hits Iran

TEHRAAN—A 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck Iran on Wednesday, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The quake was reported to have struck near the southern coast of Iran, the federal agency reports. The quake's centre is about 30 miles from Iran's sole nuclear power plant in Bushehr, the USGS says.

There is no word on casualties or damages from the quake.

Magnitude 5.1 is considered moderate, however, is often felt and causes minor damage.

The last quake to hit Iran came in November, striking in Tark County to the northwest about 250 miles from Tehran. Five people were killed and 300 were injured when the November 7 early morning quake struck.

It was believed that many of the injuries occurred in the panicked aftermath of the quake as people fled their homes.

Iran is on major seismic faults and experiences one earthquake a day on average. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people.

A magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck western Iran in 2017 killed more than 600 people and injured more than 9,000.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

15 dead as plane crashes into house

ALMATY - At least 15 people died yesterday when a passenger plane carrying 100 people crashed into a house shortly after take-off from Kazakhstan's largest city, authorities said. The Bek Air plane "fell off the radar" minutes after it took off from Almaty airport at 07.05 (01:05 GMT) on its way to the capital, Nur-Sultan, the airport authority said in a statement. "There are 15 dead at the (crash) site," the city government said in a statement sent from its Telegram messenger app. *Daily Mail*

Netanyahu wins party leadership vote

GAZA - Embattled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a "huge" victory yesterday, after winning a leadership primary that ensures he will lead his right-wing Likud party into March elections. Israel's longest-serving premier, who faces a corruption indictment and a third general election in 12 months, was expected to beat rival Gideon Saar but the convincing margin of victory strengthened his position in the party he has dominated for 20 years. *AFP*

Patient in search for stem cell donor

NEW YORK - A mother in desperate need of a transplant fears the former partner who killed her teenage son has now stolen her only chance of survival. Tania Morris, 49, was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma weeks after burying her only child, Nathan Bates. The 19-year-old was bludgeoned to death with a hammer as he slept last year by his mother's ex-partner Robert Goodwin, who then took his own life. Miss Morris has been battling the disease for a year, but doctors have now told her that her last hope is a stem cell transplant. *AFP*

Spat to head to International Court

GENEVA - Mexico will ask a United Nations court to settle a simmering diplomatic dispute with Bolivia, which it says is harassing allies of ousted President Evo Morales at its embassy in La Paz. The government will submit a complaint to the International Court of Justice, a UN body based in the Hague, claiming Bolivia is violating diplomatic norms by surrounding its embassy with security forces, Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said. *AP*

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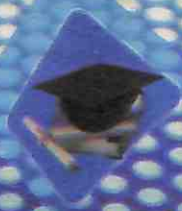
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**Vusimuzi Ephraem
Zwane**



**Funeral: 28/12/19
Vigil: 27/12/2019
Place: kaHlatsi**

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nebangani kutsi
Vusimuzi Ephraem
Zwane lotalwa ngu
B h u k u b h u k u
nemfwanenkhozi
Cabati Zwane, kutsi
a k a s e k h o
emhlabeni. Inkonzobu
yesikhumbuto
imhlaka 27
December 2019 eSt
Peter and Paul
ekwaluseni nga 1:00
e m n i .
Utongcwatjwa
kaHlatsi mhlaka 28
December 2019
emva kwemlindzelo
e k h a y a
eSibetsamoya nga
5:00 ekuseni.
Ngumnden i
l o k h i p h a
simemetelo.

Takhona Mhlanga



**Funeral: 29/12/19
Vigil: 28/12/2019
Place: eNkijili**

Relatives and
friends of Takhona
Mhlanga are
notified of her
demise. Funeral at
Nkijili on Sunday 29
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after a night vigil.
Announcement by
family.



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'I receive racist abuse 'nine days out of 10'

LONDON - British tennis star Jay Clarke revealed he receives racist abuse "nine days out of 10".

The Derby man, 21, took to Twitter, responding to a post from fellow tennis player Liam Broady.

British number six Broady discussed comments from rapper Stormzy about

racism still existing in UK society.

In a passionate series of tweets, the 25-year-old wrote: "I actually can't believe some of the things I'm reading today regarding Stormzy's comments highlighting racism in our country."

"Yes, there is less racism here than in most countries around the world

but that doesn't mean that we should ignore racism here because it isn't that bad?"

"When one of my best mates gets chased home for simply walking past a pub at night and has to hide in bushes to avoid getting beaten up because of his skin colour, how can you claim racism doesn't exist in this country?"

"This problem seems to be getting worse to me, not better."

And world number 154 Clarke replied: "Not this extreme but I experience something like this at least once a day nine days out of 10."

Clarke's tweet was sent less than 36 hours after Chelsea and Germany defender Antonio Rudiger was racially abused during his club side's victory over Tottenham in North London on Sunday afternoon.

Earlier in December, Manchester United midfielder Fred was the subject of vile racist abuse during the derby win away at rivals City.

Clarke is currently ranked fifth in the British rankings behind Dan Evans, Cameron Norrie, Kyle Edmund and Andy Murray.

At Wimbledon in July, he won his first Grand Slam match to set up a second-round clash with eight-time champion Roger Federer. *The Sun*

ZLATAN 'AGREES SENSATIONAL AC MILAN REUNION' ...as veteran striker moves closer to £4.3 million 18-month deal

MILAN - Veteran striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is set to make an astonishing return to AC Milan as the Italian giants are near securing their former front man following his stint in the United States.

The 38-year-old left LA Galaxy after they were dumped from the MLS play offs by arch rivals LA FC, but has shown no intention of hanging up his boots just yet.

The former Sweden international outlined his desire to return to Europe, where he enjoyed so much success in his pomp, and it looks like his former club Milan will win the race to sign the 6ft 5in striker. According to Italian newspaper Repubblica, Stefano Pioli's side have secured the services of the star, and will announce his arrival on December 30.

Ibrahimovic is said to have signed an 18-month contract and will receive almost five million Euros, bonuses included, with Director of Football Zvonimir Boban and Milan legend Paolo Maldini fundamental in bringing Ibrahimovic back to the club. It is unknown which shirt number Zlatan will take, with Krzysztof Piatek currently wearing the number nine. Zlatan could ask for shirt 81 instead. Ibrahimovic



will return to the San Siro for the first time since 2012, where he enjoyed a two-year stint in the Italian capital, scoring 56 goals in 85 games and winning a Serie A and an Italian Super Cup. Milan have seen off fierce competition from domestic rivals Fiorentina, Bologna and Rome to bring the striker back. Ibrahimovic is said to be most fond of Milan, despite also play-

ing for arch rivals Inter and Juventus. The Milan he rejoins is in a far different state to the one he left for Paris seven years ago. Pioli faces an uphill task in making this season a positive one. Having taking over from Marco Giampaolo earlier this season, Milan are 11th in Serie A approaching the halfway mark of the season.

Daily Mail

Cormier confirms WWE talks

LONDON - Daniel Cormier has confirmed he held talks with the WWE to make the move after his UFC career is over.

The former UFC heavyweight champion saw his close pal and training partner Cain Velasquez sign for Vince McMahon's pro wrestling stable this year.

Cormier had been lined up for a trial as a commentator, but could not find the time to follow through with it.

And in an interview with BT Sports, the avid pro wrestling fan and current UFC commentator revealed he was set to help promote Velasquez's WWE debut against Brock Lesnar.

Cormier said: "I've talked with the WWE on a number of occasions, they want to work together."

"I almost came to the press conference for Brock vs Cain to play the role of a fight builder. Unfortunately, my sched-

ule didn't work." Cormier was offered a role on the WWE's new programme called Backstage, that debuted on Fox Sports 1 - the former broadcasters of the UFC.

But after the WWE made the switch to ESPN, DC saw his proposed WWE venture dashed.

"I got an offer to work that new show, WWE Backstage."

"Obviously, it didn't work with the new relationship with [UFC and] ESPN. "But we are constantly trying to get me involved in the product."

"As a big-time fan of the WWE, nothing makes me happier. I've got some great opportunities, man. I'm lucky. "I've got some things outside of the octagon that's gonna carry me for a long time."

The Sun



CONFIRMS:
Daniel Cormier.

Messi studying goalkeeping to improve on free-kicks

BARCELONA - Barcelona star Lionel Messi has proven himself to be one of the deadliest players in the world from set pieces - with 52 goals from free kicks.

And now the Argentine has shared the secrets of his success from the dead ball, admitting that he has started to study the movements of a goalkeeper in order to get the upper hand.

Messi dispatched six goals from

41 set-piece attempts in La Liga last season, but he has already netted four efforts from 12 attempts in the current campaign - showing that his skill is only getting better. Speaking to La Liga, the 32-year-old said watching the behaviour of the goalkeeper standing behind the wall is key to upping his strike rate. "I started to study free-kicks more to see if the goalkeeper moves before [the ball is kicked], if he takes a step and if not how he reacts,

where he places the wall. "The truth is that everything is work and training, and I've been getting better with training."

Messi, who bagged a record sixth Ballon D'or prize this year, has been scoring goals left, right and centre this season - with 15 strikes in 18 appearances, despite having time on the sidelines with an injury.

It's sometimes hard to keep up with Messi's record breaking stats, and although it was five years ago,

the star has admitted his pride at becoming the all-time goalscorer in La Liga history. Messi overtook Telmo Zarra's 251 goals in 2014 and now has 432 strikes in the top flight - giving him a sizeable lead over the next competitor - and he believes the accolade is one of his proudest achievements. "Being the top scorer in the league is special, and is one of the most beautiful records I have," he said.

Daily Mail

I DRANK A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE - RONALDO

JUVENTUS - Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed that he felt tipsy after a glass of champagne following Portugal's Euro 2016 triumph - because he was dehydrated after crying so much.

The Juventus star was victorious on the international stage three years ago as Portugal beat France 1-0 after extra time. And now the 34-year-old has spoken out about the celebrations that fol-

lowed. "It was the most important trophy of my career," he told DAZN, as quoted by Marca.

"I laughed, I cried, I got a little drunk. "During that game, I cried so much that I was dehydrated."

"At the end of the game, during the celebrations, I drank a glass of champagne and immediately it went to my head."

"I never drink, but that day was so special."

Daily Mail

MOHAMED ELNENY'S AGENT PLAYS DOWN TALK OF MOVE

LONDON - Mohamed Elneny's agent has played down talk linking the Arsenal loanee with a move next month insisting he is only focused on Besiktas.

Elneny is currently on a season-long loan at Besiktas from Arsenal and the midfielder has impressed during his time in Turkey.

The 27-year-old has been a regular for Besiktas this season and his performances have alerted a number of clubs across Europe with reports in

Italy linking Elneny with AC Milan. Egyptian international Elneny has been linked with a potential move, but the player's agent Christian Emile of Base Soccer, says the player is not thinking about the transfer speculation and is only focusing on doing his best for Besiktas. "I do not find it surprising that there is speculation around Elneny, it is a compliment to his good performances in Turkey and the Europa League," said Emile. *Daily Mail*



STUDYING: Barcelona star Lionel Messi.

CAN THE BIG THREE FINALLY BE BREACHED?

LONDON - All tennis eyes will be focused on the build-up to the Australian Open in the next few weeks, which should launch another thrilling year for the sport.

With Britain's talent pool growing too, what can we expect on court in 2020?

ASSAULT ON THE BIG THREE

They continue to fill the top three spots in the rankings but have a combined age of 103 — so, is this the year we finally see the slide of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer?

Before any anointing of the coming generation can take place, they will have to upset the great trinity in the Grand Slams. And if anyone gets carried away with that idea, they should consider Nadal still looks impregnable (when fit) at Roland Garros, while Djokovic has won six of the last nine Australian Opens.

So there should be a note of caution when assessing the prospects of the likes of Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas.

The Greek won the ATP Finals, but he will know that when Alex Zverev did the same thing in 2018 it was not the precursor to a spectacular lift off.

Federer will go into the Australian Open without much in the way of matchplay. He needs a decent run in Melbourne to cushion himself against the potential loss of points from winning Dubai and Miami 12 months before, otherwise his ranking is likely to head south.

The balanced view would be that Federer, 38, will have his best chance of one more major when he plays at Wimbledon.

The sign that he is approaching the end will be when he starts repeatedly losing to inferior players, of course, and there was not much indication of that this year. If there is to be the first new major champion since Marin Cilic in 2014 it is likely to be one of Medvedev, Tsitsipas, Zverev or Dominic Thiem. Below that, frankly, the quality is not quite what some people crack it up to be.

That said, there is an even younger generation who, while not oven-ready champions, do look tasty. A lot of attention will be focused on the progress of Canada's Felix Auger Aliassime and the coming Italian teenager, Jannik Sinner.

SERENA AND THE CURSE OF THE FINAL

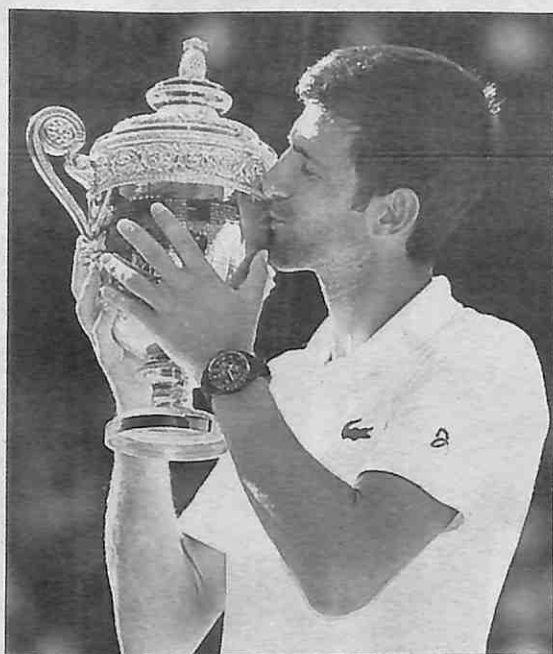
Serena Williams falls into a similar bracket to Roger Federer in 2020 — 38 years old and everyone wondering when her legs might finally start to go.

As usual, nothing was seen of her after the US Open when she fell short in her pursuit of a 24th major yet again.

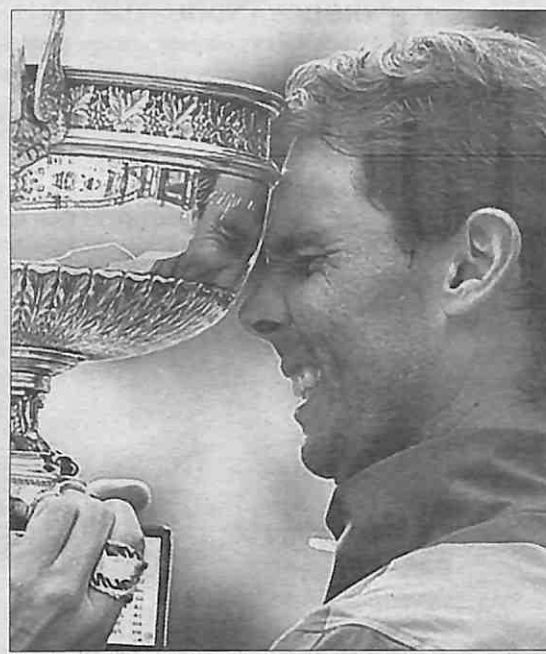
She is showing some signs of mental scarring thanks to her record of having lost the four Grand Slam finals she has reached since becoming a parent.

The encouraging aspect for her is that, at the US Open, she looked more

...Has Serena Williams got another Slam in her? And are we about to see a boom in the British game? Our 2020 vision for tennis



REIGNED: Novak Djokovic reigned supreme at Wimbledon, beating Roger Federer in the final.



REFUSED: Rafael Nadal refused to let go his grip on the French Open title this year, beating Dominic Thiem.



SETBACK: Katie Boulter badly injured her back during a Fed Cup tie in London back in April.



HOPES: Serena Williams' finals curse continued this year, including at the US Open in New York.

equipped for victory than she had in the previous three. The window is closing for the great American, but it would be no surprise to see her capture the elusive big one this coming year. What the women's game badly needs is a group of top players to establish themselves and start to create the kind of long-term rivalries that the men have basked in.

While there has been the usual merry-go-round of coach changes, we may start to see this take shape in permutations involving Ash Barty, Naomi Osaka and Bianca Andreescu. Coco Gauff, 15, is a potential ingredient in the mix, too. And if she stays fit, not a given, then Canada's superbly rounded Andreescu may turn out to be the best of them all.

AN UNUSUAL WEALTH OF BRITISH MEN'S TALENT

When Andy Murray plays at the Australian Open next month it will, whatever happens, be something of

a triumph.

As he recalled recently, his famous press conference in Melbourne back in January took on a life of its own: "I was so emotional. I didn't know what I had said. I didn't think I had said I'm retiring."

"I think I said I would like to get to Wimbledon to stop. And at the time, that was my plan. I didn't want to play any longer than that because I couldn't do it anymore."

Now we know that he can and anything he achieves from here will be a bonus. Make no mistake, his peers will hate facing him, especially if he is released from the pressure of winning. You suspect that the biggest worry is that parts of his body other than the hip may cause problems as he makes compensations. He is, after all, a high mileage 32-year-old.

All being well on the physical side, there is no reason why Murray cannot get back into the top 20 and make the second week of Grand Slams.

In fact there is the distinct possibility that Britain may have four men inside the world's top 50: Dan Evans is already there, Cam Norrie is on the cusp and it is where Kyle Edmund and Murray belong.

Edmund finished a deflating year strongly, and was the outstanding player in the Davis Cup. Due to the slightly absurd qualifying system, he cannot play for GB in the ATP Cup and will start off the year in Doha and Adelaide.

There may be extra cheer if Surrey teenager Jack Draper is not blown off course from his promising ascent and Paul Jubb builds on his American college success.

A BETTER YEAR FOR THE BRIT WOMEN?

With one or two exceptions things can only improve in 2020 for Britain's female contingent, among whom Jo Konta remains a lone beacon of excellence.

FOUR BRITISH MEN FOR THE TOP 50?

Andy Murray

Age: 32, Rank: 125

Above all, he needs a clean bill of health that could stretch his career towards his mid-thirties. During his remarkable triumph in Antwerp he showed that class is permanent and also that there are things he can still improve upon, providing his body lets him. Smart scheduling and training regimes will be important, but he knows all about that now.

Dan Evans

Age: 29, Rank: 39

This year's great redemption story, Evans will find himself more of a marked man in the coming season as players become more familiar with the threat he poses. While he will always have physical limitations, his unusual talent and playing style — and competitiveness — should continue to win him matches.

Cam Norrie

Age: 24, Rank: 53

The slightly unconventional southpaw is now two years into his full professional career, after standout performances in college, and he's looking more the part. Needs to keep trying to add heft to his game, especially on the forehand. But ought to be moving back towards the low 40s, where he was in May.

Kyle Edmund

Age: 24, Rank: 69

Looked much more his old self late in the season and should be optimistic about climbing back towards the top 20. Needs to gel with his highly-regarded new coach Franco Davin, stay physically and mentally robust and not be too introspective — in other words, different to much of 2019.

Having suffered a prolonged dip after making Wimbledon's last four in 2017 she hit it off with French coach Dmitri Zavialoff to make a deep impression at three of the four Slams.

Very visible defeats at Roland Garros and Wimbledon when glory appeared tantalisingly within range should not obscure an excellent campaign that saw her finish 12th in the rankings.

The question for Konta is whether she can take one further step in what looks an increasingly competitive top 10.

The overall British effort was not helped by Katie Boulter badly injuring her back in the Fed Cup tie at London's Copper Box. With an injury-protected ranking, Boulter will be able to play in the biggest events, despite sinking below 300.

We live in hope that Heather Watson will become the player she once promised to be, while Kent teenager Emma Raducanu looks a rare prospect.

They could all look to Konta's professionalism for the way forward. It can look like a few of them are more preoccupied with growing their social media following than shrinking their ranking.

DON'T FORGET THE DOUBLES

There is no doubt Britain has an unusual plethora of male specialists. There are seven in the world's top 60 and that excludes Andy Murray.

While Joe Salisbury established himself as a high class performer by reaching the ATP Finals, the partnership of Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski got better and better after a



Pirates to make changes to the squad?

JOHANNESBURG - Siya sources have revealed that Orlando Pirates could be looking to make adjustments to their squad in the coming days.

The Soweto-based side appointed Josef Zinnbauer at the helm of the team on December 10 and after getting over the first hurdle, for their first win under his mentorship, the German tactician will get a chance to reassess the squad in the new year.

Indications are that a few players could be sent out on loan, while it remains to be seen which new additions Zinnbauer will look to bring in.

As reported in the past weeks, Pirates have been keeping an eye on the likes of Moeketsi Makhanya, Bradley Grobler and Bonginkosi Makume, while sources previously revealed that out-of-favour players such as Bongani Sam and Justice Chabalala are being linked with exits from the club.

The Bucs will return to club duty this weekend after the Christmas break, as they prepare for a hectic January schedule.

Their first fixture of the new year will be away to Bloemfontein Celtic on January 04 and it remains to be seen if there will be any new faces in the squad by then.

Soccer Laduma

Pitso raises USM, Wydad comparison

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane has explained why his team has a higher chance of beating USM Alger than Wydad Casablanca.

Sundowns left the country for Algeria on Monday in preparation for their CAF Champions League match against USMA on Saturday (18h00).

The Brazilians are currently sitting top of Group C, having collected four points from their opening two rounds of fixtures thus far.

Mosimane has by no means declared the current trip to North Africa a 'walk in the park', but says he certainly feels more comfortable in Algiers than in Casablanca.

"USM is not an easy team, it's a tough team. They have the same mentality, same culture [as Wydad] - the stands, you will see will be full, it's normal that their stadium is full," said Mosimane.

"But we have the mentality to play the game. We know how to play against the North Africans. We can deal with that."

The Brazilians spent Christmas Day at their hotel on Wednesday afternoon, after having trained in the morning.

Meanwhile, Sundowns will be without the services of midfielder Rivaldo Coetzee for this evening's match, as he still nurses a foot injury sustained during their league match against Stellenbosch. 'Jingles' further noted that both striker Mauricio Affonso and defender Mosa Lebusa remain doubtful for the match as they deal with niggling injuries.

"Hopefully Affonso will be back. I was worried with Mosa, after a collision there [against Polokwane City], but if he doesn't make it then we have Wayne (Arendse)."

EYMAEL'S LEOPARDS FUTURE IN DOUBT

THOHOYANDOU - There could be yet another coaching change in the ABSA Premiership in the not-so-distant future, with Luc Eymael's future with Black Leopards now being brought into question.

Lidoda Duvha are currently sat in 11th place on the table and have lost just two of their last six games, however the Siya crew has been led to believe that Eymael's days with the club may now be numbered amid talk of a possible exit.

Joined

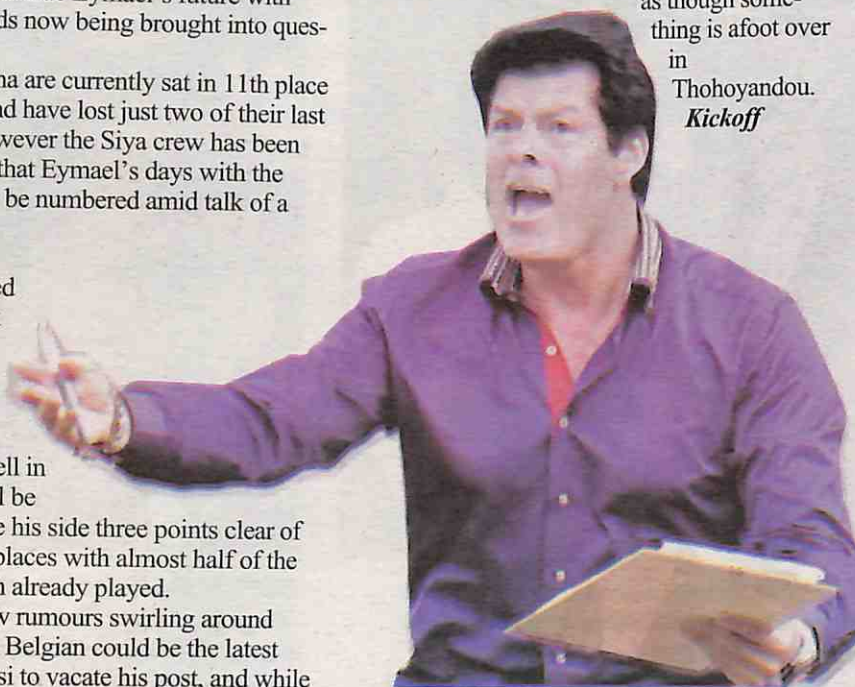
Eymael joined Leopards back in September as he

returned to South Africa following a spell in Egypt, and will be pleased to have his side three points clear of the relegation places with almost half of the 2019/20 season already played.

There are now rumours swirling around though that the Belgian could be the latest coach in Mzansi to vacate his post, and while the reasons are as yet unknown at this stage, Leopards may well be in the hunt for a new man at the helm as the new decade gets

underway in 2020.

The crew will continue to monitor the situation in the coming days, but it certainly seems as though something is afoot over in Thohoyandou. *Kickoff*



FUTURE IN DOUBT: Luc Eymael

Zinnbauer aware of pressure at Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - New Orlando Pirates coach Josef Zinnbauer is aware that he will be expected to deliver results quickly at Bucs.

Zinnbauer, who was appointed on December 10, got his tenure as Pirates coach off to a winning start as Bucs beat Polokwane City 3-1 at Orlando Stadium last week Saturday.

"When you work in Pirates you will always have pressure. And I know this. I have experi-

ence with clubs who had a culture and traditions," said Zinnbauer as quoted by The Sowetan.

"We have good players, we have perfect structures here at the club. I think that we have all that we need for the next step to bring the success back."

Zinnbauer's next assignment is a clash against Bloemfontein Celtic at Dr Molemela Stadium on January 4.

The Citizen

AWARE: New Orlando Pirates coach Josef Zinnbauer is aware that he will be expected to deliver results quickly at Bucs.



Chiefs sitting pretty at top of Premiership standings

JOHANNESBURG - If you had said at the start of the season that Kaizer Chiefs would hold a seven-point lead at the midway point of the campaign and have a single defeat from their 14 matches, many might have thought you were being fanciful.

But the first five months of the ABSA Premiership season could barely have gone better for the AmaKhosi, who could only manage a ninth-place finish in the last campaign and looked well short of being title contenders.

It is now arguably their title to lose, though Mamelodi Sundowns hover ominously behind them and are known for their strong finishes in the closing months of the season.

But the numbers stack up impressively for coach Ernst Middendorp, who has seen his side win 11 of their 14 league matches, with two draws.

The only defeat was a surprise 1-0 reversal at home to Polokwane City in September - the same Limpopo side who have subsequently lost their last 10 matches in a row.

Mixed in that run Chiefs have beaten Sundowns (2-0) and also ended their long five-year drought against Orlando Pirates (3-2). They have been hugely impressive and top the scoring charts with 29 goals, more than two per game on average. Pirates (22) are the next highest scorers.

Their attack had looked so blunt last season, but has improved markedly, with the catalyst being the arrival of the brilliant Serbian forward Samir Nurkovic.

Times Live

Stellies snap up ex-Chiefs winger

JOHANNESBURG - Former AmaZulu and Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Ovidy Karuru has confirmed that he has joined Stellenbosch FC.

The Zimbabwean winger was recently released by AmaZulu FC having spent three years with Usuthu.

Karuru, however, disputes that he was offloaded by AmaZulu.

"It is not true to say that I was offloaded," Karuru told Zimbabwe's H-Metro.

"I had already received a very good offer from Stellenbosch via email, and I felt that it was the right time to make the move and take up a new challenge."

"So we agreed with AmaZulu and immediately after I signed for Stellenbosch. I signed the contract at my home."

"They had been chasing after my signature since they were promoted, but previously I would refer them to AmaZulu, and there were never any talks."

"But because time was moving, I then engaged the club to allow me to move. Stellenbosch want me to join them for December 28 training and that is how serious they are with me. I am excited."

Karuru made eight appearances in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) for AmaZulu this season. *The Citizen*



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



MANCHESTER UNITED ARE SPENDING £109 386 PER PLAYER PER POINT

but Liverpool get TWICE as much bang for their buck with points only costing £50,444 per man... so who tops our Premier League value for money table?

LONDON - Most Premier League clubs have reached the half-way stage in their seasons this week - or 19 games from 38 - and it's instinctively clear to most fans which teams are doing better and worse than expected.

No Arsenal or Everton supporter would have expected to be languishing in the bottom half of the table at this stage, yet they are.

Conversely, fans at Newcastle United, and especially Sheffield United, would perhaps not have expected their clubs to be sitting in the top half of the table after Boxing Day.

Manchester United are spending £109 386 per player per point after 19 games played so far

Manchester City are spending more on wages than United but less money per player per point

Quantify

But how can we quantify precisely how much bang each team is giving for their buck? There are lots of ways, and our first table considers how much in wages each club has spent per player per point so far.

There is a detailed section about the sourcing of the figures and the methodology on pages eight to 12 of that report, and on page 55 you will find the average basic pay for the first-team squads in the Premier League for 2019-20.

Norwich pay next least at just under £1m per man, and at the other end, Manchester City (£6.99m) and Manchester United (£6.1m) are paying most, followed by Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea.

In our graphic, the annual figures are divided to produced a figure per Premier League game, or £19,158 at the Blades. With half the season gone, the average sum earned so far by a



player in Wilder's squad is £364 000, which is 19 games times £19 158 (and also, of course, half of £728 000).

Sheffield United have the best value for money when it comes to spending on player wages.

And at this stage United have 29 points. The sum spent on wages therefore currently equates to £12 552 per player per point, which is, by a long

margin, the smallest sum (and best value for money) in England's top flight so far.

Wolves, Burnley, Norwich and Newcastle are also accruing points more cheaply, relatively, than clubs with much bigger budgets. At the other end, Manchester United, Arsenal and Everton should really be doing better, as most of their fans would

probably agree.

This is just one of many ways of gauging value for money. Ultimately the league table is the most significant indicator of success. So Liverpool are spending a lot of money on wages - but it will be worth every penny to their owners and supporters if they seal a first league in 30 years, since 1989-90.

Liverpool spend a lot of money on wages but it will be worth every penny if they win the title.

Another method of assessing value for money is considering wage spending against a more general performance ranking. Football analytics and advisory firm, 21st Club, for example, produce a 'Club World Super League', which is an index that ranks teams globally in one league table, on a rolling basis.

The very best teams on the planet, consistent over a long period, score highest (such as Pep Guardiola's Manchester City and Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool, and Barcelona, and Bayern Munich, and so on.

Intelligence

In the 2019 GSSS, Omar Chaudhuri, who is the Head of Football Intelligence at 21st Club, has written a four-page analysis of how the 98 teams in Europe's 'Big 5' top divisions are performing against financial resources (wages) this season.

Clubs above the dotted line are getting must bang for their buck and are outperforming their wage spending. They include high spenders such as Manchester City, Liverpool ... and Wilder's Sheffield United. And clubs below the dotted line should be doing better. They include Manchester United, Arsenal and Everton.

Daily Mail



Manchester United are spending £109 386 per player per point after 19 games played so far.



SPEND: Liverpool spend a lot of money on wages but it will be worth every penny if they win the title. (R) Manchester City are spending more on wages than United but less money per player per point.

Best value so far this Premier League season in points

return per pound spent per player on wages in the PL

Value for money rank	Club	AVG first-team basic pay per player per game	Games so far	Points	£ per player per pt
1	Sheff Utd	£19,158	19	29	£12,552
2	Wolves	£57,831	18	27	£38,554
3	Burnley	£50,404	19	24	£39,903
4	Norwich	£26,079	19	12	£41,292
5	Newcastle	£54,901	19	25	£41,725
6	Leicester	£88,236	19	39	£42,987
7	Brighton	£47,508	19	20	£45,133
8	Bournemouth	£50,467	19	20	£47,944
9	Liverpool	£145,726	18	52	£50,444
10	Aston Villa	£51,726	19	18	£54,600
11	Southampton	£80,512	19	21	£54,749
12	Crystal Palace	£75,987	19	26	£55,529
13	Tottenham	£104,238	19	29	£58,294
14	Chelsea	£125,632	19	32	£74,594
15	West Ham	£79,533	18	19	£75,347
16	Watford	£53,292	19	13	£77,889
17	Man City	£183,882	18	38	£87,102
18	Everton	£107,941	19	22	£89,222
19	Arsenal	£125,699	19	24	£90,797
20	Man Utd	£161,200	19	28	£109,386

Arsenal ready to move for Juve midfielder

LONDON - New Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta could move for Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot on loan in January as he looks to strengthen his options.

The Spaniard, who took charge of his first game at Bournemouth on Boxing Day, is preparing for the winter transfer window after returning to the Emirates as manager.

Arsenal's midfield is seen as a weak spot, with former captain Granit Xhaka reportedly set on a departure after he clashed with supporters, while the likes of Lucas Torreira and Mesut Ozil have failed to find their groove this season.

The answer to the problem could be Frenchman Rabiot, who has found himself frozen out by the Serie A champions this season.

Juventus signed Rabiot on a free transfer from PSG last summer, but the player has started in just five of his nine appearances, and Arteta could look to offer him a

way out by tempting him with a loan move, according to The Times.

Rabiot's numbers in Serie A do not make for encouraging reading - he has played less minutes than reserve goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

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Rabiot's numbers in Serie A do not make for encouraging reading - he has played less minutes than reserve goalkeeper Gianluigi

Buffon.

He has long been linked with a move to the Premier League, with Arsenal's rivals Tottenham rumoured to have held an interest in him for some time.

A move to the Gunners would make sense given the uncertainty in midfield and the lack of first choice stars. Rabiot would offer energy and creativity as a box-to-box player, something the

Gunners are lacking at present.

It's believed Arteta wants to make a move for Rabiot regardless of where Xhaka ends up, but the Swiss star's future at the Emirates is unclear after he swore at Arsenal fans in October.

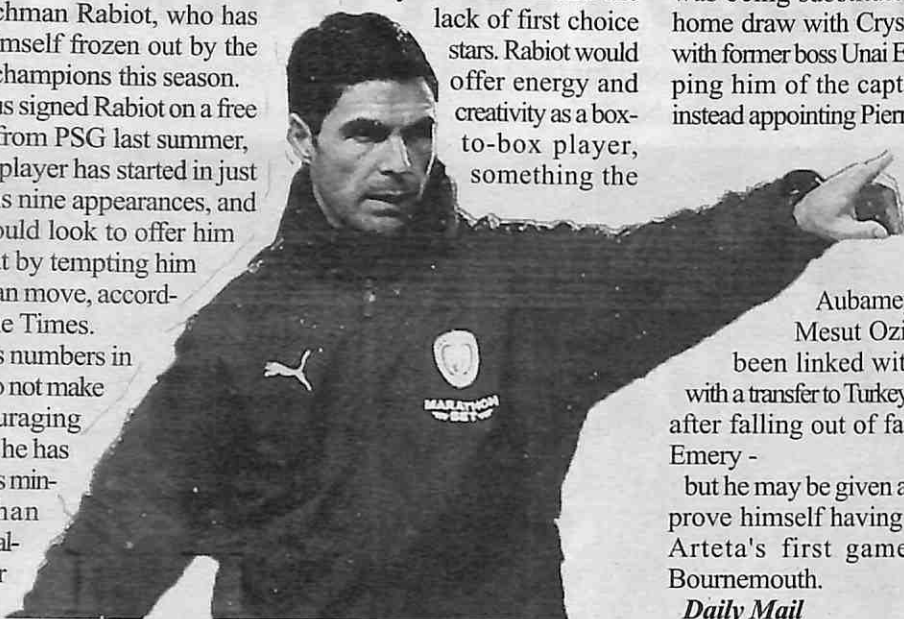
The incident occurred as Xhaka was being substituted in a 2-2 home draw with Crystal Palace, with former boss Unai Emery stripping him of the captaincy and instead appointing Pierre-Emerick

Aubameyang.

Mesut Ozil has also been linked with an exit, with a transfer to Turkey rumoured, after falling out of favour with Emery -

but he may be given a chance to prove himself having started in Arteta's first game against Bournemouth.

Daily Mail



'We can't play tippy-tappy football like Man City'

LONDON - Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes Manchester United can comfortably secure a top-four place this season, but has warned his stars "We can't play tippy-tappy football like Man City."

United's win over Newcastle on Boxing Day moved them up to seventh place, four points off Chelsea in fourth, as they prepare to play again at Burnley today.

Solskjaer insists his team is capable of claiming a Champions League spot without the need for too much drama at the end of the season after having to be satisfied with the Europa League in this campaign.

"If we get consistent, it's not going to go down to the wire he said.

"We should get into the top-four without waiting for the last game against Leicester.

"It might go down to the last game, who knows? But this team - I have said that we might be challengers

for a lot more next year, definitely, because we are young - but I still expect a lot from this team this year. I expect them to be ready for Burnley because they are next."

However, United's biggest obstacle to finishing in the top-four might be their own inconsistency. Solskjaer's side have beaten City, Chelsea, Leicester and Tottenham while taking points off Liverpool, yet lost to Crystal Palace, West Ham, Newcastle, Bournemouth and Watford.

After the encouraging 4-1 win over Newcastle on Thursday night, Solskjaer knows his players cannot afford another blip at Turf Moor. The Norwegian has urged them not to ease off, warning that only champions City can rely on the quality of their football alone.

"I think it has been told in quite certain terms what kind of team we are, added Solskjaer. "They know what we expect. They know when we are at our best".



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

"We do have to make it hard to play against us. We can't play tippy-tappy football. We can't, at this moment in time, play like City. It is only City that can do that".

"We have to show more energy, drive, urgency and selflessness in every single game. That is the way we have to play at the moment."

Daily Mail

Nasri: I prefer Mahrez over Salah

LONDON - Former Arsenal and Manchester City star Samir Nasri believes Riyad Mahrez is more of a team player than Liverpool's Mohamed Salah.

Both players have been shortlist-

ed for the CAF African Player of the Year award this season after impressing for club and country over the past year.

Nasri, however, reveals he would prefer to play alongside the Algerian, who is able to bring others into the

game.

"I would prefer to evolve alongside Mahrez," he said. "Mahrez is a collective player, while Salah is much more an individual player. He only aspires to score goals.

"I will not say that Salah is selfish but he runs behind goals and stats. Mahrez, meanwhile - you can

play one-twins with him. He is a player with whom you can easily evolve."

Salah has been more productive all-around this season, having registered four assists to go with his nine goals in the Premier League.

DPA

Pellegrini given two games to save job

LONDON - Manuel Pellegrini has been given two games to save his job as the under-fire West Ham manager stands on the verge of being sacked following a string of poor performances.

The Hammers' last gasp defeat to Crystal Palace on Boxing Day compiled further misery on the

east London club, who are languishing in the bottom half of the table.

An away win to Southampton had eased the pressure on Pellegrini but another poor result has left the veteran Chilean in limbo, and according to the Times, he has been given the next two games as his final chance to save his job.

West Ham are just one point above the relegation zone and owners David Gold and David Sullivan will keep a close eye on the Hammers' trip to Leicester and home game against Bournemouth before making a decision.

A reunion with former boss David Moyes has long been mooted, and the Scot remains a top contender

to take over at the London Stadium should the club part ways with Pellegrini.

It comes after West Ham star Michail Antonio crashed his super car outside a family home in London on Christmas Day, before playing the full 90 minutes at Selhurst Park on Thursday.

The Telegraph

Liverpool recall youngster Nat Phillips from Stuttgart

LONDON - Liverpool have recalled youngster Nat Phillips from his loan spell in Stuttgart as Jurgen Klopp looks to bolster his options as his side head into the second half of the campaign.

The English centre back, 22, joined the German club on loan in the summer but Klopp has seen fit to bring him back to Melwood.

Klopp has a settled defensive pairing in Virgil van Dijk and Joe Gomez, but injuries to Joel Matip and Dejan Lovren has lead the German to ensure he has ample cover in that area.

Phillips, who was an unused member of Klopp's squad in the Champions League last season, has played 11 games for Stuttgart, including nine outings in the league.

The 22-year-old joined the Reds in 2016 after spending time training with Huddersfield. He had planned to move to the United States after securing a scholarship with the University of North Carolina, before a change of heart lead him to an Anfield move.

Phillips is the son of former Bolton and Middlesbrough defender Jimmy Phillips, who is currently academy director at the Trotters.

Daily Mail

Pep reveals who could replace Silva

LONDON - Manchester City playmaker David Silva is poised to depart after 10 years at the Etihad and manager Pep Guardiola has now revealed who could replace the club legend.

The 33-year-old has played a key role in City's back-to-back title wins and 13 major titles overall within his iconic spell with the Citizens.

Widely considered as one of the greatest midfielders the league has ever seen, Guardiola has suggested there's enough within the current squad to not dip into the market to replace him.

"I don't think we're going to do anything in this position, I don't think we will sign anyone," Guardiola said ahead of tonight's clash with Wolves.

"Maybe I will change my mind, it depends on the next six months, but I have other priorities and I don't think I'm going to buy because I have enough.

"Bernardo [Silva] can play there, Phil [Foden] is there, we have [Ilkay] Gundogan, we have Kevin [De Bruyne], so I don't think we will do anything in this position.

"That is my thought today; we will see at the end of the season."

Since joining the club from Valencia in 2010 in a €28.75 million deal, Silva has scored 74 goals and registered 136 assists in 415 games.

DPA



THE DREAM IS TO GO FOR FIFTH BELT IN 2020 - ANTHONY JOSHUA

LONDON - Anthony Joshua is as hungry to unify the heavyweight division as fans are to see him try, revealing he would prioritise a Deontay Wilder bout over meeting Tyson Fury in the ring.

The Watford-born champion cruised to victory in his rematch with Andy Ruiz earlier this month - putting him back on course for an iconic clash with either of the other 'big three' members.

Fury and Wilder will fight for the second time in February, with the 'Gypsy King' challenging for the American's WBC belt - while Joshua holds the IBO, IBF, WBO and WBA belts.

On the Graham Norton show, Joshua was asked which of his rivals he would prefer to fight next: 'I really don't know. Either one of them, it doesn't matter.'

'The preference would be the champion Wilder because it's a championship fight, but Fury is so talent-



HUNGRY: Anthony Joshua.

ed as well and it's the best of British so why not? I'll fight either one of them.

'The dream would be to go for the fifth belt in 2020.'

Wilder has voiced his doubts over the unification bout, and was highly critical of Joshua's careful tactics in the ring against Ruiz.

However, with Joshua's audience

figures dwarfing the American's in his recent Luis Ortiz fight, Wilder can't sniff at the opportunity of taking on Joshua.

The 'Bronze Bomber's' Fury saga is expected to become a trilogy, after the pair reached a split-decision draw at the end of 12 thrilling rounds in their first bout a year ago.

Joshua re-ignited talk of fighting either man with his dominant unanimous decision win against Ruiz in Saudi Arabia, showing outstanding mental strength to reverse his embarrassing defeat to the Mexican in the summer.

Talking on the shock loss, he said: 'I feel that if you always look back you can always find a reason as to why you could have done things better, but honestly, I just got beaten by the better man.'

'I have to take it on the chin and do it better next time.'

Daily Mail

FLAIR SLAMS WWE FOR HOW CHARLOTTE IS PRESENTED ON SCREEN

LONDON - Ric Flair has ripped into the WWE for how his daughter Charlotte is portrayed on screen.

American wrestling commentator Corey Graves recently claimed that the nine-time women's champion is going through the motions.

Flair, who is a legendary Hall of Famer, has agreed that his daughter has fallen down the pecking order behind the likes of Becky Lynch and Bayley.

Speaking to Wrestling Inc in response to Graves' comments, he said: 'I am not happy with the way they are doing it; I guess she's been put in that role.'

'Number one, I need to be left out of the equation because she has surpassed me in talent.'

'She's never gonna be around for 40 years which is why I'm still a household name.'

'I think they look at it and say, 'Well, she's like her dad. She'll do anything we want her to do because she's a pro.'

'I don't think she'll ever be bored with her storylines and not participate at its fullest.'

'That part is wrong on Corey's part.'

'But as far as her being the best athlete in the company, a Hall of Famer already, and being the biggest star of the women's division, he's spot on.'

The Sun

Fans fear McGregor has beefed up too much

LONDON - Conor McGregor has left his fans fearing he has piled on too much muscle after beefed up pictures of the Irishman emerged.

McGregor, 31, returns against Donald 'Cowboy' Cerrone on January 18 at UFC 246 having not fought since being submitted by bitter rival Khabib Nurmagomedov in October 2018. The Dublin southpaw will make his comeback at welterweight, a division he has only twice fought at, losing and then beating Nate Diaz in 2016.

McGregor has piled on muscle thanks to his own strength and conditioning programme, but supporters are divided on whether the increased weight will be beneficial. One said: 'He will gas out real quick with those muscles.'

Another said: 'More muscles isn't going to help his gas tank.'

One added: 'More muscles more problems for his cardio.'

Another added: 'Well he is fighting at 170 so he can afford to gain a bit of size.'

The Sun

RONALDO HANDS DJOKOVIC A LESSON ON SUPERHUMAN LEAP

JUVENTUS - Cristiano Ronaldo has been teaching tennis star Novak Djokovic his trademark leap as part of a gym session in Dubai.

The Juventus forward posted a video to Instagram of himself and Djokovic attempting several run-ups and leaps as onlookers find the antics all rather amusing.

The two are seen smiling and hugging as Ronaldo gives the Serbian tips on his

jumping technique - one of his most deadly attributes on the football pitch.

Djokovic does a good job emulating the 34-year-old footballer, who seemed impressed by his attempts inside a rather empty gym.

The two laughed and hugged afterwards in a video that has already accumulated millions of likes on social media.

Ronaldo's heading technique has been described as 'superhuman' at times and

his latest headed goal against Sampdoria is not far from it.

The Portuguese forward leaped 2.56 metres in the air and remained suspended for 1.5 seconds to score the winner that left football fans speechless across the world.

The goal left his manager Maurizio Sarri shocked as he reacted after the match:

Daily Mail

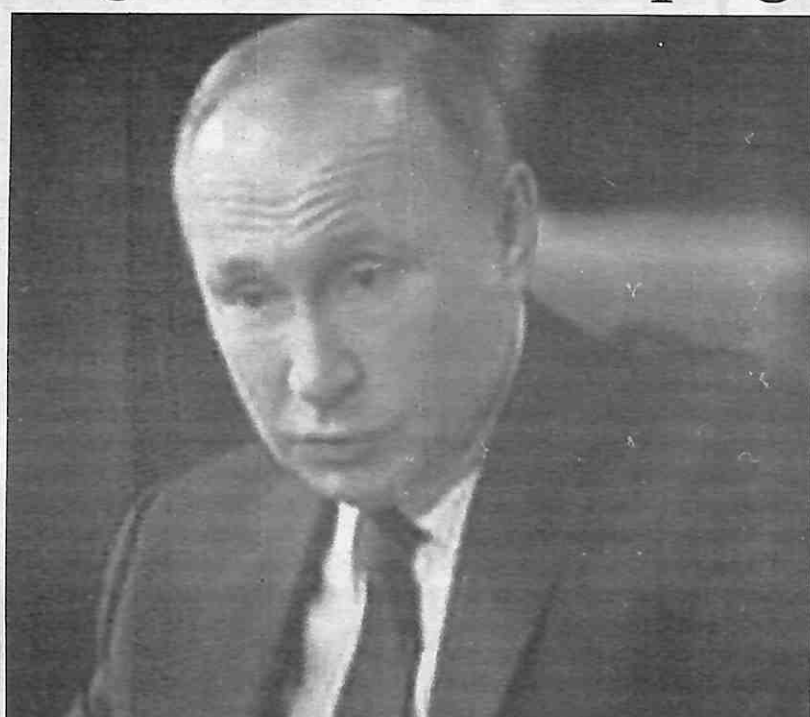
Russia appeal against WADA doping

MOSCOW - Russia has formally appealed against a four-year international competition ban and other sanctions imposed by the World Anti-Doping Agency over allegations that laboratory data was manipulated.

The WADA executive committee announced on December 9 that it endorsed recommendations from its independent compliance review committee to declare the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) non-compliant with its code and block Russian teams from competing in global sporting events such as the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2022 football World Cup.

Under the sanctions Russia is also barred from hosting international sporting events, and only Russian athletes who can prove they are not implicated in the non-compliance will be permitted to compete.

In a letter addressed to WADA's director General Olivier Niggli dated December 27, RUSADA Secretary General Yuri RUSADA herewith disputes the notice in its entirety, including WADA's assertion of non-compliance, the (alleged) facts on which such assertion is based, as well as the sanctions and reinstatement conditions set out in the notice, all of which are unfounded.'



AGAINST: Russia's president Vladimir Putin.

WADA investigators found that Moscow laboratory data acquired in January 2019 which covered a period from January 2012 to August 2015 had been manipulated, in that some information which was present in data WADA obtained from a whistleblower in 2017 was miss-

ing from the 2019 files.

The data had been handed over to investigators as one of the conditions of Russia's reinstatement to compliance in September 2018.

Daily Mail

Inter Milan manager Conte plans January reunion with Chelsea

MILAN - Inter Milan are plotting a loan move for out-of-favour Chelsea left-back Marcos Alonso ahead of the January transfer window.

According to Italian outlet Gazzetta, Inter boss Antonio Conte has made his former player a priority as as the Serie A leaders look to strengthen before the title race heats up.

The report claims Conte is looking for a ball-carrier who can aid the transition between defence and attack, and the former

Fiorentina man fits the bill.

Furthermore, Conte has identified the full-back as a set-piece specialist. Inter did not score a single direct free-kick during the 2017-18 campaign, meanwhile Alonso scored 14 goals and four free-kicks during Conte's Chelsea tenure.

Alonso has been omitted from the Blues squad for seven of their last eight matches, but played and won a penalty during the 2-0 victory at Tottenham.

Daily Mail



CYCLING UPDATES



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR CYCLISTS

By Mbusi Motsa
(Guest writer)

We are a few days away from resuming the New Year. As always we make new resolutions and come end of year none of those resolutions are achieved.

Do note that I'm not exempted from this norm.

As the New Year starts new cyclists enter the stream and it is very important that those new cyclists align themselves with the right teams or clubs based on their objectives.

I have outlined some reasons people join cycling in a past writing ie weight management, peer pressure, fitness, injury therapy.

In some cases it's pressure from the spouse etc.

In my last article I did try and profile clubs briefly and that can assist

with choice of club to join.

You cannot join Dig Deep Racing when you just want to ride socially because they are a Racing team but a youngster who is talented can knock at their doors.

Just like I would not recommend that you join a Mbabane based club when you stay in Manzini because of the distance. At coaching we have always been taught of S M A R T E R Goals ie Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time Phased, Exiting and reviewable.

Goals

It is all about setting achievable goals coz that is where most of us start failing. You are new to the sport and already you are pointing at seasoned cyclists who you will beat.

The moment you fail your ego gets hurt and you lose interest in the sport.

Many times, I have been the target



of new cyclists who ended up quitting the sport. Cycling is not an easy sport in actual fact it is painful.

You must know that it won't be easy

but when you align yourself with clubs especially those with coaches it becomes easier.

There are seven qualified coaches

locally that are with clubs.

The new season is not far from resuming and we are ready to welcome you to our big cycling family.



By Mbusi Sigudla
(Guest writer)

Good day today I am taking you through information about the foundation and its programmes which covers mainly the development of an athlete.

Introduction

● Non-profit making entity aimed at mentoring, developing and growing the skills of young athletes in the country.

● Founded on principles of hard work and giving back whatever you can, clearly we set a precedence of ownership.

● The Shooting Stars Foundation has therefore provided the sporting opportunity to all children; regardless of their background.

Background information

● Children have to play every day

and physical activity tends to stimulate their growth, and leads to improved emotional health.

It is therefore the case that children who engage in sporting activities tend to have lower levels of stress.

● A positive link exists between children being active and playing sport and their ability to get better marks at school.

Sibusiso Setfu Programme

● A Saturday training programme for young individuals.

● Administered by trained coaches, and offering different sporting codes.

● The programmes aim also encompasses raising awareness in social issues such as healthy lifestyle (as part of our service package), gender equality and disease prevention including HIV/AIDS

Programme Objectives

The Shooting Stars Sports Foundation **UPDATES**



● Provide opportunities for extra-curricular activities and excursions over weekends and holidays for all children

● Empower individuals with disabilities through the use of sport to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with disability.

● Promote participation of children, youth and community in sport, physical activity or play, addressing social issues

● Office Funding / Core funding

Thank you

Anyone who is willing assists us can contact me at shooting stars 355@gmail.com or 7693 7916

Sporting Material

1. Basketball hoops
2. Basket balls
3. Soccer balls
4. Tennis rackets
5. Tennis balls
6. Dart boards and darts

Quantity

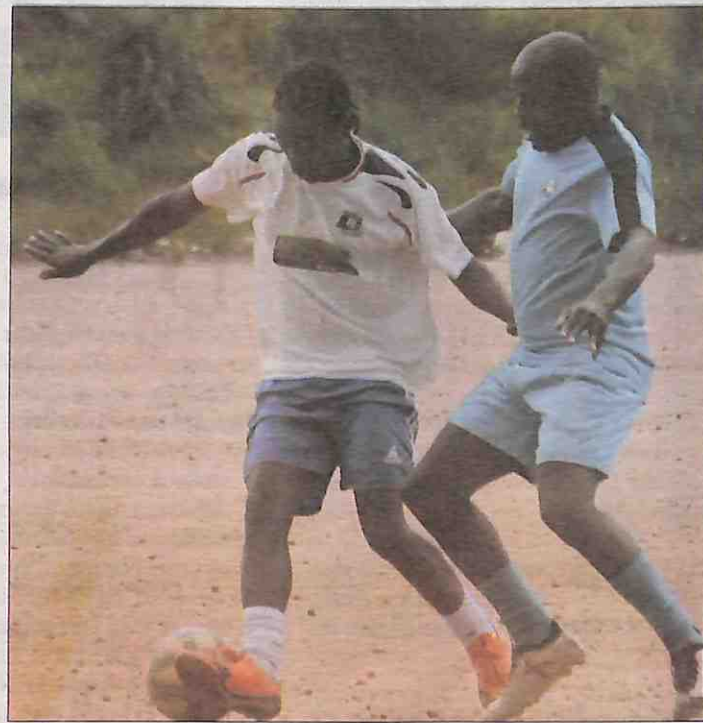
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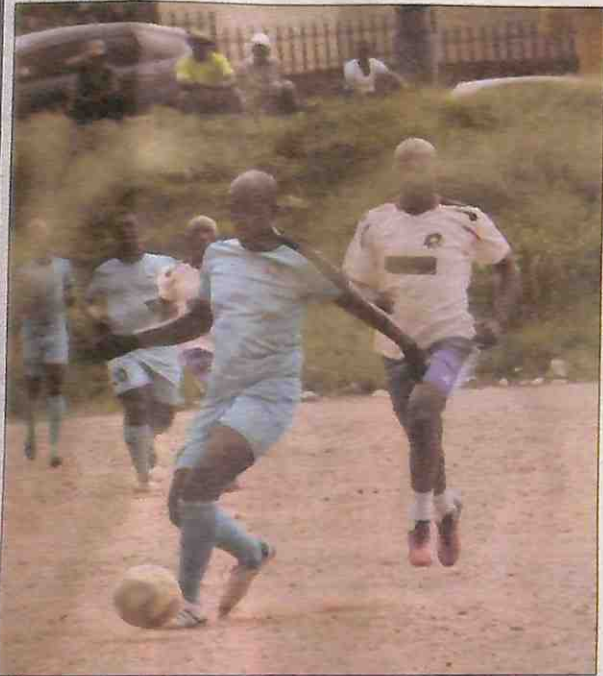
MBABANE EAST MP FESTIVE TOURNAMENT @ MSUNDUZA SPORTS GROUND



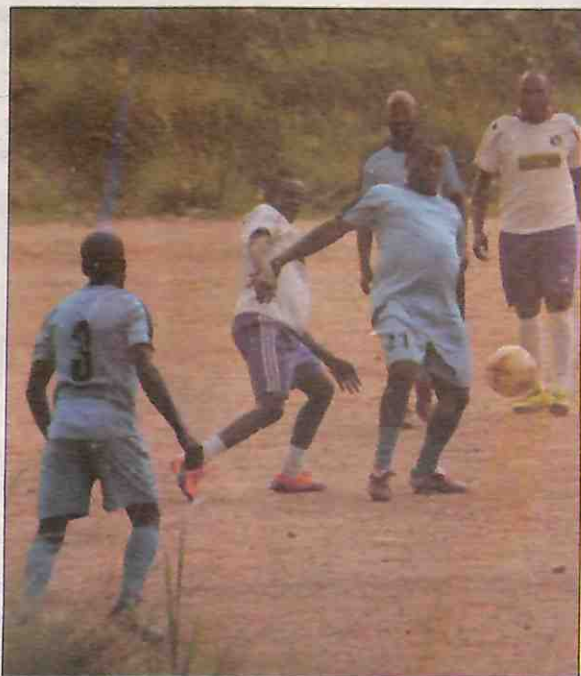
EYE CATCHING: Passersby could not help but catch a glimpse of some of the action between Down Town and Roman Rangers during the Mbabane East MP Festive Tournament played at Msunduza Sports Ground on Thursday. Downtown beat Roman Rangers 2 - 0.
(Pics: Jongile Xuba)



SHIELDS: Roman Rangers' Muzi 'Pollen' Dlamini shields the ball from a defender as he attempts to dribble past.



MINE: Down Town's Lunga Khanya intercepts a pass.



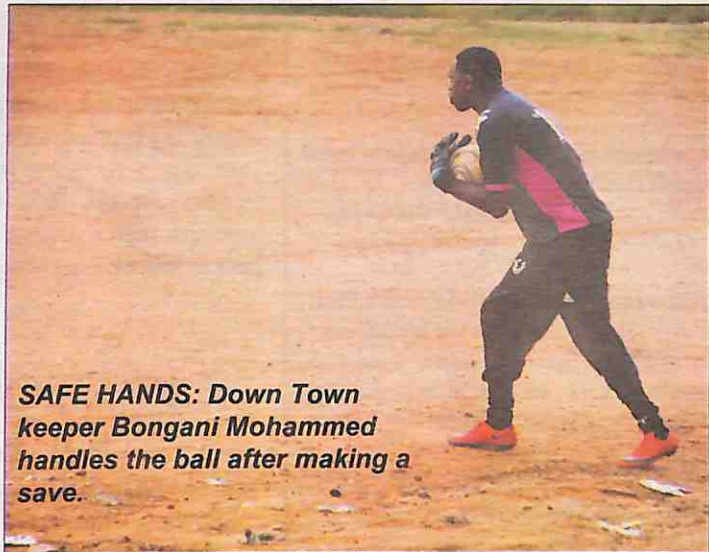
BATTLE: Downtown's Ray Msibi battles for possession of the ball during the match.



PREPARES: Vovovo FC Director and Down Town player Tsetla Bhembe prepares to receive a pass from team-mate Lunga Khanya.



TEAM-MATES: Former Highlanders defender Msunduzi Malambe and former Umbelebele goalkeeper Bongani Mohammed who are now team mates at Down Town, make their way into the pitch after half time.



SAFE HANDS: Down Town keeper Bongani Mohammed handles the ball after making a save.



INSTRUCTS: Mbabane East MP and Down Town's player coach Harries 'Madze' Bulunga giving out instructions to the team during half time.



CHILLAZ: Spectators watching the game under a shaded area.

FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL News

Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka's agent says the 27-year-old Switzerland international has agreed a move to German club Hertha Berlin. (*Blick, via Mirror*)

Manchester United are favourites to sign 23-year-old England and Leicester City midfielder James Maddison for £80m next summer. (*Metro*)

Real Madrid are willing to offer Wales winger Gareth Bale, 30, in return for Manchester United's France midfielder Paul Pogba, 26. (*Star*)

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta wants to sign France midfielder Adrien Rabiot, 24, on loan from Serie A side Juventus in January.

Chelsea are interested in Paris St-Germain's Germany winger Julian Draxler, 26, and 30-year-old Senegal midfielder Idrissa Gueye. (*Star*)

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard says Brazilian winger Willian, 31, is in talks with the club about extending his contract, which runs out in the summer. (*Mail*)

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta (left), Liverpool right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold (centre) and Everton Manager Carlo Ancelotti. What happened in the top flight on Boxing Day? (*Mail*)

Bayer Leverkusen will block any attempt from Arsenal to try to sign German winger Kevin Volland, 27, from them. (*Mail*)

Manchester City winger Leroy Sané, 23, will stay at the club until the end of the season but the Germany international is expected to move to Bayern Munich in an £85m deal in the summer. (*Star*)

City are monitoring the situations of Villarreal's Spanish centre-back Pau Torres, 22, and Benfica and Portugal defender Ruben Dias, 22. (*Telegraph*)

Dinamo Zagreb and Spain midfielder Dani Olmo, 21, has been linked to Manchester City and Manchester United and says he wants to take the "next step" in his career. (*Manchester Evening News*)

Crystal Palace boss Roy Hodgson says he wants to sign "four or five new players" next month. (*Mail*)

Arsenal midfielder Mohamed Elneny's father says the 27-year-old Egypt international, who is on loan at Besiktas, is in talks over a move to AC Milan. (*Express*)

Real Madrid forward Eden Hazard, 28, could be out until the end of January or start of February with the ankle injury the Belgium international suffered at the end of November. (*Marca*)

Real Madrid midfielder Martin Odegaard, who joined Real Sociedad on loan for two years in the summer, is set to be recalled by the Bernabeu club in June 2020. (*AS*)

ESWATINI BACK IN ZONE 6 DARTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Nomakongo Phiri

DARTS - Eswatini will be back in action in the Zone 6 Darts Championships following their five year absence in international competitions.

This was revealed by Eswatini National Darts Association (ENDA) President Bheki Nkonyane when contacted yesterday.

This comes after the local darts association got rescued by the Eswatini National Sports and Recreation Council (ENSRC) with a tune of E36 000 to settle their outstanding debt at Zone 6.

Nkonyane thanked ENSRC for coming on board with the funding, saying they were looking forward to competing effectively in the international scenes.



The Eswatini darts junior national side. ward to competing effectively in the international scenes.

"It feels good that we settled the debt and we got re-admitted into Zone 6 after spending several years in the wilderness due to administrative issues.

"Preparations for the games have intensified since we now have 19 teams competing in the Eswatini Royal Insurance (ESRIC) League and it shows that Emaswati are taking the sport seriously," he said.

The president further noted significant growth in the sport this year especially in domestic competitions.

"The sport has grown especially the youth category. We are working tirelessly to ensure more female participation,".

Junior A Division trio graduates to senior level

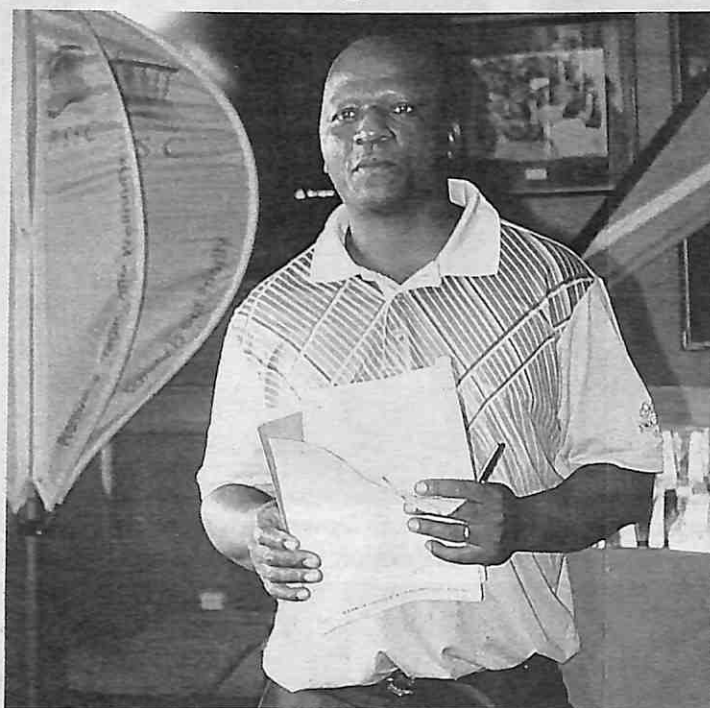
By Jongile Ntsha

GOLF - Eswatini's young golfers Mfundo Nxumalo, Qiso Mkhonta and Phayo Dhlamini have graduated into the senior level after playing their last tournament as juniors earlier this week.

This was revealed by Eswatini Golf Union (EGU) Development Coach Meshack Zwane during the Nomads Juniors Golf Tournament held at Royal Swazi Golf Course on Monday.

The competition saw Mfundo Nxumalo walk away with this year's champ of champ's title placing ahead of Mkhonta and Dhlamini. Zwane said the players had reached the age limit and could not participate in junior tournaments next year.

"This year was the last for the top three junior golfers to compete as juniors. They will be turning 18 years and it is time for them to step up and compete with the senior golfers," he said.



ITS TIME: Coach Meshack Zwane.

The coach further revealed that B Division golfers would now compete under the A division which

was previously dominated by the trio.

He urged the youngsters coming to fill in the void to follow in their predecessor's footsteps and step up.

Asked on how he felt about the move current junior champion Mfundo Nxumalo said he was excited and would do his best.

"Next year will definitely be the most challenging because I will now be competing with the grownups.

My plan is to keep on practicing, I am sure I will give them a run for their money after a while," he said.

The trio now awaits the final selection of the 2020 Eswatini National team that will represent the country in the All African Champs in Egypt next year.

This will also be their last international junior competition.

OPEN POOL TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF TODAY

By Mkhosi Mkhosana

POO - The much awaited fourth edition of Open Pool Tournament kicks off today at Mbabane Express Car Wash.

About 32 teams are expected to participate in the fourth annual tournament that will be held tomorrow and the champions will walk away with E1 500.

Express Car Wash Coordinator, Sicelo Mndzebele confirmed the two-day tournament when contacted yesterday.

He said the joining fee is E50 for singles while it's E100 for the doubles.

"Every year we host this open tournament for all pool players in the country.

We urge pool lovers to come in their numbers and further behave themselves," he said.

Mndzebele mentioned that well known players in the likes of Flag Nxumalo, Nathi 'Bhubesi' Sihlongonyane, Eddie Mkhonta, Jarius Mhlana, Nathi Hleta will take part in the tournament. Veteran player Dodge Matsebula is the defending champion after beating Nathi Sihlongonyane 9-8 in the previous final.

Nathi Hleta had won the first two instalments in 2016 and 2017.

Zithande happy with increased woman runners

By Jongile Ntsha

ATHLETICS - Zithande Athletics Club coach Nsizwa Thwala is happy with the increasing number of ladies joining them on their long distance road runs.

The coach was speaking ahead of the last Woza Festive Training Programme run which will take place today from Hlathikhulu to Mahamba Border Post.

Thwala said the training programmes have seen an increase in the number of female athletes who will be attending the 2020 Comrades Marathon.

More women have been developed into extraordinary road runners and they will take part in next year's Comrades marathon. We are very happy to see more women joining the sport," he said.

Some of the female that will be taking part in the Comrades Marathon include Xolile Ngema, Elaine Thring - Hulett, Thabile Dlamini, Nikiwe Zwane and Nomsilo Mkhonta.

Coming to the Woza Festive Programme, Thwala said he was happy with the progress of the initiative which has seen a lot of new runners improving in the races. We hope that next year the initiative will be bigger and better. We are pleading with sponsors and partners to join us," he said.

RACE FOR SIHLANGU COACH INTENSIFIES

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCKER - The race for the vacant national team coaching job has intensified as more applications are pouring in from local and international coaches.

According to Zimbabwean B-M Metro Sport, Maxwell Takaendesa Jongwe has applied for the vacant post to become the Eswatini senior national team coach.

The Zimbabwean born mentor has joined the local coaches in the likes of Milton Dlamini, Dominic Kunene (Young Buffaloes) and Geina 'Magiyane' Dlamini (Moneni Pirates). Jongwe hopes to be successful where Callisto Pasuwa failed.

Pasuwa came agonisingly close to be confirmed as Sihlangu coach in 2018, but Eswatini Football Association eventually settled for Serbian born coach, Kostadin Papic. Papic signed a one-year deal which was not renewed after he allegedly demanded a raise.

According to the publication the former Caps United coaches curriculum vitae was submitted a fortnight ago, Jongwe feels confident because EFA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa seems to be leaning towards an African coach. "Please find attached a copy of



SEARCH IS ON: EFA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa.

a detailed CV for Maxwell Takaendesa Jongwe, an experienced CAF A Licenced coach. He has coaching experience in Zimbabwe Premiership and was once Zimbabwe Football Technical Director, I do not hesitate to recommend him for the post of head coach, "reads the email with an attached curriculum vitae quoted by the newspaper. Meanwhile, Moneni Pirates head coach, Geina 'Magiyane' Dlamini was evasive when contacted for the Sihlangu job. "It's every coach's dream to coach a national team. I'll decide soon if I eventual apply for the

job, probably next week I'll have a better answer "he said. Buffaloes coach, Dominic Kunene said he would cross the bridge when he gets to it. "Let me not comment for now, however, I'll cross the bridge when I get to it," he said. Eswatini Football Association, Marketing and Communications Officer, Muzi Radebe could not be reached for comment as he was reportedly held up by personal commitments. EFA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu asked to comment later since he was also held by other errands.

LEOPARD, BULL CHASING PEACEMAKERS STRIKER

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCKER - With the January transfer window around the corner, Royal Leopard and Mbabane Highlanders are chasing the signature of Mhlume Peacemakers highly rated striker, Sidumo Dlamini. The 21-year-old youngster currently has seven goals under his belt in the MTN Premier League and he is believed to be valued at around E150 000.

Information gathered is to effect that the two sides have both tabled lucrative offers to lure the Endzigeni High pupil in their camp when the registration opens after next week.

"It's true that both teams want to sign the player during the transfer window and we're waiting with bated breath which side he will eventually join," said the source.

Peacemakers Public Relations Officer, Bheka Magagula also confirmed that the two teams were chasing the signature of the player when contacted yesterday. "Leopard and Highlanders have showed an interest on Sidumo. We won't stand on his way as long as these teams come with a good offer on the table," he said. Magagula added that their aim is to produce good players who would add value to local football. "We are pleased to learn that we are producing players who are now playing for the big teams in the country. Talk of Thami Zulu, Johnson



ON RADAR: Sidumo Dlamini.

Mensah to mention but only a few," he said.

Royal Leopard Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Frank Hurube could neither confirm nor deny their interest on the player.

"That boy is a great player. However, I would not like to comment about his signing since he is a Mhlume Peacemakers player," he said.

Highlanders head of secretariat Bhekisisa Dlamini said he was not aware of their move to sign the youngster when also reached.

He, however, said that they would certainly beef up their squad in the January transfer window.

"We will sign new players when the registration opens. However, I am yet to get their names from the technical bench," he said.

Sundowns put Mkhuleko on ice

By Nomalungelo Phiri

SOCCKER - Denver Sundowns defender Mkhuleko Magagula has been side-lined by the team for alleged misconduct.

An impeccable source close to the matter revealed that the former Eswatini under-20 player has been put on ice following his decision to abscond the club activities since their match against Manzini Wanderers three weeks ago.

"They have cracked the whip on the defender and it's his first time facing a case of misconduct. His behaviour has irked both the technical team and management committee. His future now looks uncertain as the authorities of the team are not happy with his behaviour," the source said.

Sundowns Public Relations Officer Muzi Matsenjwa confirmed that the player was AWOL and that he

is expected to appear before the teams' disciplinary committee.

"We are focused in making him a better player. He has played in all junior squads and deserves to be in the national team. Magagula and all other youngsters are going through a critical stage in their career whereby they find themselves indispensable senior players, the results however portray a different picture," he added.

Boosts

Magagula graduated from the teams' academy and boosts of five years in the senior side.

The 'Kappa Boys' will take on Green Mamba when the MTN Premier League resumes for its second round on January 4 at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Kickoff time for the match is at 4pm.

The Christopher Ennin led side finished the first round sitting on position nine in the log standings with 13 points.

ON ICE: Mkhuleko Magagula.



Ingwenyama Cup last 16 draw on January 6

By Nomalungelo Phiri

SOCCKER - The much anticipated 2019 Ingwenyama Cup Tournament last 16 draw will be conducted on January 6, 2020 at the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) Headquarters.

Speaking in an interview, the tournament's public relations officer Nkosilehile Masuku explained that the delays of the draw were caused by the ongoing national ceremonies which are now coming to a close.

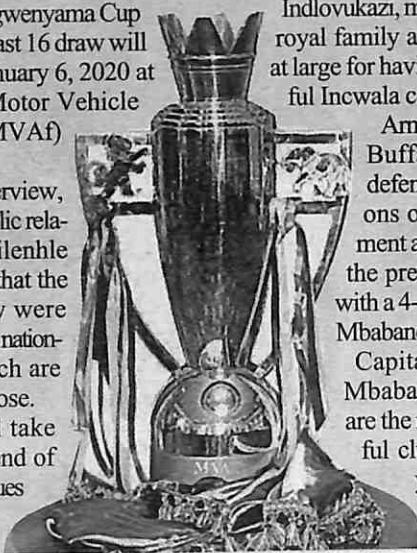
"The games will take place on the weekend of 10-12 January in venues to be confirmed after

the draw," he said.

Masuku thanked and congratulated His Majesty King Mswati III, Indlovukazi, members of the royal family and the nation at large for having a successful Incwala ceremony.

Army side Young Buffaloes are the defending champions of the tournament after clinching the previous edition with a 4-1 victory over Mbabane Highlanders.

Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows are the most successful club in the four-year old prestigious tournament.



BAD CHRISTMAS FOR MILLING PLAYERS

By Jongile Xuba

SOCCKER - Milling Hotspurs players did not have a Merry Christmas due to owed wages by the club.

According to sources within the club the players have not been paid about two months of wages for November and December. "Things are really hard for us now because we have not been paid for the past two months. The club initially promised to pay us our November salaries earlier this month, and after threatening to boycott the Manzini Sea Birds match, management finally responded and said they were working on it. Nothing has happened yet and some of us have been kicked out of our houses since we

owe rent," said the source.

The source further added the players have since resolved to boycott training until they receive their pending salaries. "We were supposed to resume training on the Thursday but we are going to boycott training until they pay us. This is unfair and we are not happy with what they are doing to us," said the source. Milling Hotspurs Chairman Ivan Munro said he could not comment on the issue. "I can not comment on what is happening, only the executive members at Milling can comment best. I can refer you to someone the but not today as everyone is out of the office," he said. When contacted yesterday the chairman's phone rang unanswered for the better part of the afternoon.

Hotspurs will take on Malanti Chiefs during their MTN Premier League outing.

THE FULL LIST OF THE LAST 16

1. Manzini Wanderers
2. Mbabane Highlanders
3. Mbabane Swallows
4. Young Buffaloes
5. Royal Leopards
6. Sea Birds
7. Mhlume Peacemakers
8. Moneni Pirates
9. Denver Sundowns
10. Green Mamba
11. Tambankulu Callies
12. ILLOVO
13. Madlenya
14. Seven Dreams
15. Malanti Chiefs
16. Vovovo

“

"Things are really hard for us now because we have not been paid for the past two months. The club initially promised to pay us our November salaries earlier this month, and after threatening to boycott the Manzini Sea Birds match, management finally responded and said they were working on it."

FIKTURES

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP

TODAY

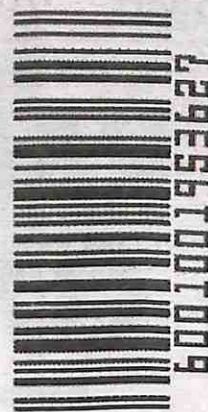
Brighton & Hove Albion	vs	AFC Bournemouth	14:30
Newcastle United	vs	Everton	17:00
Southampton	vs	Crystal Palace	17:00
Watford	vs	Aston Villa	17:00
Norwich City	vs	Tottenham Hotspur	19:30
West Ham United	vs	Leicester City	19:30
Burnley	vs	Manchester United	21:45

TOMORROW

Arsenal	vs	Chelsea	16:00
Liverpool	vs	Wolver. Wanderers	18:30
Manchester City	vs	Sheffield United	20:00

YOUR DEDICATED SPORTS FEED

SPORT



December 28, 2019

LOCAL, FOREIGN COACHES FOR SIHLANGU JOB

● **Dominic, Magiyane, others submit their applications**

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BUCKLE UP:

**INGWENYAMA CUP
LAST 16 DRAW
EARLY NEXT MONTH**

PAGE 43

CRACKING THE WHIP:

**DOWNS PUT
DEFENDER
MKHULEKO ON ICE**

PAGE 43

ELEVATED:

**THREE JUNIOR
GOLFER
PROMOTED TO
SENIORS**

PAGE 42

FREE AT LAST:



**ESWATINI DARTS
BACK IN ZONE 6
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

PAGE 42

MAKOLA WINS APPEAL AGAINST PSL BAN

JOHANNESBURG - Cape Town City boss John Comitis has confirmed that the SAFA Appeal Board has overturned the PSL Disciplinary Committee's ruling on Mpho Makola.

Makola was hit with a hefty six-month ban in November after being found guilty of assault by the League's judiciary arm, which was met with mass criticism over its severity.

City and the player then proceeded to appeal the outcome through

football motherbody SAFA, who have since declared the ruling unfair and overturned the decision to a four-match ban, which comes into effect retrospectively.

Changed

"Absolutely true! Nothing changed, that's the correct decision that I said from the beginning. We obviously only received the outcome now," Comitis tells KickOff.com.

"The appeal board unanimously found that the finding of 'guilty' of

assault against the appellant is set aside.

The sanction of six-month's ban is also set aside.

"The appellant is guilty of unsportsman-like conduct towards the referee, and the appellant is suspended for four matches. The suspension will apply retrospectively. No order against costs. "So, that means he's already served his four-match suspension, and he's playing the next game." *Kick Off*

