

ESWATINI Observer

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MONDAY DECEMBER 30, 2019

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The Masuku family to the rescue...

THANK YOU: Maphishi Mathobela gestures as he appreciates Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku and his family for the donation of food. Masuku also pledged to build a house for the destitute old man from New Heaven who lives in a hovel. Masuku visited Mathobela after reading of his plight from the Sunday Observer. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



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MAN CRITICAL AFTER DRINKING SEX-ENHANCING IMBITA

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CHURCH WANTS 'DAGGA' PASTOR TO STEP DOWN

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SHOCKER: 40 000 DUBAIS IMPORTED IN TWO YEARS

STORY ON PAGE 3

- Only a third sourced from SADC in the same period
- SRA worried as influx eats into the country's SACU receipts

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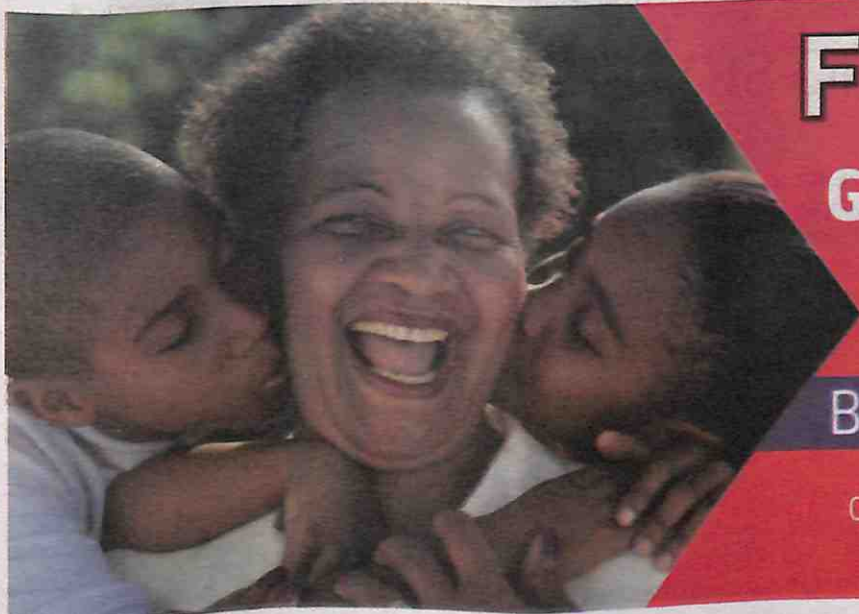
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Pleasant weather for New Year's Day

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

WEATHER forecast issued by Accu Weather Services indicates that the week will be cloudy becoming warm and hot in the lowveld.

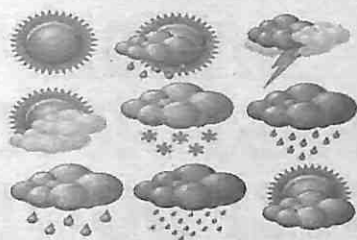
The week's temperature range will be between 16 to 33 Degrees Celsius. Wednesday, which is New Year's Day, temperatures will be pleasant as the maximum temperature is predicted to be 30 Degrees Celsius. A little rain in the morning is predicted while most of the day will be cloudy.

Today it will be cloudy and warm to hot in the lowveld, afternoon thunderstorms are expected in the highveld.

The last day of 2019 is expected to be cool to warm in the lowveld with afternoon thundershowers.

Temperature range will be between 16 and 28 Degrees Celsius.

Wednesday is predicted to have high temperatures but a morning shower or thunderstorm is predicted.



THE WEATHER FORECAST

Today	
Mbabane	17/26
Mankayane	18/27
Manzini	20/29
Siteki	19/28
Mhlume	21/30
Big Bend	22/31

Tomorrow	
Mbabane	16/23
Mankayane	17/24
Manzini	20/26
Siteki	19/25
Mhlume	21/27
Big Bend	22/28

Wednesday	
Mbabane	17/25
Mankayane	18/26
Manzini	20/28
Siteki	19/27
Mhlume	21/29
Big Bend	22/30

Thursday	
Mbabane	16/28
Mankayane	17/29
Manzini	19/31
Siteki	18/30
Mhlume	20/32
Big Bend	21/33

LUBOMBO REO RETIREMENT DILEMMA DEEPENS

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

THE Lubombo Regional Education Officer (REO) Musa Mthupha believed to be 60 but has not retired, his elder sister Sibongile is still in office as a teacher.

This comes a week after this publication broke a story on the REO, who according to his national identity documents seen by this publication, was born on 11 October 1959 which suggests that he is 60 years old and should have retired but he has not as, government records of employment indicates that he is five years younger and is expected to retire in 2024.

The REO on the other hand, admitted that the dates were incorrectly registered claiming the matter was being discussed in other forums.

Report

According to the Public Service Act the retirement age of public officers is 60 which means the REO should have retired by October, or should have had his contract renewed before he can continue to serve in his office. The ministry of public service reported to be investigating the matter to ascertain his exact age and establish his retirement date.

Similarly, the ministry of education principal secretary Bertram Stewart

said he was still investigating the matter.

Sibongile, on the other hand, admitted to be the REO's senior sister and that she would be retiring next year. She, however denied that she was above 60 as she believes she is 59, which raises a question as to now the REO, whom she is adamant is younger than her, should have retired in October.

Sources close to the matter also raised the questions on the sister Sibongile's age as she has not retired yet she is believed to be older than the REO.

Order

"Since you revealed the age of the REO and it indicates that he should have retired, what do you make of his elder sister who is older than him but she has not retired?"

"If Musa should have retired in October, then Sibongile should have retired at least four years ago because she is about four years older than him according to the birth order," said the source.

According to government records of employment the REO's elder sister, Sibongile Mthupha-Malinga who is a teacher at Manzini Central Primary School, will retire next year.

Ministry of Public Service Communications Officer Hlobisile Vilakati confirmed that Sibongile's employment documents indicated

Elder sister surprised REO is 60

SIBONGILE Mthupha-Malinga confirmed that by birth order, she is older than the his brother Lubombo REO Musa Mthupha though she was not sure of his age.

She said she was not aware that the REO had reached retirement age except that she was older than him.

She said she was born on April 24, 1960 and was retiring in April next year. This she said that was the information recorded in her national identity documents, which indicated that she was 59. When told that her brother Musa had, in his national documents, provided information that he was born in 1959 which meant that she was younger than him, she insisted that she was senior as per the birth order. "I was born in 1960; I will be retiring next year. It is true that by birth order, I am older than him (Musa). The first born is Siphosile followed by myself then Musa."

"Ulama mine lo. I do not know his exact age but he should be still working because he is younger than

me," she said.

She said it was new to her that her brother should have retired as she was convinced that she was older than him. Asked on what could have happened with regards to their dates of birth which suggested that the REO was older than her, Sibongile said they could have been misreported as they relied on relatives when registering their national documents because their parents were deceased by then. "This may be a result of the fact that we grew up separately as our parents died while we were young and we grabbed anyone who knew our parents when registering the national documents," she said. Ministry of Education and Training Principal Secretary Bertram Stewart said he was not aware of Sibongile's matter, adding that he was going to investigate it as well.

"Thank you for the information I will investigate the matter. I had instructed the human resources officer to check the REO's matter, we will be done by next week," he said.

that she had not reached her retirement age.

"According to information in our system, she has not reached retire-

ment age (60) and that is why she is still a public servant," she said.

This has been disputed by the sources, who insist she is older than the REO.

SA man arrested, faces three attempted murder charges

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
AND SIFISO DLAMINI
Manzini

A South African man's visit to Eswatini for the festive holidays was spoilt by him landing behind bars on three counts of attempted murder.

Wonder Siphosile Nxumalo (38) of Nelspruit was arrested on Saturday morning and was slapped with a total of five counts; three for attempted murder, one for being found in possession of 47 live rounds of ammunition and the other for being found in possession of a pistol without a licence.

Arrest

Nxumalo is said to have been in the country visiting his relatives at Msinda area, near Mliba.

Leading to his arrest, sources alleged that Nxumalo was at Croydon

Bar in Dvokolwako in the company of a bevy of beauties and another Liswati man.

While at the bar at around 12:30am, Nxumalo is said to have engaged in an argument with one Saneliso 'Sgagu' Magagula (21) of Dvokolwako. It could not be ascertained what the bone of contention was.

As the two were engaged in the verbal altercation, Nxumalo is said to have been on the driver's seat of a white Lexus sedan while Magagula was standing on the other side of the vehicle.

Argument

In the middle of the argument, Magagula is said to have walked away, leaving Nxumalo and his friends. This seemed to have irked the South African man as eyewitnesses alleged that he got infuriated and aimed his pistol at Magagula through the car window and fired

once. Just like in an action-packed movie, Magagula is said to have turned back to face towards the direction of Nxumalo at the same time that the shot was fired and he was hit in the stomach. The bullet, according to impeccable sources, is said to have hit Magagula and proceeded to hit another person who was standing behind him. The second victim of the South African's refined shooting technique is 31-year-old Mndeni Dlamini of Dvokolwako, who was hit in his right hip.

As if that was not enough, the same bullet is said not to have found a home in Dlamini's body as it further proceeded to hit one Mancoba Sifundza (25) of Nsuka in his thigh, where it (bullet) remained.

The first victim, Magagula, is said to have sustained severe injuries in his stomach and he, along Sifundza and Dlamini, were rushed to

Dvokolwako Health Centre.

Dlamini is said to have been treated and discharged while Magagula and Sifundza remained admitted at the health centre. After the incident, Nxumalo is said to have sped off, leaving the trio lying in cold blood. After the matter was reported to the Mliba police, the men in blue are said to have acted promptly and the South African was arrested at 6am on the same day. When apprehended, he is said to have been found in possession of the pistol with the 47 live rounds of ammunition without a valid licence, hence he was also charged for these offences.

Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident.

She said the two victims, Sifundza and Magagula, were still fighting for their lives in hospital.

Nxumalo is expected to make his first court appearance today.

MAN (53) CRITICAL AFTER DRINKING SEX-ENHANCING IMBITA

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A 53-year-old man is critically ill after drinking imbita in a bid to boost his sexual libido.

*Makhosi Masuku (not his real name to protect his wife and children) of Mantambe is said to have sought the assistance of a Jericho priest after experiencing a relatively low sex drive as he feared that he might lose his wife due to his low sex drive.

It has been reliably gathered that

Masuku started showing some changes in his behaviour after ingesting the concoction. This was noticed by his wife the same day he administered the concoction.

Masuku, who stays with his wife and two of his five children, had been seeing the priest often for spiritual help.

Sources close to the matter said at first, Masuku thought he was hungry as he started complaining about stomach cramps.

However, as time went by, the situation worsened, and this shocked his wife who was not sure what was

happening to her husband.

"His wife gave him some tablets to ease the pains, but that did not help. Instead, Masuku started vomiting and his bladder became swollen such that he could no longer urinate," added the source.

Family members were called to attend to the situation and that is when Masuku confessed to have taken the concoction from the Jericho priest.

One family member pointed out that Masuku had made it his habit to seek help from the priest when it came to spiritual beliefs.

The family member wondered how

Masuku fell ill after ingesting the priest's medication as it was not the first time he did that.

"This has shocked us as family, more especially because he did not want to tell us what happened at first," said the family member.

He was then rushed to Hlatikulu Government Hospital where he was admitted.

The priest, Thokozani Gama, when sought for comment, was reluctant to answer to this reporter's questions, but could only say he never gave Masuku anything which could have caused complications.

The Jericho priest said not even a single client of his had ever complained of complication after administering his herbs.

"I have been helping people for 17 years now and there is no one who ever came to complain about my healing powers," he said.

He mentioned that there was no way he could use something harmful in his *tiwashos*.

He wondered why he could use the word of God when helping people if he would end up using something that would pose a health hazard to his clients.

40 000 DUBAIS VS 11 000 LOCAL IMPORTS IN TWO YEARS

...SRA concerned as this affects SACU receipts

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Mbabane

ESWATINI Revenue Authority (SRA) has raised concerns on the increase of importation of high value items from outside SACU due to its negative impact on the SACU pool.

As though each civil servant has imported a car in the past two years, the country has imported enough (Dubais) close to 40 000, a number which is almost equal to the number of civil servants.

Data from SRA indicates that in the past two years a total of 38 977 Dubais were imported into the country.

On the contrary, only 10 525 vehicles assembled in Africa or the SADC were imported in the same period.

Out of the nearly 40 000 government collected E8.5 million as Import Levy for grey cars.

Goods

SRA warns that the continued increase of imports from non-SACU countries will continue to negatively affect the customs union revenue share.

SACU member states agreed that in determining their respective shares of the total customs, and additional duties collected in the Common Customs Area in any financial year, the share accruing to each member state should be calculated from three distinct components; customs component excise and development component.



IT'S WORRYING: SRA Director Communications Vusi Dlamini.

The SACU revenue that flows to Eswatini is derived mostly from the customs component and it is a function of the country's percentage share of total intra-SACU imports. On average total intra-SACU imports grew by three per cent in the financial year 2017/2018 compared to 2016/2017.

Impact

While the country's intra-SACU imports grew by 3.5 per cent in this financial year which is above average, some member states recorded a growth of 20 per cent for the same period.

SRA Director Communications Vusi Dlamini when asked on the influx of

import vehicles popularly called Dubais or grey cars notes that importation of any goods from outside SACU has a negative impact on the SACU pool.

"This is not only vehicles but any high value item. We have seen in recent years, where we import fuel from non-SACU countries that it also has a serious negative impact on our SACU pool. It is a policy matter, but the reality of the matter is that if we continue to import most goods from non-SACU countries, then our SACU share will unfortunately not improve as we have seen recently," he said.

Limit

Ministry of finance on the other hand, in the 2020/2021 Call Budget Circular notes that the SACU receipts may continue on a downward trajectory and government's fiscal challenges are expected to continue to weigh down on public sector performance.

"Downside risks remain elevated stemming from the further tightening in the budget financing due to the accumulation of domestic arrears, deteriorating bank asset quality and low Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) revenue. As such, the fiscal space for the coming fiscal year and the medium term is quite limited, influenced mainly by the volatile SACU receipts, limited revenue sources and the various expenditure commitments taken during the previous budget years. As such collection of non-SACU revenues cannot grow as much to meet the gap," reads the Circular.



NON-STOP: 38 977 Dubais were imported into the country.

Why SRA charges more than 15 per cent VAT on some imports

FOLLOWING several complaints by Emaswati who import the second hand vehicles on the Value Added Tax (VAT) charged by SRA, SRA has clarified why they tax more than the 15 per cent of the purchase price.

SRA Director Communications Vusi Dlamini said this was done within the ambit of legislation which is the Customs and Excise Act and the VAT Act.

"The legislation gives us a clear direction on the valuation methods for goods imported into the country.

We talk about customs value, which is not necessarily the price and people should not confuse the two. Someone may sell you an item worth E100 000 for E50 000, but the actual value of the item is E100 000.

We have seen a lot of under declaration especially for good imported into the country. And for imports VAT is calculated on the customs value plus duties and all this is provided for in Legislation and we don't depart from that," he said.

"The legislation gives us a clear direction on the valuation methods for goods imported into the country. We talk about customs value, which is not necessarily the price and people should not confuse the two"



ARRESTED: Former Mr. Eswatini Thulani Mphumuti Nkambule was arrested and charged along with two women for theft of E36 338 from an MTN Service Centre in Matsapha.

Former Mr. Eswatini arrested

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

FORMER Mr. Eswatini Mphumuti Nkambule (36) was arrested and charged for house-breaking with intent to steal and theft.

Nkambule was arrested along with two females Winile Setsabile Matsenjwa (31) of kaNkonjwa and Zandile Ncala (31) of Timbutini area.

The trio appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at the Matsapha Circuit Court last Friday.

Information contained by court records was to the effect that Nkambule and his co-accused broke into an MTN Service Centre situated at the Big Tree in Matsapha, and stole the E36 338 cash that was in the lawful possession of one Sebenele Nkambule.

The incident happened at around 8pm on December 10.

Although details on the matter are scanty, it is alleged that one of the women Winile Matsenjwa who is employed at the service centre as a cleaner was the mastermind behind the theft as she was well aware of all the operations, and how they would get inside the centre.

Bail

On the other hand, Zandile Ncala is said to be an ex-employee of the same service centre. Sources claimed that Matsenjwa duplicated keys to open the centre.

During their court appearance last Friday, the three were each admitted to E6 000 bail.

Nkambule is not new to controversy as back in 2008 during his reign as Mr. Eswatini, he was stripped off his title for alleged misconduct after he got arrested for stealing some music equipment. He was duly replaced by his First Prince Okwakhe Dlamini.

Again on October 19, 2010, Nkambule was arrested and charged with two offences together with a Ghanaian friend. They are said to have stolen an unregistered navy blue Mercedes Benz at Alqaim Motor in Manzini.

They are also said to have entered and broken into the same premises and stole keys for different vehicles namely the Mercedes Benz worth E3 000, Red Opel Vita key worth E2 000 Silver grey Opel Vita key worth E2 000 and also various CDs worth E350 before stealing the Mercedes Benz.

Then, he was admitted to E50 000 bail by the Manzini Magistrate's Court, wherein he was ordered to pay E5 000 cash and provide surety worth E45 000. However,

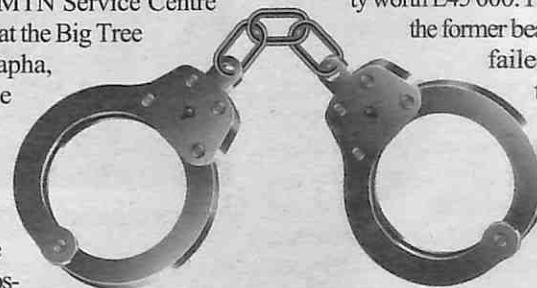
the former beauty king failed to pay the E5 000 and subsequently

filed a review application at the High Court where he sought an order allowing him to pay E1 000 cash and provide surety worth E49 000, but his application was dismissed.

His criminal record also reflects that this is not the first time the former king has been arrested for theft as he was previously arrested for theft of items belonging to one Winile Dlamini worth E30 900 which he later sold to DJ Karly B (real name Khulekani Mamba).

Also in 2010, Nkambule was arrested and charged with nine counts emanating from robberies that were staged at SEDCO building. Then, he was arrested along a 17-year-old from Zakhele.

It is said that in one of the many incidents, the two also assaulted one of their victims and further stole cellphones. In all the robberies that they staged, Nkambule and the teenager are said to have used a toy gun to induce submission on their victims.





Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku presenting food hampers to Maphishi Mathobela. The DPM visited the old man yesterday after reading about his plight from our sister publication, Sunday Observer. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Masuku and his wife being led into the hovel Mathobela calls home.

DPM rescues Mkhulu Mathobela

SIMON SHABANGU
New Haven

...pledges that his family will build a two-room and also plough his field

DEPUTY Prime Minister Themba Masuku has pledged to build a house for Maphishi Mathobela of New Haven who lives in abject poverty and only has a hovel which he subdivided to sleep and cook.

The DPM was accompanied by his wife Dimpo, son Sabelo Masuku, who is also the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, amongst other members of his family.

Masuku said he was touched by the plight of the old man who lives in a structure that is not fit for human occupation.

He said upon reading the article published by our sister publication, Sunday Observer, Masuku abandoned all his plans for the day and decided to visit the old man so that he could get first-hand information.

In an interview after witnessing the depressing situation under which the old man lives, Masuku committed that his family would build a two-room for the old man so that he could have a descent roof over his head



Masuku handing over the groceries to Mathobela.

like all normal human beings.

"On arrival here, I realised that this is not a good place for human occupation.

"I am touched and I must say that we will soon be coming back to start

the construction of the house.

"We will put together resources as the Masuku family and get a builder who will assist us with the skills so that we come up with a proper structure.

"We noticed that he also has a piece of land which is uncultivated, so we will also get a tractor to plough the field and also give him maize seeds and fertiliser so that he can also plough like everyone else," he said.

Masuku also urged the public to also come forward with any form of assistance for the old man.

He said the food stuffs they brought him would not last for long hence there was a need of constant food supply before harvesting of the yield they had pledged to plant for him.

Ascertain

On another note, Masuku said he was expecting that social workers from his office would visit the old man to ascertain more of his needs, just like they did when they get similar reports.

"But I must say that the pledge we are making is not from government but us as a Masuku family and of course, with the help from anyone else who will contribute.

"I must also remind the nation that people must also take initiatives to assist those in need around them.

"We must look out for one another and not wait for government's intervention at all times," he said.

Khanyisile Gwebu, who is a neighbour and health motivator of the area, said they were grateful to Masuku for the pledge, stating that as people living closer to Mathobela they were also at pains seeing him living under this situation.

"If we had enough we would have long assisted him but due to lack of funds on our part, we could only assist with food stuffs whenever we had some.

"We thank God that Mathobela is still alive under the circumstances. During heavy storms and rainy days he has always survived.

"Even when proper structures are brought down by the storm, his will always be spared," she added.

The deputy prime minister's office is the one responsible for social welfare of elderly people and those living with disabilities.

The DPM also assured that he ensure Mathobela receive the social grant and he confirmed he was one of the beneficiaries of the now reviewed grants.



The elated Mathobela sharing a light moment with the Masuku family.



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Where is the money - Gogo asks DPM

DEPUTY Prime Minister Themba Masuku had it a little tough when Gogo Khazi Shiba of Hhohho area asked why the social grant was delayed.

The elderly woman got a surprise visitation from the deputy head of government, who had brought her groceries and also to check on her state of health.

Masuku wanted to know if the old woman was enrolled in the social grant programme.

"I am registered and do benefit from the grant but we have not received it in a long time. What is happening with the money? I listen to the radio and have heard a lot about you. I am happy that you have come to visit me today and may God bless you and the family for the kindness you extend to the less privileged," she said.

The DPM brushed off the question and continued with the business which had brought him at the Shiba homestead.

Masuku presented the food hampers and further promised to bring her a wheelchair. Masuku enquired from Gogo Shiba if there was someone to assist her with the wheelchair he would bring her. Gogo Shiba lamented that she spent most of the time alone as family members stayed in various places, she did state she had a few grandchildren



DPM Themba Masuku and his wife Dimpo presenting the groceries to Gogo Khazi of Hhohho area yesterday afternoon.
(Pics: Simon Shabangu)

who would assist her. Masuku said (Isaiah 58 : 6-7) says; 'This is the kind of fasting I have chosen, to lose the chains of injustices and unite cords of the yoke to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it good to share your food with the hungry

and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter? When you see the naked clothe them and not turn away from your own flesh and blood.' Masuku said this is the scripture that drives him to always reach out to the underprivileged.



LIGHT MOMENT: Gogo Khazi shares a light moment with the DPM's wife Dimpo.



GESTURES: Gogo Khazi Shiba gestures as she speaks to the DPM.

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How can we help you?

Church wants 'dagga' pastor to step down

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A Zion senior pastor has been having a hard time at his church as some members of the board allegedly want him to step down from his position.

The main issue at hand is over the pastor's continued breaking of the church's code of conduct for pastors after his car was nabbed with bags full of dagga by the police.

Imphakamo Church in Zion is based at Mbuthu and headed by Thamsanqa

Malinga who is wanted out by the church board and elders.

The senior pastor is alleged to have found himself on the wrong side of the church rules after a car he was driving was nabbed with dagga.

Malinga is said to have been taken by the police for questioning which irked many members of the church including the board.

According to well-placed sources, Malinga has been involved in the illegal trade of dagga for quite some time and was once warned by some church elders to quit his habit but he denied being involved in the dagga trade.

It is said that the church has even faced division amongst its members with some of the view the pastor is not fit to lead the church.

Commented

One of the elders who also commented on conditions of anonymity said they have even tried talking to their leader on three different occasions.

"There are other incidents that have prompted us to ask Malinga to step down as the leader of the church besides the dagga scandal," said the source.

Malinga is alleged to have at one

time went AWOL from church for a period of two weeks and is said to have not entertained any queries from the church elders who at that time thought the matter could be handled with care because they were of the view he was undergoing personal problems back at home.

When he was asked by the church board about those allegations, Malinga is reported to have downplayed meetings which sought to get to the bottom of the matter.

When contacted by this reporter Malinga rubbished all these allegations claiming there were forces with-

in the church that wanted to see him out of as a leader by subsequently stepping down from his position.

On the issue of dagga trade, Malinga said the dagga was not his and he did not know that there was dagga in his car.

He stated that he was not arrested for such a crime because all evidence never pointed at him as it transpired that the dagga belonged to two men he had given a lift while on his way to a night vigil.

The under fire pastor said the allegations were fabricated to taint his name so that it could appear as if he was no longer fit to lead the church. He said he would stand his ground as he believes that these tribulations would pass.

FOUR ACTING MAGISTRATES IN MANZINI COURTS

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

THE Manzini Magistrate's Court has been boosted with four new magistrates.

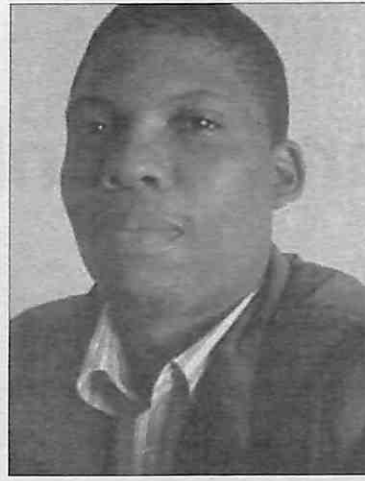
The four male former lawyers, all from law firms situated in Manzini, have assumed work as magistrates albeit on acting basis. These newest additions to the personnel of the Manzini Magistrate's Court are Justice Mzizi, Innocent Mahlalela, Sicelo Lokotfwako and Thansanqa Ndlovu.

Information from well-placed sources was to the effect that these were introduced as acting magistrates on December 24, but assumed their positions on December 27.

Expected

Their acting period is expected to elapse at the end of May 2020 as they are to be acting magistrates for five months.

On their first day of work, the four court officials hit the ground running as they presided over and concluded matters brought before them. Notably, Magistrate Lokotfwako meted out judgements on four matters while Mahlalela concluded two cases. Before the arrival the Manzini



NEW HOME: Magistrate Thamsanqa Ndlovu and Magistrate Sicelo Lokotfwako.

Magistrate's Court had nine magistrates; with seven females and only two males including the Principal Magistrate David Khumalo. Therefore, the four new arrivals will level up the male magistrates to six in comparison to the seven female magistrates, namely; Senior Magistrate Sindisiwe Zwane, Simangele Mbatha, Sebenzile Ndlela, Nelisiwe Hlophe, Lucia Lukhele, Xolile Nxumalo and Philisiwe Simelane.

With such additions one may hope that

the many cases that are in the Manzini region will be swiftly be attended to and concluded in record time.

This development follows the promotion of former Manzini Senior Magistrate Phathaphatha Mdluli who was in August assigned to Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court as an Acting Principal.

Mdluli's acting period elapsed in October this year but was later renewed as the former Principal Magistrate for Pigg's Peak Joe Gumede retired this year.

Hotels record 100% occupancy during Christmas week

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

ALMOST all the hotels in the country were fully booked during the past week which coincided with Christmas Day.

The 100 per cent hotel occupancy was confirmed by the different hotels. Even lunch bookings were fully booked.

Accommodation

Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino's Bachazile Thwala said they were fully booked in both accommodation and lunch on the Christmas day.

She said they were fully occupied such that they had to open their second restaurant named Mongoes to accommodate everyone.

Meanwhile, the Happy Valley Hotel Marketing Co-ordinator

Noxolo Nkabinde said they reached fully capacity way before Christmas.

"We were fully booked way before Christmas.

For lunch we were sold out," said Nkabinde.

The George Hotel General Manager Bright Kumi said their customers enjoyed live music from Jose.

Dance

"Our lunch bookings and attendance was really great, we also had walk-ins and there was an overflow literally. Accommodation was at 85 per cent which is also great," said the GM.

Further, the Hilton Garden Inn General Manager Christine Ndlovu said they were fully booked for Christmas lunch as families went to enjoy scrumptious meals at the entity.

However, their hotel occupancy was at 60 per cent.

Economy will be revived – ETA

ESWATINI Tourism Authority (ETA) Chief Executive Officer Linda Nxumalo said the impressive 100 per cent full occupancy in hotels will help revive the economy.

She said this would come about because job creation would be realised as more casuals would be hired. She said small and medium entrepreneurs were also supported by both locals and visitors.

Nxumalo added that the increase

in the numbers in domestic tourism was a result of campaigns they ran in the media and other stakeholders just before Christmas to promote domestic tourism. These were both in Eswatini and the neighbouring South Africa.

"We think that Emaswati responded to our campaigns. Even in South Africa we had advertisements although we were targeting Africa as a whole. We are happy indeed about the outcome," said Nxumalo.

Hawker conned as she receives fake e-Wallet inContact

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A hawker is still reeling in shock after she received a fake e-wallet notification from one of her customers.

Nomthandazo Masina from Hlathikhulu makes a living by stocking some merchandise South Africa and selling it in the country. She is said to have been conned by the said

customer after she had delivered some goods that the customer had ordered prior.

When narrating the ordeal, Masina said she knew her customer as an honest and faithful person as she had paid her well prior.

She said her customer, *Thembeni Mhlanga made an order in November for bedding and a set of cutlery costing E1 500.

She said when she came with the said items, she told Mhlanga that she should come fetch the items and

pay.

When Mhlanga came to fetch her items, she did not have the cash and that worried Masina as that was against their arrangement.

Payment

"I asked about the payment and she told me that she did not have hard cash at that time but promised to e-Wallet me the following day of which I obliged," she said.

She stated that on the following day no payment was made and she remained patient as she did not think Mhlanga

would rob her because of the healthy relationship they had enjoyed.

"She continued to make empty promises for the whole month and I became worried as I needed the money to re-stock," Masina explained.

She then called her on December 15 to find out what was wrong and she was told that there were some problems in transferring the money. Then later on December 17 she received an incontact notification.

When she went to the nearest ATM

found that there was no money that was transferred to her mobile number.

What worried her the most was that there was even a pin number.

Available

Masina said when she called Mhlanga, her phone rang unanswered and it was later not available in the MTN network.

"This stressed me because I was not sure if it was fake, luckily the security guard at the ATM told me that it was a fake e-Wallet transaction," she explained.

She said she would be report the matter to the police.

Mountain View robber remanded in hospital bed

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

AFTER previous reports that four robbers were said to have broken into an Asian businessman's home at Mountain View, one of the alleged robbers had to be remanded into custody from his hospital bed.

Before his arrest on Saturday, the alleged robber, 39-year-old Mduduzi Hlophe was injured during a shoot-out with police officers.

Attacked

He was said to have, with three others, attacked residents of Asian descent at Mountain View in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati stated that Hlophe had been charged with four counts of armed robbery. He is alleged to

...after shootout with cops

have robbed four homes situated at Mountain View on Saturday.

"In addition to the four counts of armed robbery, he was also charged with three counts of assault," the police mouthpiece stated.

Vilakati added that after Hlophe's arrest on Saturday, there were no further arrests made as investigations were ongoing.

Appearance

During his remand yesterday, it was ascertained that Hlophe was unable to travel to the Mbabane Magistrate's Court to be remanded by the court.

Instead, Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi along with Prosecutor Philile Dlamini and members of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) went to the Mbabane Government

Hospital, where Hlophe is said to be receiving treatment.

Upon arrival, Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi greeted Hlophe and asked him how he was feeling as he had suffered injuries after due to the shootout.

Response

In response, Hlophe stated that although he was well, he was in extreme pain.

"I am feeling extreme pain in my lower waist area after I was shot by police officers yesterday. One of the bullets fired by police officers entered through my back and exited out my hip," Hlophe responded.

Hlophe was remanded back into custody until January 30, 2019 pending his recovery.

Bleak festive for Siteki, surrounding areas as taps run dry

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

IT has been a bleak festive season for Siteki and surrounding communities after the Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) taps ran dry since Boxing Day.

Communities affected by the water crisis include Siteki, Mzikazi, Mhlumeni, Malindza, Sikhuphe, Mpaka, Mpolonjeni and KaLanga. They have been without water for the past four days. Through a statement, the supplying company notified consumers about the interruption of water supply. The EWSC public affairs and customer service department stated that the interruption had been planned to allow maintenance processes to take place.

"Eswatini Water Services Corporation would like to notify its valued customers in Siteki and surrounding areas that there is an interruption in water supply due to technical problems at the Mbuluzi River intake works at Simunye Water Treatment Plant," reads part of the statement that was also published on the company's official social media page. Following the interruption, the company provided temporal water

tanks in strategic areas to service its customers. The water tanks were placed at Siteki Old bus rank, Mzikazi Stores, Mpolonjeni Inkundla and Lomhlopheko.

The interruption in water supply was said to have caused serious inconveniences to customers, especially because it came at the time of the festive season.

Some of the customers vented their frustration to this publication, blaming the supplying company for choosing this time of the year to undertake its maintenance works.

Frustrating

"Can you imagine a festive season without water, it is very frustrating," said one of the customers who only identified himself as Maziya from KaLanga. The water interruption is also said to have affected businesses which uses water as an essential ingredient in their productions.

Eateries operating within the town centre were reportedly fetching water from Mabhodweni Dam, which is situated near JS Clothing textile factory.

This dam commonly used by public transport operators for washing their vehicles. However, through the statement, EWSC promised to have the problem sorted today.

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

THE Municipal Council of Manzini is serving their residents even at night despite the festive break.

This was disclosed by the council's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mathokoza Thwala, who said they had to do road maintenance even during the festive season.

He said other service teams had to remain behind while other people proceeded to enjoy their festive holidays to clean up the mess caused on the roads by the recent rains.

Patched

He said they patched potholes using bitumen, covered potholes using gravel to stabilise them, re-gravelled the roads as well as fixed city lights and cut grass alongside the roads.

"Yes, the council is on a festive break, but we cannot leave our roads like this as they were damaged by the rains. The rains left our beautiful city with such terrible roads.

Manzini council is more than capable and over committed to serving its own people this festive and beyond. Every road that is not fixed

No festive break for some of Manzini maintenance teams



HIGH ACHIEVERS: Municipal Council of Manzini employees working at night to fix the roads damaged by the recent rains regardless of the festive break. They patched potholes using bitumen as well as re-gravelled and graded roads. (Pics: Nokuzola Thwala)

as yet will eventually be attended to," stated Thwala.

Adding, the PRO appealed for further patience, understanding and support where the roads had not yet been fixed and maintained.

Affected residents appreciate extra mile

MANZINI residents have expressed their gratitude to the council for working even on holidays.

Ryan Leon commanded the good work and encouraged the council to keep it up. He said the maintenance was actually a positive feedback by the council.

Meanwhile, Clinton McNamara said as he was aware how hard it was to keep the roads well maintained and hoped that the city would improve and grow next year.

"May I encourage the council to ensure that their contractors have a period to repair and maintain the roads as well as ensure that the quality of

their products used is good," he said. Inalda Jorge Antonio greatly appreciated the service. She said it was impressive, especially now during holidays.

Lights

"Other countries do this but do you know that they put certain high mast lights at night and switch them off in the morning?"

"I am grateful for this since these lights have reduced crime incidences in our township.

"God bless those who go an extra mile in their work and endeavour to serve the nation. I appreciate it so much," she added.



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LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licenses Board will hold its sitting to hear the following application/s at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the 17 January 2020 starting at 09:30 A.M.

Region Manzini

1. Gonso B. Dlamini P. O. Box 2227
Manzini Renewal of a **Bottle Store** Liquor Licence situated at **Esigodvweni Matsapha** Known as **KaGcina Bottle Store**.

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE

HYENA MCC SHOWERS CHILDREN WITH GOODIES ON CHRISTMAS DAY



LOVING HEARTS: Members of the Hyena MCC visited RFM Hospital to spend Christmas with the children. The bikers club also donated food to children at the Mbabane Government Hospital. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



BIG FAMILY: The bikers pose for the lens after donating to the needy.

GIVING:
KFC
Streetwise
packs
were
donated to
the chil-
dren.



HAPPY PEOPLE: Members of the Hyena MCC captured with some of the children at RFM Hospital.

BRING THE WHOLE CREW!
FULL DECK PLATTER SERVES 5
Bring the whole crew!!

Christmas Lunch
Ocean Basket Gables,
Ezulwini only.
OPEN MENU
11:00-17:00
contact 2416 1128 / 7602 8293

Ocean Basket

OB

DOC21004



DONE: Some of the Hyena MCC members prepare to leave.



HERE: The Hyena members and President of the Swazi Boyz Brian Carrington outside the children's ward at Mbabane Government Hospital.

PHUMELELE HIGH / MATRIC SCHOOL
Matsapha behind Engine Garage

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TIBIYO TAKA NGWANE RELEASES 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Absalom Themba Dlamini
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Man found floating at Lubovane Dam was murdered - reports

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

IN a turn of events, the man, who was thought to have drowned at Lubovane Dam after his body was found floating recently, was actually murdered.

On December 20, Madlenya community discovered a body of man floating at Lubovane Dam in Madlenya. Police were called to the scene to retrieve the body. A Ndwandwe family from Mganyaneni discovered that it was one of their own. In fact, the man was mentally challenged.

According to investigations conducted following the discovery of the body, the man was murdered before he was dumped into the dam.

A family member said their relative was murdered days before he was discovered.

The family member added that the mentally challenged relative had been reported missing for days before he was found dead.

The deceased was laid to rest last Tuesday because of the state his body was in.

The discovery of the body and the realisation that he was murdered has sent shocking waves among community members who are now living in fear.

One of the residents who attended the funeral narrated that this was not the first time an incident slightly similar to this one around the area occurred. It is suspected that there are people who were killing community members and then dump them into the dam so that it may look as if they drowned.

Recently, it has been reported that Siphofaneni police have already rounded up some people for questioning who are suspected to be connected to the death of the man.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that a body of a man was found floating at Lubovane Dam. She further stated that police were still investigating the incident.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



HELP HAND: Monkeys helping each other to climb down a pillar as they play at Royal Swazi Sun yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

FOCUS on DD cases

Christmas after-parties

145 nabbed for DD over

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

IT was indeed a busy weekend as the number of motorists nabbed for driving while under the influence of alcohol drastically escalated after Christmas.

This past weekend, the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) recorded a whopping 145 cases of drink-driving. This was disclosed by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati

yesterday.

The numbers of drunken motorists have drastically increased from last week's 138.

This is the highest number to be recorded by the service in a long time.

Throughout the year December had the highest number of motorists who contravened Section 91 (1) as reads with section 122 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

According to the Act, the legal limit is 0.38mg/l for driver and every motorist found with more than the stipulated legal content will be charged for con-

travening the Act.

On December 1, 2019, 91 motorists were arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

The following weekend saw 117 motorists arrested while 99 were arrested the third this past weekend.

During the last month of the year REPS arrested 452 motorists for driving their vehicles while under the influence.

Vilakati said all the motorists had appeared before the magistrates' courts in the country and accordingly found guilty and sentenced.

E2 000 fine for failing to follow cops' orders

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

AS the numbers of drink-drivers continue to dwindle in Mbabane, the law continues to play its part by arresting those outliers found breaking the traffic rules.

Twenty-five-year-old Siphamandla Mabuza of Mvutshini faced the wrath of the law after he failed to stop his vehicle when ordered to do so by police officers. This occurred on Saturday evening near Lobamba and along Kalafaro public road Mabuza was said to have been driving while under the influence of alcohol. When Mabuza approached the roadblock set up along Kalafaro public road, Constable Manqoba Ginindza was said to have used a hand signal to stop Mabuza's vehicle. However, because he knew he was driving while under the influence of alcohol, Mabuza sped off. That was when police officers were said to have pursued him until St Mary's junction, where he was eventually arrested. When a breathalyser test was administered on him, Mabuza exceeded the legal alcohol limit of 0.38 mg/l, and recorded 0.76 mg/l. In his mitigation before the court, Mabuza pleaded guilty on both counts and apologised profusely for having broken the law. He was sentenced to serve 17 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 700 for driving while under the influence of alcohol. For failing to follow police instructions, Mabuza was fined E2 000 and in default of payment, serve one year in prison.

HERE ARE SOME OF THOSE WHO APPEARED IN COURT ON SUNDAY:

Name	Alcohol Content	Sentence
1. Blessing Masuku	0.45 mg/l	E1 000/ 10 months
2. Khokhe Shabangu	1.01 mg/l	E2 000/ two years
3. Mxolisi Veco	0.41 mg/l	E1 000/ 10 months
4. Raymond Dlamini	1.27 mg/l	E2 000/ two years

Apologies galore from drunk drivers

DURING their appearance before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi yesterday, five drink-drivers apologised profusely for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

With the highest recorded alcohol content of 1.27 mg/l, 27-year-old Raymond Dlamini of St Mark's told the court that he was a breadwinner at his home.

"I plead with the court for leniency, as I have children who are solely dependent on me.

Car

"Please forgive me for driving while under the influence of alcohol, I will make sure that it never happens again," Dlamini pleaded.

Dlamini was nabbed near PTS at around 0215 hours yesterday, was driving a VW Golf sedan while under the influence of alcohol.

He was sentenced to serve two years in prison with the option to pay a fine of E2 000.

Fine

Another apologetic motorist, South African national Mxolisi Veco (34), was not only held for driving while under the influence of alcohol, he also passed through a red traffic light.

This occurred on Saturday evening near Kia Traffic Lights, where he was driving his Chevrolet SUV.

When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, Veco had a blood alcohol content reading of 0.41 mg/l. Upon hearing his 'sincere' apologies, the court sentenced him to pay a fine of E1 000, and in default of payment serve 10 months in prison.

For driving through a red light, Veco was sentenced to serve six months in prison with the option to pay a fine of E800.

FIVE IN COURT FOR POACHING SAMBANE

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

FIVE men from KaLanga yesterday appeared before the Magistrate's Court after they were arrested and charged for hunting and killing the protected species of wild animals.

The accused persons; Vusi Zungu, Melusi Dlamini, Simanga Mabuza, Sincane Shongwe and Siyabonga Mbhamali, were jointly charged with three counts of contravening Section 8 as read with Section Subsection 5 of the Game Act 5 of 1953 and The King's Order in Council 12 of 1993.

On the first count, the accused persons

were said to have been found in possession of an ant-bear (*sambane*), a protected game without being holders of a valid permit.

An ant-bear is also observed as a sacred animal which is highly sought after by traditional healers.

The said game was poached at a farm near Maphatsindvuku. The farm allegedly belongs to Hlane National Game Reserves.

The accused person faced a similar charge on the second count, in that they were found in possession of a baboon without being holders of a valid permit.

On the last count, the accused persons were said to have wrongfully and unlawfully entered the farm without the per-

mission of the owner, upon which they proceeded to poach protected game.

When they were informed of their rights to legal representation, the accused persons elected to conduct their own defences.

They pleaded guilty to all three counts.

Senior Prosecutor Patrick Mkhathshwa, however, filed for a postponement of the matter, saying that the Crown intends to lead evidence to prove commission of the offences.

The matter was accordingly postpone to January 3, 2020.

The accused persons were granted bail at E2 000 each.

In another matter, Zweli Sihlongonyane (29) faced a charge of assault with intent

to cause grievous bodily harm. He was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted Mcondisi Dlamini by stabbing him two times in the upper body using a sharp object.

The incident was said to have hap-

pened at a drinking hall where a fight ensued between the accused person and complainant. The crown filed an application to have the matter postponed to a later date pending setting of a date of trial.



FOCUS on DD cases

past weekend

She urged motorists to refrain from driving after taking alcoholic since the beverage reduces driving ability hence causing accidents that might lead to loss of life and damage to property. Meanwhile, the police mouth



piece also reported that On Saturday at 0600 hours, Mliba police arrested and charged a 38-year-old man of Nelspruit. He was found in possession of a pistol and 47 live rounds of ammunition without a licence or permit while at Buhlebuyeza.

'Festive vibe got the better of me'

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A motorist who was nabbed for driving while under the influence of alcohol pleaded with the court to be lenient when passing sentence, saying the vibe of the festive season made him drink yet he had not planned to do so.

Bheki Ndzimandze (30) appeared before acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe, where he faced a charge of contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

He was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully driven a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

A breathalyser test is said to have indicated that the accused person had an alcohol content reading as 0.63 mg/l in his system. His arrest came after he was spotted by traffic officers driving in a zig-zag manner.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused person pleaded guilty to the charge. His plea was accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence.

When mitigating, the accused

person told the court that he went to one of the leisure places to spend time with his long-time friends.

He said the mood led him into drinking alcoholic beverages without having planned for it. He said unfortunately, all his friends also had a few glasses of beer as a celebration for the festive season.

The accused person was accordingly found guilty by the court. He was sentenced to six months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

In another matter, Walter Dlamini (36) faced a similar charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol. The content of alcohol in his system was said to have read as 0.59 mg/l. The accused person pleaded guilty to the charge.

He was accordingly found guilty by the court after the crown accepted his plea without leading evidence.

He mitigated by asking the court to be lenient when passing sentence, saying he was a first time offender. He was sentenced to six months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

Teacher, UNESWA student among DD offenders

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A 48-year-old primary school teacher was among the traffic road offenders who appeared before Magistrate Sebenzile Ndlela at the Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Johannes Dlamini of Sigombeni, a teacher at Kwaluseni Central Primary, was arrested in the early hours of yesterday morning near Mathangeni in Matsapha, and he faced two counts.

The first count was for driving his Volvo sedan with registration number FSD 039 DM while under the influence of alcohol.

His breath specimen reading was 0.65mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. Dlamini also faced a charge of driving the aforementioned Volvo sedan which was deemed not roadworthy in that it had no rear view mirror.

When mitigating before the court, Dlamini appealed for a lenient sentence as he cited that he had five children.

He added that in addition to his own children, he was responsible for his late siblings' children and mother.

Therefore, the teacher said, he was the breadwinner and should he remain behind bars, all these people would be negatively affected.

Magistrate Ndlela sentenced the teacher to 30 months imprisonment with an option of E2 800 fine.

On another note, a 31-year-old Matsapha Municipal Council employee was also in the accused dock on three charges for contravening the Road Traffic Act.

Gcina Simelane of Ntshanini was arrested on Saturday at KaHlobile in Matsapha. Simelane was nabbed while driving a Kia Rio sedan with registration number WSD 050 BH yet intoxicated. His breath specimen reading was 1.05mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Additionally, Simelane faced a charge of failing to comply with an instruction of a police officer, who signalled him to stop by means of a siren and flasher lamps.

Further, the municipality employee was also slammed with a charge of driving the aforementioned vehicle at a high speed after being signalled to stop by the police.

After pleading guilty to all the charges, Simelane persuaded the court to be

lenient when meting out sentence. He said he had two children who depended on him, adding that he regretted his actions.

Simelane was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment with an option of E4 800 fine.

In another separate incident, a 25-year-old UNESWA student informed the court that his cash flow was a problem so he pleaded for a lenient sentence. Tony John Coleman of Ngwane Park was arrested yesterday along Mabhodini-Ngwane Park Public Road while driving a Honda Fit sedan with registration number KSD 496 AM while intoxicated.

His breath specimen reading was 0.51mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

In mitigation, the 25-year-old told the court that he was unemployed but a scholar at the University of Eswatini where he was studying economics. He said being a student there with no funds to cater for his education, he was government-sponsored.

Coleman profusely apologised for his behaviour that landed him behind bars. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

59-YEAR-OLD DD OFFENDER WITH 12 CHILDREN

ZAKHELE Samuel Dlamini (59) of Lozitha asked the court to be merciful when passing judgment for his charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Dlamini was arrested on Sunday morning near Mzimphofu while driving his Toyota Vios sedan with registration number RSD 061 CL. The senior citizen's breath specimen reading was 1.18mg/l, which was 0.8mg/l over the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Explaining the reason for being found on the wrong side of the road, the senior citizen said he had previously taken his wife to her parental homestead on account of her ailment. Dlamini said he thought it was best that his wife be under the care of her people.

However, on the day of his arrest, the

OTHER OFFENDERS:	
1. Simelane Kwanele	2 ½ years imprisonment/ E2 800 fine
2. Nkosi-Vilakati Ntombikayise	2 ½ years imprisonment/ E2 800 fine
3. Masina Mlandvo	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
4. Jose Emmanuel Fana	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
5. Dlamini Mduduzi	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
6. Nacir Azuar Moosa	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
7. Simelane Sibusiso	6 months imprisonment/ E800 fine
8. Mathobela Simiso	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
9. Matsenjwa Menzi	2 ½ years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
10. Mkhonta Sikhumbuzo	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine
11. Pereira Lindo	2 years imprisonment/ E2000 fine

59-year-old said he had received a phone call about the severity of his wife's illness. Though he had already taken some alcoholic beverages, Dlamini said the news about the wife's sickness tempted him to drive to her parental homestead. In mitigation, he mentioned that

he had 12 children with the youngest being six and twelve years old. Dlamini said when he left for his wife's parental home, he had left these two children alone. Magistrate Sebenzile Ndlela sentenced him to two years imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

Murder suspect who fled from Joburg High Court re-arrested

JOHANNESBURG - A suspect, who escaped from the Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg, was among more than 800 people arrested in a police crackdown over the weekend in Gauteng.

Police confirmed yesterday that Africa Nkuna, who escaped on December 9, was rearrested. During the chaotic scenes at the court on the day, three other suspected were rearrested, while another was shot dead.

Nkuna, who was in court for a murder charge, managed to exit the court and was on the run before being rearrested by Kagiso police on Saturday. Police spokesperson Captain Mavela

Masondo said police and detectives from the Kagiso Crime Prevention Unit intercepted a Nissan Mpendulo minibus that Nkuna and his friend were making use of.

He said Nkuna now also faces charges of escaping from lawful custody and attempted murder. Masondo noted that Gauteng's Safer Festive Season Operations saw more than 850 suspects being arrested for various crimes.

He said 199 suspects were arrested in Johannesburg as police were conducting roadblocks as well as stop and searches.

"Drunk driving topped the list as 39 offenders who have been found dri-

ving motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol were detained." Meanwhile, police in Ekurhuleni also worked jointly with other law enforcement officers and arrested more than 360 suspects. These were for crime ranging from house robbery, rape, assault, malicious damage to property, possession of drugs, car hijacking, reckless and negligent driving and attempted murder.

In Tshwane, unlicensed liquor stores were raided, resulting in 10 of the outlets being shut down for non-compliance. Large volumes of liquor were also confiscated during the operation.

News24



The scene at the Joburg High Court after shots were fired when five prisoners tried to escape. (Felix Dlangamandla, Network24)

Missing mkhulu (74) found dead

By NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

A 74-year-old *mkhulu* who was recently reported missing by his family and the police a month ago, has been found dead.

The police had all along been pleading with members of the public to assist them in finding the 74-year-old man from Malkerns.

He went missing after having gone to attend a relative's funeral.

According to a well-placed source, Naphital Mantimbane Ndzabukelwako was found dead in Gege on Christmas Eve. His corpse was found with no flesh and birds known as *emahubhulu* are suspected to have feasted on his body.

"He was found by a herdboy while looking after cattle.

"His attention was caught by a mass of *emahubhulu* when they flew away from a specific area when the cattle passed by. He went to inspect, and he found the remains of the old man.

"The herdboy then raised an alarm and called elders, who informed the police. The deceased's family members are



FOUND:
Naphital
Mantimbane
Ndzabukelwako.

said to have been able to positively identify him because of the clothes he was wearing the day he went missing," said the source.

Adding, the source said Ndzabukelwako's family was devastated by the death of the elderly man as they had hoped that he would one day be found alive.

The Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) Chief Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter.

"Yes it is true, Mkhulu Ndzabukelwako was found dead on Tuesday," said Vilakati.

Ndzabukelwako left his home a month ago heading for a funeral in Gege. It was reported that he reached Gege for the funeral. At the end of the funeral, he

left his bag with someone who had lined up for food as he wanted to go to the bathroom since he was pressed.

However, that was the last time he saw daylight as he never reached Malkerns since November 23, 2019.

Judging by the state his body was in, it is suspected that he died on the very same day of the funeral when he was expected to go back home, it has also been gathered.

The deceased's family members are said to have been able to positively identify him

Woman breaks into hotel, steals foreign currency

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrates Court

DESPERATE times call for desperate measures.

This is a saying to best describe one woman's crime after her desperate efforts to steal from a Greek tourist were thwarted when she was arrested for theft.

Bonile Dlamini (29) of Lobamba is said to have broken into one of the hotel rooms at Royal Swazi Spa in Ezulwini and stole over E10 500 worth of valuables.

Dlamini was arrested by the Lobamba police and was subsequently charged with the offence of theft. She made her remand appearance at

the Mbabane Magistrates Court. According to the charge sheet, she was said to have, on December 25, 2019 at Royal Swazi Spa in Ezulwini, intentionally stolen items valued at E10 500, in the lawful possession of Dionysius Nagnostatos of Greece.

Items

Some of the items said to have been stolen by Dlamini included an iPhone valued at E10 000, ear phones valued at E500 and E15 (E275.209).

During her appearance before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi yesterday, the court did not waste time as she was put to trial after entering a plea of guilt.

Without even mitigating for a lighter sentence, the court sentenced Dlamini to serve two years in a correctional facility with an option to pay a fine of E2 000.

Accident waiting to happen...



CLOSE CALL: A motorist doing what he could to avoid bumping onto a herd of cattle found loitering on the road near Lozitha. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

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PUBLIC NOTICE/ SATISO

OUR NEW MANZINI BRANCH OFFICE LOCATION

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1. Mcebo Hlophe enjoys Christmas lunch with 23 family members at the Pigg's Peak Hotel. 2. Doctor Lorraine Rasetsoke and his family formed part of the guests booked at the hotel. 3. Children take a dive in the pool. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

PIGG'S PEAK HOTEL FULLY BOOKED

...as over 300 enjoy Christmas lunch

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

PIGG'S PEAK Hotel was fully booked as more than 300 guests enjoyed lunch on Christmas Day.

Guests also treated themselves to swimming, as the soaring heat conditions made it perfect to dip into the swimming pool.

Speaking to this publication on the day, Head of Communications Pinkie Mahlalela said Emaswati came in their numbers for the Pigg's Peak Hotel Christmas lunch.

"The Pigg's Peak Hotel has 104 rooms and were all fully booked on Christmas Day.

During the festive season the hotel receives a lot of guests from Europe, Mozambique, South Africa and Eswatini.

This year, we noted that a majority of the guests were Emaswati who had come with their extended family members.

"We also saw a lot of Pigg's Peak residents attending the lunch, which is very positive and encouraging.

The lunch consisted of a three course meal buffet that is open for more than four hours for guests to enjoy.

Guests paid E370 per person to enjoy the experience," she said.

Mahlalela added that most of their excited young guests preferred swimming.

"The hotel restaurant was full and operated on a first come first serve basis. This means guests who had booked rooms at the hotel received the same service as walk-ins.

"We saw a bit of overcrowding but we managed to sort it out efficiently. Most of the children opted to play by the swimming pool while others played with inflatable toys," she added.

Regular guests who were present at the hotel included South African doctor Lorraine Rasetsoke with family and Mbabane native Sifiso Dlamini, they were interviewed in 2018 and again this year.

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We also saw a lot of Pigg's Peak residents attending the lunch, which is very positive and encouraging

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New entertainment stable hosts Botswana DJ

GALAZA Entertainment stable hosted a Botswana disc Jockey (DJ) 'KSB' during a Christmas bash held at Assegai Inn hotel Hlatikulu.

Galaza Entertainment, is a new group of young men and women based in Nhlanguano with the aim of providing all types of entertainment to the region's folk to save them the costs of travelling to other parts of the country. Mefika Mdluli known as 'Black L. Nation,' said they were seeing great improvement since they established the stable a few months ago.

He said hosting international DJs in a short space of time was encouraging.

They recently held a show at Nhlanguano Country Club where they unveiled South African DJ 'TPZ' in what they viewed as a

first major show experienced in the Shiselweni region.

"We are trying and progressing as we have hosted two international DJs within a short space of time as the Hlatikulu show will not be easily erased in the folks' minds," said Mdluli.

Mdluli told Shiselweni News that the two shows staged in Nhlanguano and Hlatikulu were a tremendous success owing to the support and cooperation they got from all parties and stakeholders.

He also expressed gratitude that both shows were incident-free and thanked the police for maintaining peace and order.

The entertainment stable has revealed that they had planned a cross-over to 2020 show billed for Hluthi on the eve of the new-year.



RAS G. Investments & Tyre Services employees during their end-of-year party posing for a group photo.

RAS G INVESTMENTS SPOILS STAFF

RAS G. Investments & Tyres Services in Nhlanguano held its end-of-year party and the director spent E7 000 on refreshments only.

The director also paid his employees bonuses, popularly known as the 13th cheque to many. The young entrepreneur, Gcina Shabangu's company has a staff compliment of 12 employees. Since the company came into existence this is their third end-of-year party.

"It's what we have been doing for the last three years.

"We are not only celebrating the end of the year, but it's a way of motivat-

...splashes E7 000 worth of beverages, 13th cheques

ing and thanking them for their loyalty to this company. This is also another way of thanking God for protecting us and giving us direction as a company," Shabangu said.

Dedicated

Shabangu said he was proud of his employees as they were always dedicated and committed to their work, adding that the company was considering introducing awards, where those who excel in their work would be appreciated. "We are still considering whether to hold the awards once a month or

quarterly and have the main one during the end of each year," said Shabangu.

The director explained that by introducing the awards, the company would in turn improve its services and make sure all the employees were motivated to take it (company) to greater heights.

Meanwhile, Lewis Ndlovu, speaking on behalf of the employees, said they were happy with the treatment accorded to them by their employer.

He stated that the employees were all equal in Shabangu's as he treated them equally.



Botswana DJ Kevin Mapula performing at Assegai Inn, Hlatikulu at a show organised by Galaza Entertainment.

FORMER SOCCER STAR TO START FOUNDATION

FORMER Pigg's Peak Black Swallows star Mbongiseni 'Fox' Mavuso is planning to bring the youth of his home area together by forming a foundation.

This, Mavuso said, would enable the youth to engage in various projects that would be for the betterment of their lives.

The retired soccer player's home is located at Holneck under Maseyisini Inkhundla an area that is now overpopulated owing to the textile companies nearby.

Mavuso, who is employed by government under the ministry of public works and transport, said he was worried about the escalating number of young people found loitering around shops and other business establishments in the area. He said sadly, some of the youth had completed school, but could not further their studies nor gain employ-

ment. "I am planning to start what is to be known as the 'Fox Foundation' which will assist the youth to start projects and other life skills. It's not going to be a walk in the park, but I will try as I want them to be taught about the importance of keeping safe from drugs and focusing on a better future even if they are not in gainful employment," he said. Mavuso said his plan was to engage the youth in projects that would help them deal with boredom and other challenges.



I am planning to start what is to be known as 'Fox Foundation' which will focus on assisting the youth to start projects and other life skills



Mbongiseni 'Fox' Mavuso aspires to form foundation at his home area Holneck under Maseyisini.

Aspiring film-makers appealing for support for 'Shisewood'

NHLANGANO-based film-makers and actors group - Mafafabula Eswatini Movie - is appealing for sponsorship as their dream is to have their own 'Shisewood' just like other African countries.

Nigeria has their own 'Nollywood' with a number of studios in the film industry, while the Republic of South Africa remains the leading African country in as far as film making is concerned. The group consists of 10 members and is appealing for assistance in order so as to register and be recognised, noting that their recognition would make them feature in main events in the

Kingdom. The co-founders of the group are Menzi Ndzinisa known as 'Mafafabula' and Sabelo Sacolo known as 'Mofat'. For now the group focuses on Siswati plays and those involving culture.

"We have already visited a number of places where we gave live performance and have produced a number of plays. This is our way of earning a living as a youth and not to be tempted bad we are kept away from the streets and the temptation of engaging in criminal activities," Ndzinisa told Shiselweni News. The group can be contacted through Ndzinisa's cell-phone at 7672 5834.

MAN BRUTALLY HACKED ON CHRISTMAS EVE

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
SITEKI

... in a critical condition

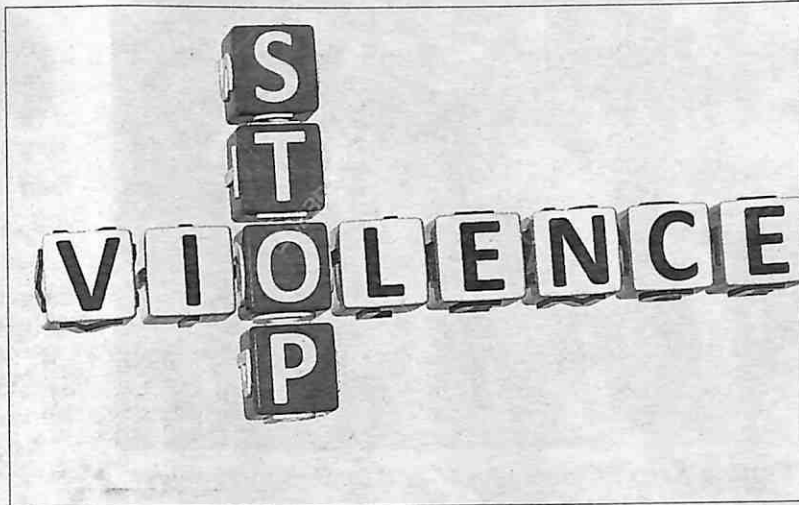
On Christmas eve, a man from Matsesa had to be rushed to hospital after he was brutally hacked with a bush-knife.

Sandziso Tsabedze (24) had gone drinking with friends at one of the popular spots in Siteki when a scuffle ensued. Information gathered was that the two groups engaged in a fight after a verbal confrontation. The fight subsided after minutes before the two groups dispersed.

According to sources, Tsabedze then headed to another drinking hall without his friends.

It was then that he met members of the other group, was overpowered and hacked several times on the body with what is believed to have been a bush-knife. He was rushed to Good Shepherd Hospital where he was admitted.

Following the incident, one of his attackers was subsequently arrested and charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.



Mncedisi Maziya was said to have wrongfully assaulted Tsabedze by hacking him with a sharp object several times on the body.

He appeared before acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe where he elected to conduct his own defence.

The Crown filed an application to have the accused person remanded into custody pending setting of a date of trial. Bail was also opposed as the Crown stated that the complainant was still admitted at hospital with serious injuries.

Police accused of assaulting five men on Christmas

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

FIVE men who wanted to party at Maguga Lodge have accused police of assaulting them with batons on Christmas.

The men Sandile Mzebele, Muzi Ngomane, Andile Malindzisa, Gift Mkhwanazi and Sakhele Dlamini all claimed to have been assaulted by six uniformed police officers who wanted them to vacate the lodge.

The names of the police officers are known to this publication but have been deliberately withheld as they have not been charged.

The five men were enjoying alcoholic beverages and roasting meat before the incident.

"On Christmas day we had visited Maguga Lodge where we had a braai and drank alcohol. We enjoyed ourselves until night time when more fun lovers arrived. However all the fun stopped at 10pm when police officers arrived

at the scene and ordered everybody to vacate the area" they said.

The men added that the uniformed police officers proceeded to force people to drive out of the lodge before locking the front gate. When asked for comment Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati advised that the alleged assault victims report the matter to the police so that official investigations may be opened.

"All the fun stopped at 10pm when police officers arrived at the scene and ordered everybody to vacate the area"

No dentists at King Sobhuza II Clinic

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Manzini

The King Sobhuza II Clinic has not been able to provide dental assistance to its patients forcing most of them to seek medical attention at other health institutions, it has been gathered.

It has been gathered that the health facility has been without dentists for some time now which has left patients in limbo. One of the patients Dudu Dlamini, a resident of Kakhoza claims she had been suffering from a toothache and went to the clinic seeking help only to find that there was none. Each time she was told to return the following day and this according to her happened on more than five occasions until a security guard told her there were no dentists.

She was infuriated by the fact that the nurses did not reveal the truth to her on several occasions. According to health practitioners, clinics and hospitals having difficulties should give three months' notice in the event they are not able to provide the best services.

Information gathered suggests that this is not the first time the clinic has experienced problems that affect patients as it once shut down as there were no health aids.

When the clinic's head was called for comment, the phone rang unanswered. Meanwhile Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula, when contacted for comment appeared shocked at the news and said that he was unaware that the clinic was experiencing such complications.

Magagula said he could not comment as yet and asked for some time to investigate the issue.

When the Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi was contacted she was also appalled and asked to report back after having done her own investigations on the matter.

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

A father of four's Christmas joy was abruptly ended when he was arrested for possession of 5.3kg dagga.

He appeared before the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court where he claimed to be unemployed with four

Father of four arrested for dagga

children to look after.

After pleading guilty to the charge, Mandla Dlamini was fined E2 000 or spend two years behind bars in default of payment. The accused was arrested in the company of Ntokozo Thwala at Nkomazi last

Sunday after police spotted both men walking near a certain home-stead carrying a large black bag.

Police are then said to have requested to search the bag and dagga wrapped in a thick brown tape and upon finding the dagga the police

arrested both individuals and took them to the Pigg's Peak Police Station to weigh the illegal herb.

Thwala pleaded not guilty and was lucky to be acquitted and discharged by Magistrate Sibonelo Dlamini.

PLAY TIME:
Children captured playing at Msunduzi location yesterday.
(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



Ghanaian community celebrates Xmas in style

BY DELISA THWALA
Manzini

As the Christmas spirit was felt by everyone the world over, Ghanaian nationals resident in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"We are very thankful to Eswatini, this is a peaceful country with its

beautiful scenery, we have enjoyed peace since our arrival years ago," said Nkonwra.

There was a question and answer session where they asked one another which part of Ghana they originated from and how and when they got to be in Eswatini.

Members of the community include amongst others University of Eswatini

lecturers and those from other higher learning institutions in the country and teachers from local high schools.

Lucille Preska said they were happy to be in Eswatini as the opportunities they have gotten in the country have seen them succeeding in life.

"I came here with nothing, but

today I'm a businessperson and able to send money back home," said the businessperson.

Other attendees said they regard Christmas as important and sacred, hence they were happy to celebrate it together.

The Ghanaian community was treated to a cuisine and thereafter mingled until the party ended.

SCARA THINDWA VISITS VULAMASANGO SCHOOL

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

FORMER Kaizer Chiefs soccer player, Liswati soccer legend and now SuperSport analyst Scara Thindwa, visited Vulamasango School on Boxing Day.

The soccer legend had taken the time to motivate pupils at Vulamasango, a school which is under the department of His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS).

The main aim of the visit was for Thindwa to assist in instilling the spirit of not giving up in dreams irrespective of the current situations the pupils may be in.

The school also has a facility for young people who find themselves on the wrong side of the law resulting in them being incarcerated.

However, it should be noted that in the spirit of correcting the young offenders, HMCS opened admissions to all people from nearby communities around the institution and from afar to be



WORDS OF WISDOM: Former Kaizer Chiefs player and SuperSport analyst Scara Thindwa motivates pupils at Vulamasango School.

part of the school, hence the school's enrollment has over the past years rapidly increased.

When addressing the pupils during the visit,

Thindwa said he felt the need to honour the school's invite.

He said there was a stage in his life where



SPEAKS: Vulamasango Principal Dan Mavuso addresses the gathering.

things were not good, to the point that he never thought he would achieve his goals.

He further mentioned that he eventually felt a sense of belonging when his elder brother introduced soccer to him.

"Soccer changed my life, in a way I never even imagined. It's not like I loved the sport, but the day I focused on it my life drastically changed," he said.

Thindwa stated that, the pupils should ensure that they identify something they love, feel passionate about and focus on it.

He added he was aware that some pupils love soccer, but because of their incarceration, don't know how to venture into the sport. He promised to revisit the school to introduce soccer tournaments and further advised that they place God first in whatever they do.

Appreciating Thindwa's presence was Principal Dan Mavuso who stated that they were over the moon that Thindwa took time from his tight schedule to come talk to the pupils.

Mavuso told the pupils to look up to people like Thindwa for inspiration, because he was able to make it in life regardless of the obstacles he faced.

He said he had hopes that their mindset had changed from what they had heard from Thindwa.

“

"Soccer changed my life, in a way I never even imagined. It's not like I loved the sport, but the day I focused on it my life drastically changed

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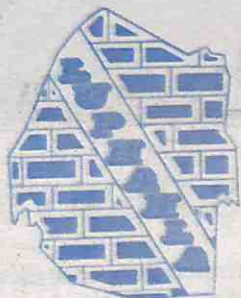
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'MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION'

ISSUE NO. 109

2020 HERE WE COME!

AS we close the year tomorrow, it is important that we reflect not only on 2019, but the entire decade, so that we can appreciate the challenge that awaits us in 2020 going forward.

Our frustrations in the out going year were not made in 2019, but were as a result of poor decisions, failure to implement the grand plan we crafted in 1997 and endorsed as the National Development Strategy (NDS Vision 2022), which we should be seeing its coming to fruition in 2022.

Whilst we have made some progress in some areas like the sustainable development goals (SDGs), we have clearly made regressed in many areas that would have otherwise made life enjoyable for our people.

In fact, we have failed to deliver decent jobs and despite having compulsory free primary education since 2010, we have not made the progress we wanted. Tertiary education has been compromised by lack of resources in both the funding for our institutions and still struggling to fund all students who qualify to enrol at our institutions.

Education and health are key to any nation's development agenda and our struggle in those two sectors continues to compromise our quality of life.

The past decade we witnessed the collapse of key institutions which would have otherwise given us a fighting chance to attain the Vision 2022. The executive arm of government failed to align with the NDS by not controlling its expenditure which reached unsustainable levels.

Even the projects that were established to kick-start economic activity continued to struggle despite investing billions of emalangenis into it.

Our checks and balances systems, be it the legislature or the judiciary, were malfunctioning in the decade we are about to close tomorrow.

Emaswati, during Sibaya, expressed their displeasure at the performance of our government and demanded changes. Voters elected to do the talking through the ballot box but the judiciary which has been accused of failing the country in terms of dealing with corruption remained complacent.

Impeached

This is despite that a chief justice and a judge were impeached and removed from their positions for impropriety.

The above incidents contribute in worsening our capability to attract foreign direct investors and those that are already on the ground become coy in expanding.

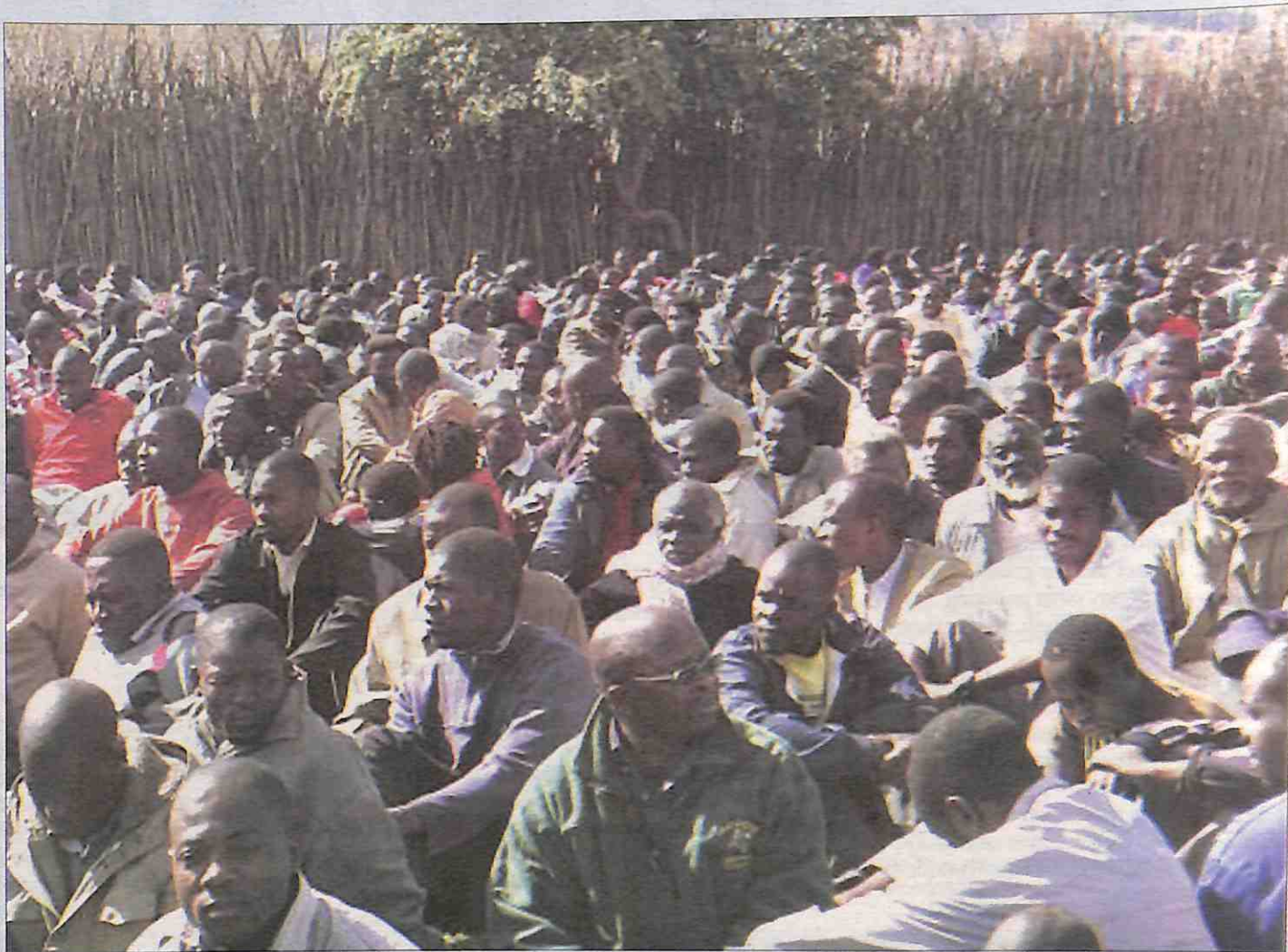
The mandate of the current government is to create confidence, not only to foreign investors but also to Emaswati that the 2022 Vision could still be salvaged.

Salvaging Vision 2022 will not just be an event, but it is a process and commitment overtime to ideals of good governance that will weed the country of corruption and prudence in expenditure.

We need to develop plans to ensure that projects like ICCFISH, King Mswati III International Airport, Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre start to fulfill their mandate. Some of these projects have been described as white elephants and it is time we invited Emaswati to come up with ideas on how they could make these projects work for the country.

A commission of enquiry, alongside a forensic audit need to be conducted on the Gege-Sicunusa-Nhlangano road project. It cannot be

...the decade 2010-2020 was not so good for the Kingdom of Eswatini.



LISTENING: The nation gathered at Sibaya pointed out a number of weaknesses at the performance of government.

that the country can waste over half a billion emalangenis on a project which is not near completion and do nothing about it. We need to learn from these mistakes, and those found liable must be taken to task.

We do need to develop a culture of consequence management. People must learn to account for their actions. In terms of our politics, I do recall that Emaswati still deem the Tinkhundla system as the best to serve their interests, but clearly there are some adjustments that need to take place.

Wealtnesses

After the 2018 elections, at Sibaya there were a number of weaknesses that were pointed out that need to be addressed. Vote buying is one such challenge, but there is more, including the MPs' understanding on how the system is supposed to serve the electorate.

Before we rush to introduce a Tinkhundla system syllabus in our schools, there is need to engage on how we expect the system to function. It is not sufficient that we can talk of direct representation, but we need to go further on how we engage with all our structures on the ground.

We need to move beyond the notion that looks at the system as only delivering services, we need to engage on governance and how we can enhance it.

Currently, there is a discord when it comes to clearly identifying the role of chiefs within the system. It needs to go beyond just having their signatures in approving projects. We need to engage intellectually on how we can bring about development in our own communities. In fact,

we need to start interrogating Section 218 to 226 of the constitution how we implement it, because that these sections give meaning to what tinkhundla is all about.

Political we seem to engage in low key the role of His Majesty the King and we seem to have a superfluous understanding of what he does.

We now need to move beyond that vague appreciation and bring him to the centre. He will be brought to the centre once the chiefs start to be clear of their roles in nation-building and its politics.

The new decade 2020-2030 is crucial to us as a nation and we need to be clear on what we want and how we will deliver.

Our challenge has been that we have been too apologetic about who we are and decided to be selective on how we engage. We need to promote the notion of market of ideas from grass-roots level so that by the time we get to elect some of our own to parliament, they have developed the idea of engaging issues. Currently, we can blame the crop of MPs we have as being weak, but where do we expect them to have the skills if our grass roots only know to discuss communal disputes.

In the new decade we need to stand up and represent who we are before being swallowed by the voices that keep telling us how bad we look. Our ministers must learn to debate issues and defend their positions. They should not rely on their positions to get their messages across.

We need them to articulate government policy from the point of understanding, than just repeating what they have been sent to communicate.

The year 2020 should be the beginning of the process of change. Change is not an event. You don't wake up to it, you work towards it.

Let's commit to a better future.

“We need to develop plans to ensure that projects like ICCFISH, King Mswati III International Airport, Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre start to fulfill their mandate. Some of these projects have been described as white elephants and it is time we invite Emaswati with ideas on how they can make these projects work for the country.”



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ACT, 2019

PART IV FISHERIES CONSERVATION

Fisheries protected areas.

18. (1) The Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, declare any national water body or part of a water body to be a fisheries protected area

(a) for the protection of aquatic resources and ecosystems or particular fish species;

(b) to facilitate fishery management by protecting spawning stock, allowing stock recovery, enhancing stock abundance in adjacent areas, and providing pristine aquatic ecosystems for research; or to diminish any conflict that may arise from competing uses in that area.

(2) A person shall not in any fisheries protected area, without permission granted in terms of sub-section (3) –

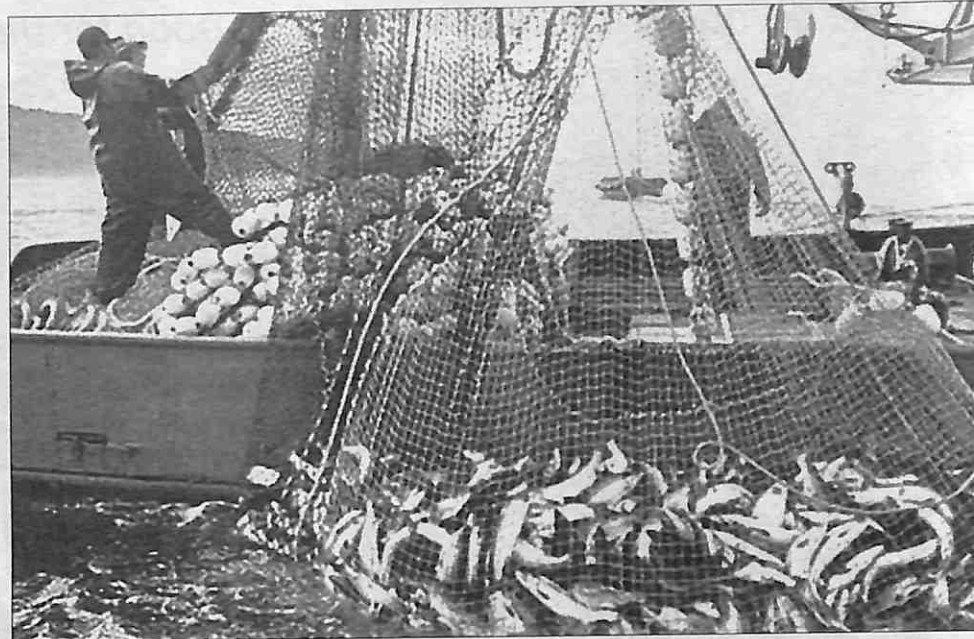
(a) fish or attempt to fish;

(b) take or destroy any aquatic resource;

(c) dredge, extract sand or gravel, discharge or deposit waste or any other polluting matter, or in any way disturb, alter or destroy the natural environment;

(d) construct or erect any building or other structure on or over any land or water within a fisheries protected area; or (e) carry on any activity which may adversely impact on the ecosystems of that area.

(3) The Minister may, upon application and provision of good reasons, give permission, in writing, by way of a permit issued under this



Act that any activity prohibited in terms of this section may be undertaken on condition that, that activity will not harm or threaten the objectives of declaring an area or part of an area a fisheries protection zone.

Prohibited Fishing practices.

19. The Minister shall declare, by notice published in the Gazette, any fishing practices that are considered to be harmful, destructive or damaging to aquatic resources, to be prohibited fishing practices.

Establishment of a Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

20. (1) The Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund is established.

(2) The Fund shall consist of –

(a) all money paid in respect of fines, penalties and interest for any offence committed in terms of this Act, including any proceeds from the sale of any vessel, vehicle, aircraft, gear or fish forfeited or seized in terms of this Act;

(b) all interest and fees collected in terms of

this Act;

(c) money appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for the realisation of the objects of the Fund;

(d) interest on investments;

(e) donations received with the approval of the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance;

(f) money which, with the approval of the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance, may accrue to the Fund from any other source; and

(g) any levy on fish, fish products, aquatic plants or other fish resources, imposed and collected in terms of this Act.

(3) The Fund shall be administered by the Principal Secretary in consultation with the Minister, in accordance with an estimate, a supplementary or revised estimate of revenue and expenditure approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance in respect of each financial year, which shall end on the 31st March, and no expenditure payable from the Fund may be incurred except in accordance with that estimate of expenditure.

(4) The Principal Secretary shall be the accounting officer charged with the responsibility of accounting for money received and expenditure incurred by the Fund.

(5) The Principal Secretary shall invest money in the Fund not required for immediate use on the advice of the Minister responsible for finance.

(6) Any unexpended balance in the Fund at the end of a financial year shall be carried forward as a credit in the Fund to the next financial year.

(7) The Auditor-General shall audit the books and accounts of the Fund annually.

Functions of the Fund

21. The functions of the Fund shall be to –

(a) facilitate the fisheries and aquaculture development and management;

(b) support commercial aquaculture;

(c) facilitate the execution of fisheries conservation and bio-diversity programs; and

(d) enhance adaptation to climate change in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and making preventive investment to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the sector.

PART V LAW ENFORCEMENT

Fishery enforcement officers and voluntary fishery enforcement officers.

22. (1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Ministry responsible for public service, designate posts or ranks in the Ministry of which the incumbents shall be Fishery Enforcement Officers.

(2) The Minister may, by written notice in the Gazette, appoint any person that the Minister considers fit to be a Fishery Enforcement Officer or a Volunteer Fishery Enforcement Officer, and in doing so may specify the powers to be exercised by that person in terms of this Act.

(3) A Fishery Enforcement Officer and a Volunteer Fishery Enforcement Officer shall be furnished by the Principal Secretary with an identity card recording the name of the officer and designation.

(4) The Minister may withdraw the appointment or authority of an Enforcement Officer at any time.

Powers of fishery enforcement officers.

23. (1) For the purposes of enforcing this Act, any Fishery Enforcement Officer may, with a warrant issued by a Magistrates Court, enter and search any fishing vessel, vehicle, aircraft or premises or seize any property.

(2) For the purposes of enforcing this Act any Fishery Enforcement Officer may without a warrant –

(a) order any fishing vessel in the territory of Eswatini to stop;

(b) require the skipper of a vessel to stop fishing and take the gear of the vessel back on

board;

(c) require the skipper of a vessel to facilitate the boarding of a vessel by all appropriate means;

(d) go on board a vessel and take with any other persons that the fishery enforcement officer may require for assistance in the execution of their powers;

(e) require any vessel documents, catch log-books, licences or permits to be produced and examined;

(g) require the skipper to give an explanation concerning the vessel, the crew, any person on board the vessel and any document referred to above;

(h) make any examination or enquiry which the Fishery Enforcement Officer may consider necessary to ascertain whether any provision of this Act has been contravened;

(i) make an entry dated and signed by the Fishery Enforcement Officer in any vessel's log book;

(j) where a Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an offence in terms of this Act has been or is being committed, take or require the skipper to take the vessel to any place within the country for the purpose of carrying out any search, examination or enquiry;

(k) give directions to the skipper and any crew member of any vessel stopped, boarded or searched as may be necessary or reasonably expedient for any purpose specified in this Act or for the compliance by the vessel, skipper or any crew member with any condition of a

licence or permit;

(l) at all reasonable times enter and inspect any fish processing establishment or any other place where fish or fish products are kept or stored; or

(m) take samples of any fish found in any vessel, vehicle, aircraft or on any premises searched in terms of this section.

(3) A Fishery Enforcement Officer may, without a warrant –

(a) enter and search any vessel, vehicle, aircraft or premises if the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been or is being committed or that fish illegally fished or that any prohibited fishing gear is being stowed or stored;

(b) stop, enter and search any vessel, vehicle or aircraft flying the Eswatini flag which the Fishery Enforcement Officer reasonably suspects is being used or is involved in the commission of an offence in terms of this Act;

(c) seize –

(i) any property on board any vessel, vehicle or aircraft or on any premises if – the person in control of the vessel, vehicle, aircraft or premises consents to that seizure; or the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a warrant will be issued, if the Fishery Enforcement Officer were to apply for that warrant, and the delay caused by the obtaining of that warrant would defeat the object of the seizure;

(ii) any vessel, including its gear, equipment, stores and cargo, and any vehicle or aircraft of which the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that it has been or is being used in the commission of an offence

in terms of this Act or in respect of which the Fishery Enforcement Officer suspects an offence to have been committed or which the Fishery Enforcement Officer knows or has reasonable grounds to suspect that it has been seized or forfeited in terms of any provision of this Act;

(iii) any fish or fish product which the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to suspect to have been taken or produced in the commission of that offence or which are possessed in contravention of this Act;

(iv) any substance or device which the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to suspect to have been used or to be possessed or controlled in contravention of any provision of this Act;

(v) any log book, chart or other document required to be maintained in terms of this Act or in terms of any license, in respect of which the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that it shows or tends to show, with or without other evidence, the commission of an offence in terms of this Act; or

(vi) anything which the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe might be used as evidence in any proceedings in terms of this Act; or

(d) arrest any person whom the Fishery Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to suspect to have committed an offence in terms of this Act.

DELIVERY, POST-NATAL CARE TIPS FOR FIRST TIME MOMS

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH CARE PROMOTION PROGRAMME

THE maternal and infant health care promotion programme funded by Taiwan International Cooperation Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF), in collaboration with Sexual Reproductive Health Unit under Ministry of Health in the month of last month discussed a number of topics in their programme aired by the Voice of the Nation every Monday morning.

Some of the topics discussed during the programme include the "abnormal delivery, bleeding, breastfeeding and cleanliness".

Below is a summary of health talks:

SESSION 1: "Abnormal Delivery"

1) The two types of c-sections:

a) Emergency c-section:

When there is suspected danger to the mother's or baby's condition. The mother can give consent by signing for herself to allow the procedure.

b) Elective c-section:

Planned and done on a specific date, chosen by the doctor after assessing the maturity of the baby. Consent can be given by a relative.

2) Indications for C-section:

- Fetal distress
- Labor doesn't progress
- Baby very big
- Breech position (baby comes by feet)
- Previous classical cesarean
- Genital herpes in the mother
- Uterine deformity
- The unborn baby is tight by the umbilical cord around the neck
- Pelvic bones too tight to give way

3) After delivery

The mother is kept in the hospital ward for 48 hours to five days depending on how the mother recovers.



ers. Then after discharge, the mother needs to come to the hospital after three days for a medical checkup.

SESSION 2: "POST-NATAL CARE"

Stage 1: Bleeding

● Fresh or bright red blood is not expected after delivery as it may signal that the uterus is not well contracted or there are some products of conception that remained inside that continue the bright red or bleeding. The blood should be a bit darker to brown as the days goes by.

● The blood flow should be lesser and lesser each day that passes. The pads are not expected to be heavily soaked every day.

1) Natural delivery wound

- Do seat bath for at least 5-10 minutes.
- Can also drink pain medication.

tion, if prescribed to relieve afterbirth pains.

2) C-Section wound

- Try to keep it dry at all times.
- Drink prescribed pain medication, and do not overdose.
- Do not bandage the wound at home because it might get infections.

Stage 2: Breastfeeding

● First time mothers tend to have poor attachment problems, which lead to pain when breastfeeding, so, proper breast attachment of the baby is encouraged.

● Never drink alcohol when breastfeeding.

● Eat a balanced meal with all the food groups and take plenty of fluids.

Stage 3: Disposal and Cleanliness

● Dispose nappies in a pit toilet or burn them.

● When coming from a toilet or any place, wash your hands with soap and fresh water then you wipe your hands to dry, before touching the baby.

● The baby's prepared food should not be left open, and the feeding equipment should be thoroughly washed clean to avoid development of microorganism on them that may then cause infection to the baby.

QUESTIONS ABOUT NORMAL AND ABNORMAL DELIVERY

WARNING: Every mother should receive proper counselling and education before and after delivery.

Questions taken from listeners are as follows:

Q1. What do I do if I want to close my womb after having four C-Sections but my husband refuses to sign?

ANS. Try other ways of family planning methods because you only have not more than four C-Sections.

Q2. Can you choose to deliver through C-Section?

ANS. We encourage mothers to deliver through normal delivery, if a mother is afraid of pain, she needs to visit the hospital for counselling because C-section is for emergency delivery or if there is a sign of danger.

Q3. Can a woman conceive at the age of 40 and have a normal delivery?

ANS. Yes, but we encourage the mother to visit the hospital for medical check-ups and other tests before the pregnancy.

Q4. I was encouraged to close after giving birth to three children, two of which were delivered through C-Section, after some time I discovered that I was pregnant, then I had a miscarriage, what do I do now?

ANS. Visit the hospital and tell the doctor what happened.

Q5. Can a woman have a normal delivery after a C-Section?

ANS. Yes, she can deliver normally but she needs to visit the doctor because she is being classified as a risk mother.

Q6. Are there any signs that can be seen before delivery for a mother to see if she will undergo abnormal delivery?

ANS. It may not always be possible in particular for the first-time mother who never had complications before. All mothers are encouraged to use the hospital for delivery, for safe delivery.

Q7. How to wake or gets up after C-section?

ANS. Mothers need to place their feet on the ground first and try to use them to balance instead of using stomach muscles. Avoid raising up the head first, don't be straight, try to turn and use sides and hands to support your body.

Q8. I gave birth to two babies through normal delivery then the third one with C-section. Is it possible to delivery normally again?

ANS. There are chances to deliver normal but visit the hospital and talk to a doctor about it.

Q9. I have a one month old baby and I am suffering from low sugar diabetes?

This is very serious, visit a doctor as soon as possible.

Q10. My baby is not eating well and losing weight?

ANS. This is very serious, take the baby to the hospital as soon as possible for doctors' attention.

This VOC programme is supported by Taiwan ICDF under the Maternal and Infant Health Care Improvement Project.

You can listen to the programme every Monday from 0900hrs to 1000hrs. Please feel free to send a WhatsApp message for questions at 7833 7421



● "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
— Mahatma Gandhi

● "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."
— Mark Twain

● "You can never be overdressed or overeducated."
— Oscar Wilde

● "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation."
— Brigham Young

● "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."
— St. Augustine

● "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
— Nelson Mandela

● "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better."
— Maya Angelou

● "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."
— Walter Cronkite

● "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence."
— Robert Frost

● "The past has no power over the present moment."
— Eckhart Tolle

● "Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."
— Margaret Mead

● "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."
— Confucius

● "The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark."
— Thomas Paine

● "Education: the path from cocky ignorance to miserable uncertainty."
— Mark Twain

● "Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers."
— Steven Spielberg

● "If you want to get laid, go to college. If you want an education, go to the library."
— Frank Zappa

● "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

● "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."
— Aristotle

● "Marriage can wait, education cannot."
— Khaled Hosseini

● "Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."
— Plato

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 23 DEC 2019

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

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Standard Bank

SBC PAYS OUT E30m INTERIM DIVIDEND

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SBC Limited has announced an interim dividend of E30 million to its stockholders comprising E0.31 per share.

This is according to a statement released by the company yesterday. The company said the payment of dividends was expected to be not later than January 15, 2020. "Notice is hereby given that an interim dividend of E30 million comprising E0.26 per share has been declared to ordinary shareholders registered as such in the company's share register at the close of business on or before January 15, 2020," said the company. SBC Limited is an investment company that is listed in the Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE). It owns Select Limited in Eswatini and Lesana Lesotho Limited in Lesotho. Normal and withholding tax would be deducted from dividends paid to local shareholders and non-resident shareholders, respectively, where applicable.

It has been reported by this publication that SBC Limited has invested around E750 million into

the property market segment over the next seven years in response to an identified need for quality residential properties targeted at entry and mid-level buyers.

Affordable

The company also owns the newly constructed Malkems Square project, which enables ultimate ownership of affordable quality housing to a wider sector of the market.

SBC Limited was incorporated in the country in April 2011 as an investment holding company with the purpose of investing in retail financial services opportunities

in the Southern African region.

The company owns a 94.5 per cent stake in Select Limited, a company that offers microfinance products and services mainly to civil servants.

Select offers retail financial services to the 'none' or 'under-banked' market in Eswatini focusing on providing unsecured credit to employed individuals who are unable to access finance through traditional banking channels.

Additional information published by this newspaper earlier is that the company retail group revenue as at June 30 2019, grew

by 12 per cent, increasing to E142 million from the E127 million collected in June 2018. According to the SBC Limited and Subsidiaries Group Results for the six months released by the Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE), the growth was driven by the equivalent growth in the loan book. However a 0.5 per cent decline in yield in the Eswatini regions was offset by an increased contribution from the higher yielding Lesotho loan book which now comprises 29 per cent of the overall loan book compared to 23 per cent in the prior equivalent period.



Ngwenya Town Board passes 2020/21 budget estimates

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

The Ngwenya Town Board has passed the budget estimates for the year 2020/21.

This is in line with the provisions of Section 91(2) of the Urban Government Act No.8 of 1969.

According to a notice released by the board, estimates are now open for the public to inspect them free

of charge between 8.30am to 4.30pm.

The viewing of the estimates can be done at the Ngwenya Town Board offices starting from today to January 2020.

"Once again, may we extend our gratitude to the town's residents and stakeholders for their invaluable input to the budget," reads part of the statement.

Worth noting is that the town board recorded over E6 million

revenue as at the end of March 31, 2019.

Presented

This was contained in the board treasurer's report presented during an annual general meeting (AGM) on September 30.

The report also highlighted that 14 per cent of total revenue was spent on capital-related projects and 27 per cent on personnel emoluments.

About 54 per cent was used to operate the office administration, including maintenance of the town.

The report also cited proposed and ongoing projects which include formulation of the Ngwenya five year integrated development plan, the allocation of government plots as well as the construction of a low level bridge on the road leading to AMADI University College, amongst others.

BUSINESS EXTRA

2019: A grim year for state-owned entities

JOHANNESBURG - As the country battled low growth and record unemployment this year, a number of key state-owned enterprises - which are supposed to drive economic activity - faced financial ruin, putting further strain on the already ailing economy.

Many of South Africa's major public entities have been impli-

cated in state capture and corruption, including allegations of the looting of billions of rands through the irregular awarding of contracts, as heard in evidence presented at the Zondo Commission into state capture.

The government has continued to guarantee the debt of cash-strapped public entities, which has included billions in bailouts

to help them ward off insolvency, and, at times, even help them pay salaries.

Ratings agencies and international lending institutions, meanwhile, have repeatedly flagged the draining effect of SOEs on state coffers, calling for urgent reforms to reduce their dependency on government.

Below are some of the entities

which sank deeper into the financial abyss in 2019:

The power utility is undoubtedly the biggest threat to South Africa, with its inability to keep the lights on hitting the economy. The latest bout of load shedding in December may have resulted in a recession in the second half of 2019.

Fin24

OVER E18 BILLION TOTAL REVENUE PROJECTED IN 2020/21

BY BAHLE GAMA

TOTAL Revenue for 2020/21 has been projected to be E18 184 737 263.

This is according to the govern-

ment of the Kingdom of Eswatini estimates for the years from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2021.

Income

This is made of income taxes, taxes on property, taxes on goods and services, non-tax revenue.

According to the estimates, income taxes are estimated to be E6 378 827 003, taxes on property E41 620 318, taxes on goods and services 11 045 365 21 and non-tax revenue E718 924 681.

In the year 2019/20 total revenue

was projected to be E17 64 562 979 with income taxes estimated to be E5 889 685 902, taxes on property E40 019 184, taxes on goods and services E10 949 185 444 and non-tax revenue E785 672 448.

According to the ministry of finance second quarter report the total annual budget for government financed capital projects was E2.029 billion. About 54 per cent of the annual budget was released in the second quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

The main releases were E331.7 million for the ministry of economic planning and development, E128.6 million for the ministry of agriculture, E118.1 million for ministry of public works and transport and E100.3 million for the ministry of natural resources and energy.

Govt tasked to promote rural electrification programmes

BY QONDILE NITWANE

GOVERNMENT has the task to promote, support and provide rural electrification programmes through public and private sector participation.

According to the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) Regulatory Framework on the promotion of access to electricity, the ministry of natural resources and energy is mandated to prepare a rural electrification plan.

"There should also be a provision for co-ordination of rural access fund as well as a rural electrification data base," reads part of the presentation.

The framework also highlights the Regulation of the Electricity Supply Industry citing the different types of licences awarded which include Generation, Transmission, Distribution licence, Supply licence and Import and export license.

"On the Exemption from obligation to hold a Licence Section 22 of the Electricity Act 2007 provides that any person who generates, transmits and distributes electricity for own use, approved and authorised by the authority, is exempted from the obligation to apply for and hold a licence.

Quality

"In case there is a commercial activity of up to 1GWh of electricity, the tariff and quality should not be less favourable than the electricity that would have been sold by the licensee who sells the electricity," it read.

It also stated that Section 9 of the Electricity Licensing By Laws provided that the following persons were exempted from holding a licence; An operator of off grid and mini grid supply schemes and a generator who generates of more than one hundred kilowatts exclusively for own use shall apply and hold a license.

MCM in need of Petrol, Diesel supplier

BY BAHLE GAMA

The Municipal Council of Mbabane (MCM) invites tenders for the supply and delivery of Petrol and Diesel (Fuel).

This is according to information sourced from the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESP-PRA) website.

It states that more details on the requirements are provided in the invitation to tender document, which may be purchased from the Municipal Council of Mbabane's Civic Offices for a non-refundable fee of E300 per set.

The method of payment shall be cash or bank guaranteed cheque, payable to the Municipal Council of Mbabane. Tenders shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening.

Tenders

It further states that tenders must be submitted in sealed envelopes and deposited into the Tender Box located next to the council's revenue offices.

Tenders must also be delivered not later than noon, Friday January 24,

"Tenderers should familiarise themselves with local conditions, the Kingdom of Eswatini Procurement Act of 2011, Circular No. 1 of 2016 and take them into account in preparing their tender document. Tenderers are encouraged to visit the council before submitting their tender."



2020 at which time the tender will be opened in public.

"Tenderers should familiarise themselves with local conditions, the Kingdom of Eswatini Procurement Act of 2011, Circular No. 1 of 2016 and take them into account in prepar-

ing their tender document. Tenderers are encouraged to visit the council before submitting their tender.

Tenderers should also contact the Council Representative to arrange their visit or to obtain additional information," reads the invitation.

BUSINESS EXTRA

Eskom breakdowns remain sky high

JOHANNESBURG - Eskom announced yesterday morning that load shedding was not expected for the day thanks to a drop in demand during the holiday period and a return of some generating units to service.

But as of yesterday morning, a massive 14,574MW remains missing from SA's electricity system due to unplanned breakdowns at power stations. Any unplanned outages above 9,500 MW

mean that system is severely constrained and that load shedding may be on the cards. Eskom said the system remains vulnerable and unpredictable, and the load shedding remains a possibility.

Emergency

It will continue to use emergency power generation if necessary. This involves using open cycle gas turbines and pumped-storage hydroelectric plants.

These are very expensive ways of

generating power, particularly the gas turbines, which require large quantities of diesel. They can only be used for short periods before diesel and water reserves start running out.

South Africa has been hit by severe load shedding in February, October and December this year. After the economy shrank in the third quarter, economists fear that the load shedding in the fourth quarter could land SA in a recession.

Zimbabwe drought, food crisis likely to run into 2020

HARARE - A swathe of Zimbabwe, running from the southwest to the northeast, faces a "Phase 3" food crisis after a sporadic start to the November to March rainy season, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network said.

Phase 3 is just two steps down from full-blown famine, the USAID-funded Fewsnet said in an emailed statement on Friday. The forecast for the region is for "below average rainfall," it said.

Parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi will also be affected, it added.

It's the second drought in as many years. "Many areas of the region are likely to face a second consecutive poor rainfall season and harvest," the organisation warned.

That's particularly bad for Zimbabwe where the "poor macro-economy is negatively affecting planting and germination rates," it said. Millions of rural



Zimbabweans are too poor to plant and farm corn, the country's staple food. Zimbabwe faces an economic crisis where shortages of cash, fuel and electricity cripple people's access to basic food.

"High staple prices in the region are contributing to below-average purchasing power for a significant number of poor households," Fewsnet said, mainly because prices are trending five per cent to 10 per cent above the five-year average in South Africa, the region's biggest producer and the source of much of the region's milled corn.

Fin24

Boeing's key legal adviser on 737 Max crisis to retire

JOHANNESBURG - Boeing said another high-ranking executive working on the company's response to the 737 Max crisis will step down.

Michael Luttig (65) will retire at year-end, Boeing said in a statement Thursday, three days after the planemaker announced the departure of Dennis Muilenburg as CEO. Luttig, the company's former general counsel, was reassigned in May to advise Muilenburg and the board of directors on legal matters related to two deadly Max crashes. Luttig's departure

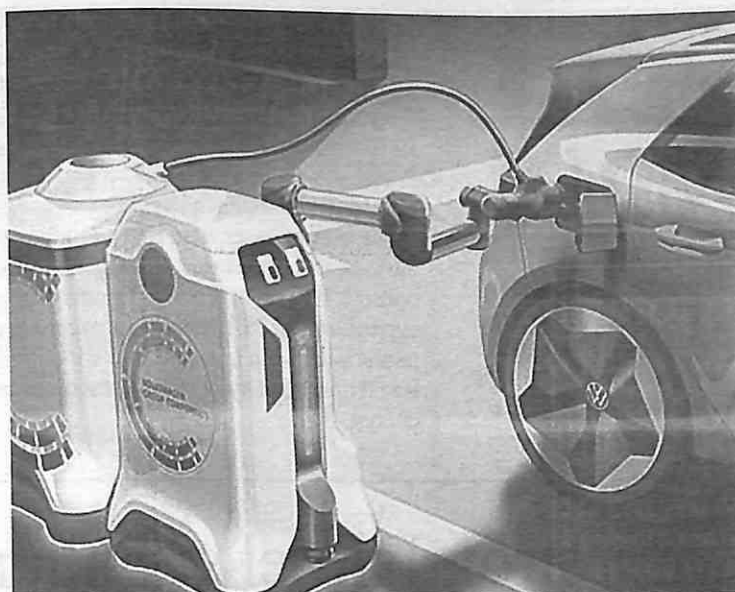
adds to the management turmoil at Boeing as the nine-month grounding of the manufacturer's best-selling jet drags on. David Calhoun, a board member who took over as chair in October, will replace Muilenburg on January 13. Chief Financial Officer Greg Smith is serving as interim CEO.

Boeing is under increased pressure in Washington after disclosing a new batch of internal communications about the Max's development to the US Federal Aviation Administration on December

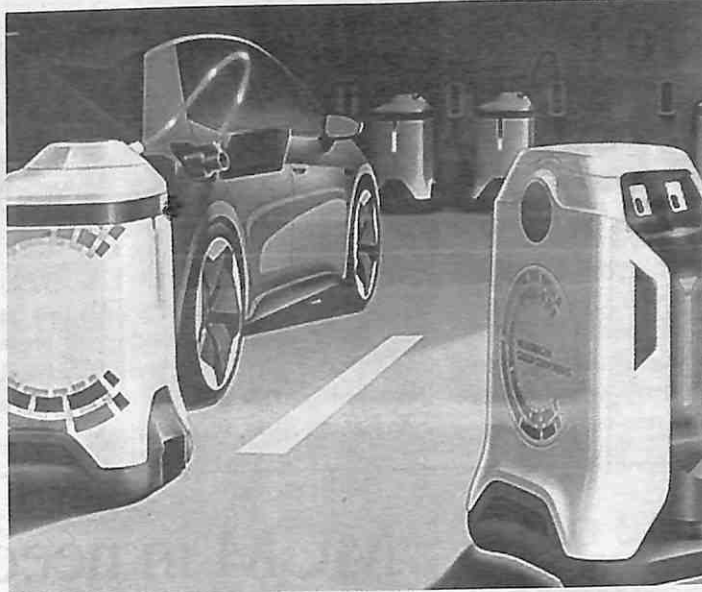
23. That was the same day Muilenburg stepped down.

The messages between Boeing employees paint a "very disturbing picture", according to an aide to a House of Representatives committee. At least some of the messages were written by the same Boeing pilot whose 2016 communications became the subject of sharp questioning by lawmakers in October, Bloomberg News reported earlier this week.

Fin24



INNOVATION: An alert sent over the airways will notify that the car needs to be charged and its current location and a robot will be sent to deliver one of the compact charging hubs.



TEST: Volkswagen says the robot and charging devices are only in a prototype phase and won't give a possible date for when they might be put into action.

VOLKSWAGEN DEVELOPING MOBILE AUTONOMOUS ROBOTS

MUNICH - Volkswagen has claimed that electric car owners won't need to drive to charging stations in the future - because the charger will be delivered to them via robots.

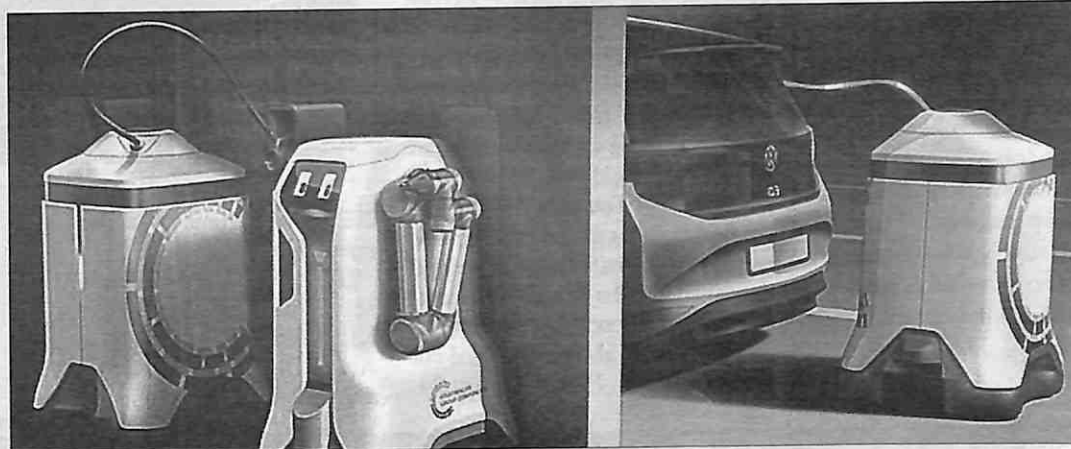
The German auto giant says it is developing 'mobile charging robots', which will autonomously drive themselves to a car's locations, open the socket flap and plug it into a compact charging device without any need for human interaction.

The robots are aimed at providing charging solutions in multi-storey and underground car parks where space is at a minimum.

Vision of the future: Volkswagen is developing autonomous robots that can tow a small charging device to electric cars to replenish the vehicle's batteries. This image shows a robot (second from left) that has arms that can connect the battery wagons (far left and right)

New Volkswagen models equipped with the brand's latest V2X communication system will be able to request the services of one of these robots.

An alert can be raised on a mobile phone all to notify that the car needs to be charged and its location in



VISION OF THE FUTURE: Volkswagen is developing autonomous robots that can tow a small charging device to electric cars to replenish the vehicle's batteries. This image shows a robot (second from left) that has arms that can connect the battery wagons.

the car park.

Self-driving robots will then transport a mobile energy storage device - known as a battery wagon - on a trailer to its whereabouts, open the charging socket flap, connect the plug to commence charging and decouple it once the batteries have been replenished.

The chargers and robots are all stored on site in a dedicated area, ready for them to leap into action.

When fully charged, the battery wagons are equipped with an around

25 kWh each.

The mobile energy storage device stays with the vehicle during the whole charging process takes place while the robot, in the meantime, transports more systems to other vehicles in that car park that are in desperate need of electricity.

Once the charging service is complete, the robot collects the energy storage device and brings it back to the on-site charging stations, where it can be plugged into the mains to boost it back to full capacity ready

to service other charge-strapped cars in the vicinity.

Images released by VW show the robot chargers - oddly with cartoon-like eyes - delivering one of the devices to a VW ID.3, the firm's first dedicated, from-the-ground-up, mainstream electric model due next year.

An alert sent over the airways will notify that the car needs to be charged and its current location and a robot will be sent to deliver

one of the compact charging hubs

What is VW's new V2X system?

The original version of VW's V2X system is called Car2X and will debut in the new Golf hatchback next year.

This allows the car to talk to other models with the system installed.

In order to share information the two vehicles need to be within an 800-metre radius.

Data can be pinged from one to the other in a matter of milliseconds.

It won't be gossiping about you to other Golfs, though.

Instead it can send and receive alerts about accidents, broken-down vehicles, traffic jams, roadworks and any emergency vehicles in the immediate vicinity.

Further development will mean the system fitted to electric models could be able to communicate with the autonomous driving robots to notify them that their in need of charge.

Mark Möller, Head of Development at Volkswagen Group Components, which is designing the charging bots, said: "The mobile charging robot will spark a revolution when it comes to charging in different parking facilities, such as multi-storey car parks, parking spaces and underground car parks because we bring the charging infrastructure to the car and not the other way around.

"With this, we are making almost every car park electric, without any complex individual infrastructural measures.

"It's a visionary prototype, which can be made into reality quite quickly, if the general conditions are right."

The charging robots can move several battery wagons at the same time and each one allows for DC quick charging with up to 50kW on the vehicle.

The robots themselves are fitted with the latest self-driving systems powered by cameras, laser scanners and ultrasonic sensors.

The combination of these not only allows the robot to carry out the charging process completely autonomously but also to move around freely in the parking area, to recognise possible obstacles and to react to these.

Volkswagen says the robot and charging devices are only in a prototype phase and won't give a possible date for when they might be put into action

Depending on the size of the parking area or the underground car park, several charging robots can be employed simultaneously so that several vehicles can be attended to, VW said.

"This approach has an enormous economic potential", Möller added.

"The construction work as well as the costs for the assembly of the charging infrastructure can be reduced considerably through the use of the robots

"Even the well-known problem of a charging station being blocked by another vehicle will no longer exist with our concept. You simply choose any parking space as usual. You can leave the rest to our electronic helper."

The mobile charging robots are currently only at the prototype phase of development. Volkswagen has refused to suggest a possible date for a market launch.

Mail Online

LAS VEGAS - A nearly mile-long tunnel in Las Vegas meant to showcase a "traffic busting" alternative for overcrowded cities should be completed next year, innovative entrepreneur Elon Musk said on Twitter.

The people-moving tunnel is being built by The Boring Company, one of several future-oriented enterprises founded by Musk, along with the Tesla electric-car company and SpaceX, which develops launch vehicles.

The 48-year-old billionaire tweeted late

Elon Musk's people-moving tunnel will open in 2020

Friday that "Boring Co is completing its first commercial tunnel in Vegas, going from Convention Center to Strip."

In a second tweet he said it would be "hopefully fully operational in 2020."

The Las Vegas convention center is a sprawling complex being further enlarged - the 1.3 kilometre

tunnel would facilitate travel within the center and to the city's famous Strip, where many of its major hotels and casinos are located.

Las Vegas officials selected The Boring Company in March to design, build and manage twin tunnels capable of transporting passengers in small, autonomous vehicles,

each holding eight to 16 passengers. The South Africa-born Musk, who is known for original and sometimes fanciful thinking, has long advocated a futuristic underground train system, called the Hyperloop, that would allow passenger capsules on Tesla-built chassis to move through low-pressure tubes at high speeds.

He aspires eventually to build such a system linking Washington and New York along the busy US Northeast corridor; he has also proposed projects for Chicago and Los Angeles.

Musk's company last year showed reporters a new test tunnel in California, but Las Vegas is Boring's first paying customer. *AFP*

Focus on Africa News

Continental News



ZIMBABWE JOURNOS SUFFER AS REGIME TIGHTENS GRIP

HARARE - Fanuel Mapfumo has been unable to lift heavy objects since a Zimbabwe police officer fractured his left arm as he was covering a story last August.

The 28-year-old journalist was filming a banned protest in the capital Harare when it happened.

Opposition supporters were voicing their discontent with the country's ailing economy when police descended on the crowd with batons.

Mapfumo, who works for the

Zim Morning Post, said they ordered him to stop filming.

"I identified myself as a journalist," he told AFP.

"But the next thing I remember is being dragged into a group of police officers who beat me all over my body."

Rights groups have accused Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa of persistently violating human rights since he took office in 2018.

In August last year six people died after the army used force

against civilians protesting a delay in the announcement of election results. In January, the army attacked protesters marching against a hefty fuel price hike, leaving 17 dead.

And as Mnangagwa has tightened his stance on dissent, journalists have also suffered repercussions.

"We documented 18 cases of abuse of members of the media this year," said Tabani Moyo, who heads the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) up from

only one case in 2018.

Most of the incidents involved police officers, he added.

The rise of attacks on journalists has brought back memories of the regime under former president Robert Mugabe, whose increasingly despotic rule cracked down on the independent media.

Mugabe was toppled by a military putsch in 2017 after 37 years in power, which led some of the country's embattled media professionals to hope for better days.

AFP

'You cannot decide for Kenyans what is good'

NAIROBI - Before the year ends, Deputy President William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga are at war yet again.

Ruto has hit out at Raila for asking Kenyans to be patient as work on the BBI report continues.

In an open attack, Ruto, said Kenya is the collective business of all Kenyans and not just Raila's.

"Boss, the last time I checked Kenya was the collective business of the 47 million of us. When did it become yours, for the rest of us to be patient with you, as you decide what is good for us!" he said in a tweet.

He added: "Please a little decency and respect is not much to ask of you ndugu."

Ruto was responding to Raila, while speaking in Nyamira, asked for calm as the implementation of the BBI report is unveiled.

Raila said Kenyans should be patient with BBI, which he said would transform the country.

"We want to thank Kenyans for standing with us against all odds. It will take time for us to get where we want to be, but we are on track," said Raila.

Fresh battle lines have been drawn between the two leaders over the constitutional amendment route for the BBI proposals.

The leaders have sharply differed on whether to use a parliamentary initiative or a referendum to anchor selected Building Bridges Initiative recommendations in the Constitution.

Raila Odinga and his allies are pushing for a public vote on the BBI proposals.

The Star

Mozambique Islamic extremists threaten SADC

MAPUTO - Ongoing attacks by a terrorist organisation linked to ISIS in Cabo Delgado, the northern province of Mozambique, has left behind a trail of destruction which could have a negative impact on the SADC region if left unchecked.

Cabo Delgado is made up of mostly sleepy, small villages populated by subsistence farmers who also

fish its coastline.

However, most of the villages are now deserted due to the attacks.

This year, more than 600 people were reportedly killed, while this month has seen 17 attacks from the terrorist group, the most recent occurring last week.

While not much is known about the group, it is alleged the Islamic State (ISIS) group has claimed

responsibility for 26 attacks.

It has left behind a trail of beheaded, disfigured and dismembered bodies of men, women and children.

The group's funding, its origins, mandate and even its name are unknown.

Jasmine Opperman, the Africa associate of Islamic theology on counterterrorism, said there were

between seven and 10 cells operating in Cabo Delgado.

"There are indicators of Islamic extremism involved in some of these cell structures," she said. "We are sitting with a serious, serious problem." Opperman said Islamic extremists, and specifically the Islamic State Central African Province, has taken note of the opportunity. She adds that the

Islamic State does not need a well-run organisation to penetrate new territories, but only a proxy.

Complicating the situation further is the arrival of Russian Wagner troops to fight Islamist militants in Mozambique.

Johann Smith, an independent political and security risk analyst, says the Wagner troops had been ill-prepared for the conditions in Mozambique upon their arrival.

It was not only the scorching temperatures, but the hi-tech equipment that has proven to be ineffective.

News24

BRIEFS

'World's oldest rhino' dies aged 57

DODOMA - A rhino thought to be the oldest in the world has died in Tanzania, aged 57. Fausta, an eastern black rhino, was first sighted in the Ngorongoro crater in 1965, when she was three. She roamed the crater freely for more than 54 years, but health issues in her old age required her to spend her final few years receiving specialist care in a sanctuary.

Fausta never had calves - something conservationists in Ngorongoro suggest may have contributed to her long life.

By 2016, Fausta's eyesight was deteriorating and she was suffering from the lingering effects of hyena attacks.

BBC NEWS

Islamic State 'beheads Christians'

ABUJA - The Islamic State (IS) group has released a video claiming to show the killing of 11 Christians in Nigeria. IS said it was part of its recently declared campaign to 'avenge' the death of its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi during a US raid in Syria in October. No details were given about the victims, who were all male, but IS says they were 'captured in the past weeks' in Nigeria's north-eastern Borno State. The 56-second video was produced by the IS "news agency" Amaq. It was released on Boxing Day and analysts say it was clearly timed to coincide with Christmas celebrations.

AFP

Candidate rejects coup allegations

PARIS - Former Ivory Coast rebel leader Guillaume Soro dismissed an arrest warrant issued against him as baseless and said he would pursue his campaign as a presidential candidate from overseas, according to comments published in a French newspaper yesterday.

Ivory Coast's public prosecutor issued the warrant for Soro on December 23 as part of an investigation into an alleged coup plot, forcing him to call off a planned homecoming for the first time since May and ahead of the October 2020 election.

Reuters

NOC may evacuate Zawiya refinery

TRIPOLI - Libyan state oil firm NOC is considering the closure of its western Zawiya port and evacuating staff from the refinery located there due to clashes nearby, a statement said. NOC might also shut down the El Sharara oilfield, whose crude is exported via Zawiya port, the statement said. Clashes between armed groups have broken out in recent days around Zawiya, during which a missile almost hit the oil complex. Forces allied to Libya's internationally recognised government on Friday accused eastern forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar of having tried to strike the oil port complex.

AFP

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

'JACOB ZUMA FEELS DESERTED BY THE ANC'

DURBAN - The brother of Jacob Zuma says the former president feels betrayed and abandoned by the ANC.

Speaking to the Sunday Times, Zuma's brother Khanya Zuma said that the party had 'deserted him'.

"When my brother is called a thief, the current ANC leadership will never be heard defending him, he is like a stranger to them now," Khanya Zuma told the publication.

Speaking from Zuma's Nkandla homestead, Khanya said it was only ordinary ANC members and South Africans that appreciated the former president.

He touched on Zuma's health, saying he noticed that the former president didn't look well when they attended a family funeral in October.

"It is only when he was admitted in hospital and even went over-



FEELS DEJECTED: Former South African President Jacob Zuma.

seas that we started worrying," he said.

eNCA reported on Friday that Zuma told those gathered at his annual Christmas party in Nkandla that he was 'fit and healthy'.

"I heard some people saying he (Zuma) was spotted at the chess

tournament but he is so weak that he couldn't even play. Why didn't you ask me how I feel? Why write something without asking me? What's wrong? Because I have all my strength. I'm perfectly fine," Zuma told the Nkandla villagers.

The broadcaster reported that in stark contrast to previous years when several political and business heavyweights were spotted at the event, only former North West premier Supra Mahumapelo showed up this year.

Weekly newspaper Sunday World previously reported that Zuma was in Cuba seeking treatment for an illness linked to an alleged poison plot in 2014. He also, apparently, was struggling with memory loss. On December 9, Zuma's lawyers told the Zondo commission of inquiry into state capture that he would not meet his deadline to respond to an application by journalist and broadcaster Redi Tlhabi for leave to cross-examine him, because he had been hospitalised, TimesLive reported.

During his testimony in July, Zuma claimed that Tlhabi was working on a film about his rape trial. **News24**

Matric pupils to write exams in isiXhosa, Sotho

CAPE TOWN - In a decision that will have major implications for isiXhosa and Sotho speaking pupils in the province, the Eastern Cape education department has given the go-ahead for matric pupils to answer exam questions in their home language from 2020.

The announcement was made by Provincial Education MEC Fundile Gade at a media briefing earlier this month, reports the Daily Dispatch.

To date, matrics have only been able to answer exam questions in English and Afrikaans. Multilingual exams will ensure that pupils receive question papers in their home languages as well as English and Afrikaans and can choose which language to use.

Eastern Cape schools will be the first in the country to apply this exam model in Grade 12. It will mean that pupils who struggle to understand English or Afrikaans will now be able to understand subject content more easily, according to some education experts.

Addressing the media in Zwelitsha, Gade said more and more schools in the Eastern Cape had started mother tongue-based teaching, learning and assessment at the foundation phase to improve results.

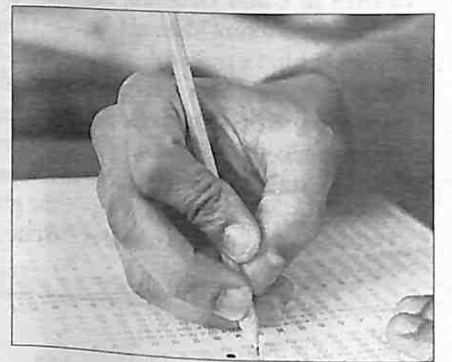
Seven years ago, the Eastern Cape became the first province to move towards implementing the home language programme.

In September, Gade said of the 5 400 schools in the province, more than 2 000 had adopted the programme in Grades 1, 2 and 3.

He said in 2012, 74 schools in Cofimvaba adopted the model and started teaching subjects, including mathematics, in isiXhosa. In 2017, the model was rolled out to a further 310 schools and extended to other lower grades.

In 2020 the programme would be implemented at Grade 12 level, Gade said.

"We have passed through the 2019 examinations. Our eyes are now on the 2020 examinations because we are going to have Grade 12 exam questions in isiXhosa, Sotho, Afrikaans and English."



Stats SA Census 2021 Mini Test reveals a need for privacy

CAPE TOWN - Concerns about the privacy of information shared affected response rates to the just-concluded Census 2021 Mini Test conducted by Stats SA.

This despite assurances from officials of the national statistics agency that confidentiality of information collected is protected under the Statistics Act.

The act provides for a fine of up to R10 000 and/or imprisonment of up to six months for fieldworkers or other employees of Stats SA who are found guilty of contravening it.

In a statement, Stats SA said: "We are experiencing a general decline in response rates due to concerns about information security."

Other challenges of collecting data faced during the Mini Test includ-



ed: "Accessing households in high-walled security complexes due to safety and security concerns and respondent apathy due to the current political and social environment."

According to the agency: "Every Stats SA official is sworn to uphold the confidentiality of collected data.

Employees of Stats SA will be legally bound, by signing the oath of confidentiality, never to disclose individual information gathered in the course of their duties.

"The oath continues to apply even after employment has ceased."

In the frequently asked questions section of its website, Stats SA offers

the guarantee that "Section 8 of the Statistics Act states that no unauthorised person or organisation (including government departments) can have access to individual information that is gathered in terms of the act."

The Act states: "No other government organisation can look at any individual information collected during the census except when the data have been aggregated for report purposes and the respondent's personal details have been excluded."

Other challenges were a level of respondent fatigue due to the long census questionnaire, which hampered maximum co-operation from respondents as well as managing to recruit fieldworkers from within their enumeration areas.

Cape Argus

'Release of Vicki Momberg should not send wrong message'

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) said racism should be condemned at all costs, this despite the release of convicted racist Vicki Momberg.

Momberg was set free on Friday as part of the special remission of sentence announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Reconciliation Day.

The former real estate agent was found guilty on four counts of crimen injuria after she called a black offi-



FREE: Convicted racist Vicki Momberg.

cer the k-word 48 times following a smash and grab incident in 2016.

The racist rant was captured on a video that went viral, sparking outrage.

She was later sentenced to two years behind bars with one year suspended.

Free

Momberg was set free after spending only a few months at the Sun City prison in Johannesburg.

Momberg was rearrested in November this year after she failed to appear in court in August.

She was released after she reached her sentence expiry date, thanks to the special remission of sen-

tence announced by Ramaphosa.

The SAHRC's CEO Tseliso Thipanyane said the release of the former real estate agent should not send a wrong message.

"I don't think anybody is challenging any release. However, it should not send the wrong signal, that people can get away with a crime."

Other convicts set free through the remission programme include Fees Must Fall activist Kanya Cekeshe and abaThembu king Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo.

EWN

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

LOCK UP DRINK-DRIVERS - MINISTER MBALULA

JOHANNESBURG - Motorists who intend driving drunk have been warned: Transport minister Fikile Mbalula wants to change the law to ensure it bites going forward.

"It can't be business as usual. drink-driving, it's a mess. It causes carnage. Over and above tiredness and unroadworthy vehicles, but drunken driving is a mess for our country and I intend to clamp down heavily in terms of the law. I want to put them in jail for drinking and driving. I want them to be locked up," the minister said in an interview with news broadcaster eNCA.

The minister has been conducting a number of interviews with news broadcasters as the festive season starts to wind down.

He told SABC news that while



LOCK THEM UP: Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula.

road safety is improving, even one death is too many.

"The attitude has been different and the statistics tell us a different story: It means our message has been going through and people are responding well," the min-

ister said during an interview with SABC News on Saturday.

Nevertheless, he added: "There are culprits who are persistent in doing things like drinking and driving... Losing one life is too many."

He said that the fatal mix of alcohol and irresponsible driving remained the most serious problem. Also of key concern was the use of unroadworthy vehicles - found particularly to be crossing to and fro from the Beitbridge border post.

In addition, he said it was worrying that a large number of road fatalities were that of drunk pedestrians.

He said that compared to this period last year, the number of fatalities appeared significantly reduced - although the final statistics would only be released on January 23.

"We are blessed that up until now, we have not witnessed a major fatality [involving many people] on the roads," he told the broadcaster. *News24*

DA will lose Tshwane in 2020, says ANC

JOHANNESBURG - The African National Congress (ANC) in Tshwane is adamant that the Democratic Alliance (DA) will be removed come the next council meeting in the new year.

The past week, the High Court in Pretoria ruled that the DA should remain in control, pending the finalisation of a review application and suspended all resolutions taken at a council meeting that removed Mayor Stevens Mokgalapa and Speaker Katlego Mathebe.

It also ruled that the case will be treated as a matter of urgency.

The DA approached the High Court after chaotic scenes in the council ahead of a vote to remove Mokgalapa and Mathebe.

The ANC's Kgosi Maepa said: "While the (court) review happens, the council will continue. Council will continue and we can remove the people again on 3 January." *The Star*

Eskom appeals for collective effort to keep electricity usage low

JOHANNESBURG - Electricity utility Eskom confirmed yesterday that no load-shedding was expected for the day, in a continuation of the drop in demand from the start of the holiday period in mid-December.

"Eskom will continue to use emergency reserves to supplement capacity if necessary over this period. We, however, remind customers that as the system continues to be vulnerable and unpredictable, the possibility of load-shedding remains," it said in a statement.

"Breakdowns (UCLF) are at 14 574MW as at 6.30 this morning. Our technical teams will continue to work over the holiday period to monitor the situation, carry out planned maintenance and to work at reducing unplanned breakdowns to below 9 500MW to enable us to minimise the possibility of load-shedding."

"We continue to ask customers to reduce demand as a concerted collective effort can help to avoid or lessen the level of load-shedding."

Eskom has offered tips to consumers on how to reduce their electricity usage, ranging from switching off appliances when not in use at plug points - including those on standby mode - and minimising use of air conditioning systems.

Iol



Drink-driving arrests rise but fewer vehicles on road

JOHANNESBURG - There have been fewer vehicles on the road compared to previous years during the festive season, says Advocate Johan Jonck of Arrive Alive.

There also appears to be fewer accidents involving multiple fatalities.

The number of arrests for drink-driving is, however, still increasing.

While roads were relatively calm yesterday as some holidaymakers arrived at their destinations, offi-

cials remain committed to vigilant control of traffic, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) and Arrive Alive said.

"We are relatively pleased with the way [traffic flow] is going," said RTMC Spokesperson Simon Zwane.

He said that yesterday, traffic was flowing normally, with about 800 cars per hour recorded on the roads from Johannesburg into Durban and Limpopo.

"Traffic will calm down now on

major national routes."

Zwane said people travelling on the N1 should be careful of trailers, and some cars, that had broken down along the road.

He said a key problem remained people driving with overloaded trailers.

As Christmas approaches, officials will focus on key areas of holiday-making destinations and enforce road safety there, said Zwane.

Pedestrian safety and curbing drink-driving is also another key

focus area for officials.

Roadblocks and checkpoints will be set up, and alcohol tests conducted.

"The fact there are a number of single-vehicle accidents occurring suggests that driver fatigue or drunken driving remain problems."

Jonck said he was pleased to see highly visible road traffic enforcement this year.

"There has been good co-ordination of roadblocks that are operating 24/7." *News24*

Fake 'policeman' nabbed at roadblock

JOHANNESBURG - A suspect was caught with a stolen police firearm, police-issue handcuffs as well as a police reflector jacket and bullet-proof vest on Saturday night.

The 28-year-old suspect also had two handgrenades and 43

9mm rounds of ammunition in his possession.

Brig Motlalela Mojapelo said he was apprehended at about 9pm during a festive season safety operation, jointly conducted by Groblersdal police and the traffic police along the

Loskop/Ntwane road next to the Moutse Magistrates' Court, in Limpopo.

"The law enforcement officers conducting a roadblock in the area pulled over a white Volkswagen Polo driven by the suspect." *IOL*

Sol's family fumes as 'cage' erected around his grave

KIMBERLY - The family of Sol Plaatje has accused the Northern Cape government of 'desecration' by putting a 'cage' around the political icon's grave in what appears to be a rushed spruce-up project ahead of a planned wreath-laying by President Cyril Ramaphosa next month.

A family member said while they welcomed Ramaphosa's gesture of paying homage to Plaatje, they were unhappy and felt 'disrespected' that the grave

had been touched without their consent or input.

"They can't put a cage, lock the gate and we don't even know who's got the keys ... we're locked out. The cage has created a barrier for everyone," said the literary icon's great-grandson Sebeka Plaatje.

He was referring to the galvanised welded mesh fencing around the grave. "Had we agreed to it, we would not have allowed them to put a cage around the grave. We cannot

allow this to happen just for some people to score political mileage," he said.

Sebeka added that they were denied an opportunity to perform a ritual on the grave before it was fenced off. The family have since instructed their lawyers to write to several government officials, including Ramaphosa and Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul, demanding that work should be stopped pending a proper consultative process. *City Press*

Close to 30 die in initiation ceremonies

JOHANNESBURG - The number of initiation deaths across the country is now close to 30, with the Eastern Cape topping the death toll.

In Gauteng, two initiates have died at two different illegal initiation schools, with one person arrested.

One of them was 16-year-old Lenasia resident Mpho Mthupi who went missing on 23 November.

His family say men visited their home, telling them that he had taken himself to an initiation school but his family believes he was abducted.

Mthupi's body was found on December 18, a short distance from a now illegal initiation school.

He was laid to rest over the weekend. *eNCA*



Focus on World News

Global News

UN approves Russia-backed 'cybercrime' treaty

GENEVA - The United Nations has approved a Russian-backed cybercrime treaty that has alarmed America and Western powers who fear it will censor the internet.

The General Assembly approved the resolution, sponsored by Russia and backed by China, on Friday. The movement will now set up a committee of international experts in 2020. The panel will work to set up 'a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes,' according to the resolution.

America, Western powers and other rights groups have already warned against the move as they fear that the language is code for legitimising crackdowns on expression.

China already heavily restricts internet searches to avoid topics that are sensitive to its communist leadership as well as news sites with critical coverage.

A number of countries have increasingly tried to follow suit and crack down on internet usage. India is set to cut off online access in Kashmir in August after it stripped autonomy to the Muslim-majority region.

Daily Mail

The Queen breaks golden 'married rule'

LONDON - Princess Beatrice's fiancé Edo Mapelli Mozzi had just hours to prepare for his first Royal Christmas at Sandringham, I can reveal.

It seems the Queen decided to break her rule - that only married couples and members of the Royal Family can attend the three-day festivities - at the very last minute.

Her change of heart meant Edo faced a frantic time trying to prepare his wardrobe - no mean feat given that there are up to five outfit changes a day at the Norfolk estate. Sandringham may be known as the least grand Royal palace but Christmas there is still carried out with military precision. Guests arrived on Christmas Eve in reverse order to their seniority within the family. As such, Bea and Edo, and Princess Eugenie and her husband Jack Brooksbank, would have been among the first people to arrive. *The Sun*

TRUMP RETWEETS MEME CLAIMING JESUS LIKES HIM BETTER THAN OBAMA

NEW YORK - Donald Trump has retweeted a two-year-old meme that suggests Jesus Christ likes him better than Barack Obama and calls the current White House resident 'heaven sent'.

On Friday, Trump reshared the image that states '(Obama) kicked me out, (Trump) invited me back' and shows a man carrying luggage, causing Twitter users to hit out against the insinuation.

The social media post from January 2018 is captioned: "There's so much to be thankful for regarding our POTUS Trump!"

"I truly believe this man was heaven sent in order to save and protect the most gracious, benevolent, and in turn, prosperous country ever. God bless him and his family."

The editor-in-chief of Christian Today blasted Trump after the impeachment hearings.

"Unfortunately, the words that we applied to Mr. Clinton 20 years

ago apply almost perfectly to our current president," Mark Galli wrote on Thursday.



"Whether Trump should be removed from office by the Senate or by popular vote next election - that is a matter of prudential judgment. That he should be removed, we believe, is not a matter of partisan loyalties but loyalty to the Creator of the Ten

Commandments."



Trump replied to the old meme he resurfaced years later: "Thank you!"

However on Friday, social media users hit back at Trump's suggestion about the son of God favouring him.

Some joked about whether he was carrying his tax returns in the image and others mentioned his

stance on border control.

'Is He bringing us your tax returns in that luggage? Straight from heaven to your impeachment trial? Awesome!' one person replied.

Trump had fired back to the prominent Christian magazine last Friday, a day after it published an editorial arguing that he should be removed from office because of his 'blackened moral record'.

Religion

Trump tweeted that Christianity Today, an evangelical magazine founded by the late Rev. Billy Graham, 'would rather have a Radical Left nonbeliever, who wants to take your religion and your guns, than Donald Trump as your President.'

The magazine 'has been doing poorly and hasn't been involved with the Billy Graham family for many years,' Trump wrote.

He questioned whether the magazine would prefer a Democratic president 'to guard their religion.'

Daily Mail

Is Kim Jong Un planning his 'Christmas gift' for Washington?

PYONGYANG - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has convened a key meeting of top ruling party officials, state media said yesterday, ahead of a year-end deadline for Washington to shift its stance on stalled nuclear talks.

The plenary session, which opened on Saturday, follows widespread speculation that Pyongyang is preparing to test an intercontinental ballistic missile - as a threatened 'Christmas gift' for Washington.

Kim presided over the meeting which discussed a new 'transparent, anti-imperialist independent stand',

the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The ruling Workers' Party of Korea will also 'discuss important matters arising... in the building of the state and national defence', KCNA added.

Talks on denuclearising the Korean peninsula have been largely deadlocked since the second summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump collapsed in Hanoi at the start of this year. The opening of the plenary comes a week after Kim held a meeting of top defence officials and discussed boosting military capabilities. Pyongyang has carried out a



series of static tests at its Sohae rocket facility this month, after a number of weapons launches in recent weeks

- some of them described as ballistic missiles by Japan and others.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Mass killings hit new high

NEW YORK - The first one occurred 19 days into the new year when a man used an ax to kill four family members including his infant daughter.

Five months later, 12 people were killed in a workplace shooting in Virginia. 22 more died at a Walmart in El Paso in August.

A database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University shows that there were more mass killings this year than any year dating back to at least the 1970s, punctuated by a chilling succession of deadly rampages during the summer.

Daily Mail

Mother takes legal action against hotel

LONDON - The mother who lost two children and her husband when they drowned in a Costa del Sol swimming pool is set to take legal action against the hotel where they died. Olubunmi Diya, 49, insisted that 'something must have been wrong with the pool' that 'made swimming difficult' as she challenged the claim that her husband Gabriel, 52, and children Comfort, nine, and Praise-Emmanuel, 16, were unable to swim. The family had been on holiday at the resort from their home in Charlton, south-east London, when tragedy struck as Praise-Emmanuel and Gabriel jumped into the pool after Comfort got into difficulty. *Daily Mail*

Violence breaks out over transport strike

PARIS - Violence broke out on the streets of Paris when French 'yellow vest' protesters gathered on the 24th day of the nationwide multi-sector strike.

Protesters marching against the French government's planned pension reform clashed with the police in Paris on Saturday as police fired tear gas to disperse some groups of demonstrators.

French trade unions have spearheaded nationwide strikes since early December in an outcry over President Emmanuel Macron's pensions overhaul, disrupting schools, railways and roads, while lending support to regular protests.

Reuters

Attacker stabs five at rabbi's home

NEW YORK - An attacker stabbed five people late on Saturday at a rabbi's home in New York state before fleeing, a Jewish organization said, in a rampage that came after days of increased tensions over anti-Semitic assaults. The Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council said on Twitter an attacker wearing a scarf stabbed the victims at a house in Monsey, Rockland County, about 30 miles north of New York City. All five victims were taken to local hospitals, the council said, adding that two of the victims were critical, with one of them stabbed at least six times. New York Attorney General Letitia James said she was "deeply disturbed" by the situation in Monsey.

DPA

ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

● REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

DJs CLAIM ONLY FEW ARTIST SEND THEM PACKS

BY PHETSILE MAMBA
AND SETSABILE NKAMBULE

LOCAL DJs claim that the reason they do not play local artists' song that they never receive deejay packs.

This came about when the entertainment desk noticed that DJs usually play more international songs as opposed to local ones.

Some DJs said local singers and rappers did not submit their packs for them to use during their sets.

DJ packs are essential for spinners to enable them to get artists' tracks in the mix much more smoothly and seamlessly. New songs are usually tested in mix-shows first before they are added to a normal radio rotation.

While some spinners opted not to comment on the issue,

Supa CDQ, a hip-hop DJ said he had

received a few packs from artists.

Supa CDQ also said he received DJ packs from only a few local musicians, adding that this was worrying because there were many recording artists in the country. He said this made it harder for DJs to promote local music.

He said the relationship between artist and DJs existed, but they never work on anything musical together. He also mentioned that somewhere friends, but still failed to send any packs to each other.

"Not all artists send us DJ packs," said hip hop DJ Master P. He said artist should understand that they needed to send DJ packs in order for their music to be promoted.

He advised upcoming artists to use this platform to promote their music.

He mentioned that well established artists would give out their music to DJs to familiarise music lovers with the product.

The entertainment desk also spoke to a number of artists to on why they were failing to send DJ packs to the spinners to promote their music.

Moziak said although he did send packs to a number of DJs, he felt like his songs were not played enough.

"I honestly feel like they do not play the songs enough. I mean it wouldn't hurt if 'Right On Time' is played 10 times in one night, if you catch my drift." I think the relationship between local DJs and artists is a tricky one. Some DJs will show favouritism towards certain artists because they know them personally or are friends with them. Even artists will choose to give certain DJs their music because we will say 'I can't have my music played by Master P because I just don't like him,' or whatever the excuse is.

"But that is my observation. I had a few DJs come to me to ask for DJ packs for specific songs, which is quite encouraging," he said.

He further encouraged musicians to send DJ packs to spinners to help promote their art.

Smokey and Wigo had a different opinion. According to them, their kind of music didn't need that kind of promotion because the way they do music was limited.

"Because of the kind of sound we make, we know that we need to package our music differently and put in mind that it is for a different market. It is because of this reason that we have not yet tried to do DJ packs," they said.

Lomasoul said the DJ packs had helped her a lot in terms of promoting her music.

She felt that DJs played a great role in supporting local art by playing local songs during their sets.

She encouraged other artists to send packs to DJs in order to promote their music.



IN THE MOMENT: Sands and Freshly Ground's Zolani Mahola having a conversation at the Lesotho Tourism Festival.

Sands shines at Letofe

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

SANDS keeps spreading his wings as he recently performed at the Lesotho Tourism Festival.

As he had promised his fans in Lesotho, Sands delivered a great performance at the 15th annual Standard Bank Lesotho tourism Festival held in Maseru.

According to Sands, this was his second booking in Lesotho after he collaborated with African music Icon Tsepo Tshola.

"This is part of my ongoing African Tour, which will coincide with the release of my second album early in 2020.

"We also used the opportunity to promote my latest and first single of my upcoming album #Ngyathantaza. The video was shot in the kingdom in November and will premiere in all music channels across Africa in January," he said.

The artist performed amongst musicians in the likes of Caiphus Semenya,

Freshlyground, Tsepo Tshola, Vusi Nova, Mantsa, Something Soweto and Bongo Maffin, to name a few.

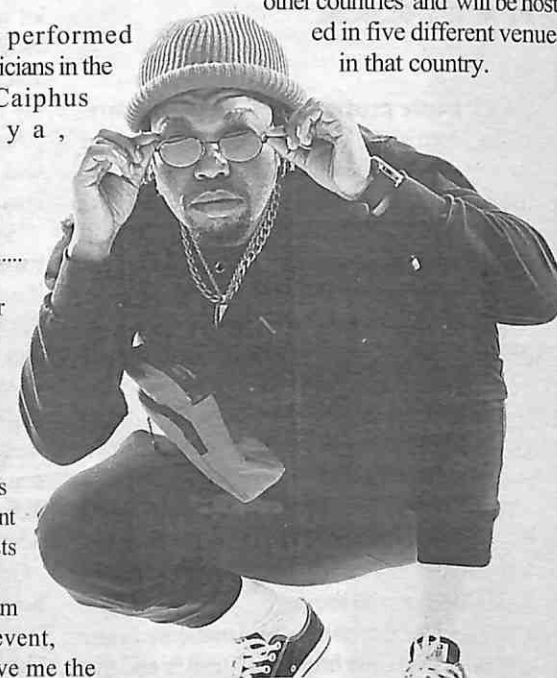
He disclosed that he had another gig in that country on February 29 at Setsoto Stadium in Maseru, where Ntate Tshola would be honoured by music heavy weights and legends from all over Africa as he will celebrating 50 years in the music industry.

Festival

Lesotho Tourism Jazz festival also, known as LETOFE Sounds of Blue, is a music festival that started in 2005 to contribute to Lesotho Tourism and provide world-class festivals to the Basotho nation and beyond.

The festival has grown immensely since its inception and has hosted international acts such as Kenny Latimore, Andy Narrel, Syleena Johnson and more.

This year it will include artists from Lesotho, South Africa, among other countries and will be hosted in five different venues in that country.



BE PREPARED: Rapper and event organiser Illa Panboy.

PREPARE FOR EVENTS - ILLA PENBOY

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

RAPPER and event organiser Illa Panboy has advised event organisers to ensure they are well prepared before hosting any event.

Following the number of successful events Illa has hosted, he then advised artists on things they should consider in order to host successful events. According

to him, planning events in time has worked for him as he was able to advertise his gigs properly and give people time to purchase tickets. He said thus had also helped him to do some to research with regards to the dates and venues of the event.

"When you are an event organiser, coming up with different concepts is very important. Always have new plans to better each event so as to give your supporters something to look forward to at every event you host," he said. He said

people should first come up with a concept, choose a perfect venue, choose a proper date, check the weather forecast, book artists early, tell friends about the event and ask them to tell others about it, use all platforms to advertise it and make sure to confirm everything you promised.

Organiser

"Pricing is everything. As an event organiser, you're as good as your last event, so I always make sure I give my best," he said. His further stated that having in mind the kind of audience one

is hosting the event for was important as it helped event organisers to know which of artists to book. Illa said as Liswati, it had been his wish that at every event he hosted local artists should be promoted.

"I am the person I am today because of event, organisers who gave me the platform to perform at their events, so I am pledging, as a local artist, to also promote local art and render opportunities

MEGASOUND SHOWERS ZULU D WITH LOVE

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SWAMA 'Best DJ of the Year' award winner Zulu D was showered with love during his award celebration party last Saturday at the Mega Lounge.

Zulu D celebrated his second win as he scooped the same award last year joined by fans who had come in their numbers to support him.

The DJ played an hour long set proving to his fans why he won. He delivered good quality music for his fans.

Revellers were happy to celebrate with him, he also interacted with them as he would join them on the dance-floor from time to time.

Zulu D didn't just celebrate with his fans as DJs from his stable also supported him.

They also shut down the lounge with their sets. Tonic Deep, Matamza and Supa CDQ kept the crowd entertained before Zulu D took over. The crowd would dance and sing along to most of the songs that were played by the DJs.

The award winning DJ said he was happy with the turn out saying it showed how much people actually loved him and his music.

"I am overwhelmed by the support people give me, the fact that they voted for me shows how much people love my music and how much I have connected with my fans," Zulu D said.

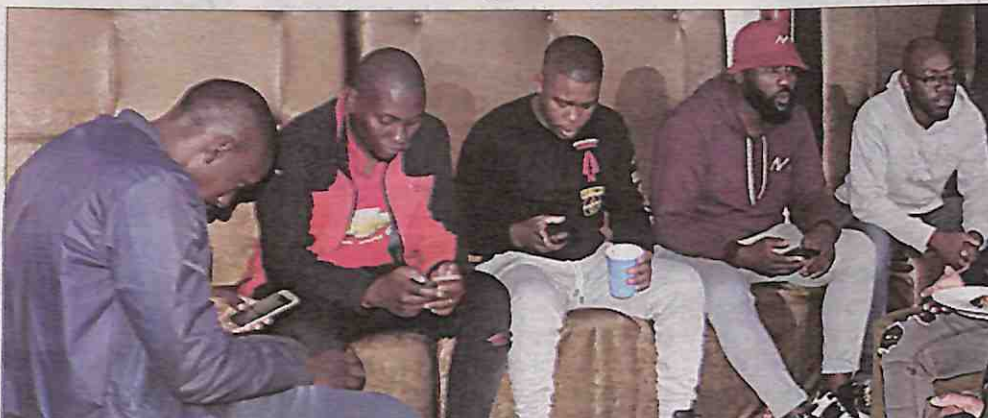
He also thanked his fans for the award saying it meant a lot to him, hence the celebration.

Zulu's supporters danced the night away and the mood was laughter and screams as he played his set.

One of the revellers Phila Ngwenya said that he loved Zulu's set and that he connected with them. He said he would vote for him all over again given a chance.



MOOD: This was the mood at the Mega Lounge.



BORED: DJs glued to their phones.



CELEBRATING: Zulu D celebrates with his fans.



WINNER: MTN SWAMA Best DJ of the Year Zulu D in a jovial mood.

DEEP HOUSE MUSIC PROVES TO BE TIMELESS

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

DEEP house proves to be a timeless genre.

The 'Deep in the City' show held at the Mega Lounge on Friday attracted house heads from the capital city as local deep house deejays dished out mellow tunes and beats for the intimate crowd.

The deejays included Jazzinsoul, Mmeli, Yugo, Smish, Mseto, and Orthodox amongst others.

One of the deep house fanatics said the reason he loved the genre so much was that it calmed him down after a long day at work, as compared to other genres.

This was evident in that the audience sat on the couches, watched a soccer match between Manchester City and Wolves bopping their heads along to the music.

The deejays themselves said that deep house was not a trend, but more of a lifestyle and that was why it would never be out of style.

Antidote Music's Mmeli Hlanze said that a

lot went into preparing for a set, "basically I listen to a lot of music and also consider the amount of time that I have been allocated and my mood on that particular day."

Another deep house fan Nicholas Dlamini said that deep house was a culture and all its fans understood each other.

"Since we are all on the same wave length, we understand the music the same way. So half the time, we sit and just get lost in the music, have conversations but that is kept to a minimal. Perhaps that's why we fight less," he joked.

Mseto and Forbes were a crowd favourite, as during their sets members of the audience would stand up occasionally to show their appreciation. Orthodox also delivered a stellar set which the attendees said accommodated even those who were not fans of the genre.

One of the spinners Jazzinsoul said that deep house still had a long way to go and that deejays were hoping to educate people about it. He went on to say that he was truly inspired by the others spinners of night as they showed that they had passion.



DEEP: Megasound deejays Yugo and Smish dish out good tunes during the 'Deep in the City' show held at the Mega Lounge on Friday night. (Pic: Andile Dlamini)

MORE FROM EL WORLD SHOW AT SOLANI'S



IT'S BEEN GOOD: El World team captured after their performance at the El World Music Experience at Solani's Shisanyama (Pics: Nokwnada Sibandze)



ON CLOUD NINE: This lady got emotional during the group's performance.



POSE: El World took time to take pictures with fans.



SWAZI SON: Singer S-Tone egging on the crowd to sing along.



COME RAIN OR SUNSHINE: A section of the crowd in dance.



DJ Maphorisa is the greatest producer in SA

PRETORIA - DJ Maphorisa has been saying he's the greatest there is as far as SA music is concerned and, finally, Mzansi agrees.

As the last day of the year is soon approaching and people give their suggestions as to which song would be the "cross-over" song, fans on social media took the time to acknowledge Maphorisa's contribution to music this year.

Known for his versatility and as the man behind many hits, Maphorisa's name made it on the trends list, the producer getting a resounding nod for making sure people enjoy 2019 with all the hits he and Kabza composed this year. Though he's lapping up the praise now, Maphorisa has received

his fair share of criticism from people who said he was riding Kabza's wave and "overworking" him. Seeming unfazed, in July Maphorisa shared on Twitter that the hate would not stop his shine. "Everyone wants a piece of Scorpion Kings. Haters want it down on platforms. Guys are jealous (of me), saying I am using Kabza. Why all this hate while everyone loves this project? Since Kabza started working with me has he ever missed a gig? So we don't deserve it?"

It might have taken Mzansi a long time to recognise Maphorisa for the hits he makes, but like the good old saying goes, "Better late than never", right?

Times Live

Retired Rebel
@TsholoRabotsho

Maphorisa has been number one THE WHOLE YEAR. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? 🤔 twitter.com/TsholoRabotsho...

Retired Rebel @TsholoRabotsho

Maphorisa's back must be so sore from carrying the whole music industry. Mane had no off days this WHOLE year. 🤔 Ye fave sound never. ❤️

Yandiswa. Ndukut
@Yandiswa_34

Dj Maphorisa if you know you know... Argue with your keyboard

7:24 AM - Dec 27, 2019 - Randburg, South Africa

YEAR IN REVIEW: CASSPER NYOVEST FILLS UP ROYAL BAFOKENG

RUSTENBURG - After successful concerts at the Ticketpro Dome in Johannesburg, Orlando Stadium, FNB Stadium and Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, rapper Cassper Nyovest took his successful #FillUp series home to Rustenburg and the Royal Bafokeng Stadium.

The rapper's "homecoming" was glorious as fans flocked to the stadium to watch some of the hottest acts in Mzansi perform.

But the main attraction was Cassper and

he didn't disappoint with a high energy set that had fans begging for more.

After several delays, Cassper announced the show in October. In the lead up to the show, Cassper opened up about his struggles to find a sponsor. The rapper, who was allegedly saddled with R7m debt last year after largely going at it alone for his Fill Up Moses Mabhida concert in Durban, told fans that he had not received sponsors from the North West government. "No sponsors from

the NW gov yet. Santse ke kopa thuso. It's hard ouchea bro," he told fans at the start of November. He said he struggled every year to pull off the concert. "One would think they would be fighting to be part of the property now, but nah. It's hard for a black entrepreneur in SA, bro. It's so hard! But we soldier on! "A few weeks later he announced a sponsorship with Samsung for the show and indicated that things were looking up.

Times Live





Celebville

International Celebrity News

Ann remembers her late husband

JOHANNESBURG - Christmas Day marked two years since Robbie Malinga died and his wife, Ann, opened up about how difficult the holidays are without him.

Robbie died on December 25, 2017, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

In commemoration of the anniversary of Robbie's death, Ann shared a picture of the late muso's resting place, saying that December holidays are the hardest without him.

"Darkest day of our lives but glorious in the heavens because you gained your angel wings and flew to heaven. December holidays are the hardest."

Four months ago Ann opened up about the pain of losing her husband after receiving a flood of messages from followers. *Sowetan*



Greyjoy's body double on 'Game of Thrones' Died on Christmas Eve

HOLLYWOOD - Sad news for "Game of Thrones" fans as the guy who stood in as the body double for Alfie Allen's Theon Greyjoy has died, and Alfie's now offering up his thoughts and prayers.

Andrew Dunbar passed away on Christmas Eve in Belfast, Ireland, this according to his friends and an extras acting agency that had employed him. No cause of death was immediately revealed, but the news seemed to stun his contemporaries, including Alfie.

The English actor posted tributes of his 'GoT' stand-in, saying "RIP Andrew Dunbar," and then going on to share his full thoughts. Alfie wrote, "Andrew Dunbar was an actor who was also a stand in as Theon on GoT. Extremely shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. To lose a loved one so young, I can only imagine what his family are going through."

Dunbar not only served as Theon's body double, but he was also cast on the show as an extra for a couple different scenes notably, as one of Jon Snow's allies in the 'Battle of the Bastards' episode as well as a Stark house bannerman. Dude just had the look.

It's unclear how long he stood in for Alfie, he's reported to have first been cast as an extra (and, presumably, as Alfie's double) from seasons 6 through 8 but obviously it was long enough for the guy himself to remember and commemorate him. *TMZ*

Sho booked off after sibling's passing

JOHANNESBURG - After an incredible 2019, Sho Madjozi's year ended in tragedy after the passing of her sister, Makhanani Maganye, who died in a road accident.

Sho lost her sister in a car accident on December 17. She was laid to rest on December 22.

The news was confirmed in a statement issued on Wednesday by We Make Music Ltd on social media.

"On Behalf of Sho Madjozi, we wish to express our gratitude for the support we have received following the tragic death of her younger sister, Makhanani Maganye, in a car accident on December 17 in Bungeni village, Limpopo. Makhanani was laid to rest on Sunday 22 December."

The statement added that they were grateful to organisers of various shows that Sho could not honour during



her difficult time. "We acknowledge and appreciate the disappointment of fans who were looking forward to her performances and appeal for their understanding and support." The statement said Sho would

be back at work as soon as she was in a position to do so.

It concluded by urging South Africans to drive carefully, especially during the festive season. *Times Live*

Emtee reflects on being homeless, without a car

JOHANNESBURG - Rapper Emtee is probably more relieved than others that this year is almost at its end after enduring some real difficulties this year.

The rapper announced that he was planning to leave his record label Ambitioz Entertainment in June and took to Twitter to share the hashtag #FreeEmtee.

He was soon left without a home or car.

Emtee told TshisaLIVE at the time that he was doing what he could to survive.

He also revealed that his wife and children had moved in with his in-laws while he tried to find a new place for them, and to negotiate an exit from Ambitioz.

"They (Ambitioz) didn't repossess the house and cars. I don't have it anymore. They helped me get it but it wasn't part of the contract. It was simply

that I had problems with the maintenance and it is a matter between myself and the agents."

He added that he wanted to leave the label "as clean as possible".

"It is true. It is unfortunate about the how. I am trying at the

moment but unfortunately

I am surrounded by a lot of people. That is a lift for the next person. I don't blame anyone for saying what they feel is going on but they need to be sensitive to what is happening behind the scenes."

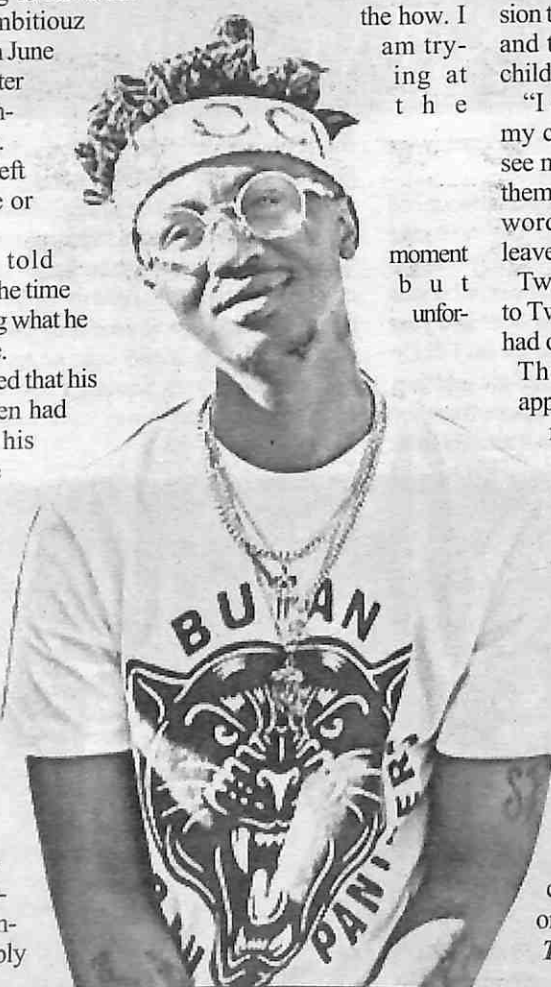
Emtee said he made the decision to leave for his own future and to be an example to his children.

"I am trying to do this for my children. I want them to see me as an example. I want them to see that I stick by my word and I had the balls to leave."

Two months later, he returned to Twitter to announce that he had officially left Ambitioz. The rapper said he had approached his attorneys to negotiate his exit from the label and they had told him he could leave.

"After much back and forth between my attorneys and Ambitioz Entertainment, my attorneys confirmed that there was legally no reason why I could not leave Ambitioz Entertainment to pursue my career as I saw fit, I accordingly proceeded to do precisely that, on August 8."

Times Live



DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Nonhle on Generations.



Mpiyakhe wants nothing to do with anything involving Iris. Judas is in jail and wants Qaphela to choose between him and the Zungus, while the chemistry between Mabuyi and Qaphela is undeniable.



Two people cross a line that will have far reaching consequences. A spanner is thrown in the works in the lead up to Phindile and Sechaba's wedding and Sibiya proves to be a thorn by his friends' side.



Mayhem in Thathe - Vho-Masindi's life hangs in balance. Qhawe surprises Gugu, and he makes a move. Mpfareni rocks up on Vhangani's door step, will he take her back?



Nontle decides to do the right thing even though she's dreading it. Gadafi scares Spororo into playing double agent. The family is in a panic about baby Banele.



Zodwa asks Brutus to join forces against Harriet this time with deadlier results. Lesterina reeks havoc in the Maakes lives. Schumacher faces an interesting challenge with Khumbuzile.



When another murder is reported, many of the women opt to stay locked in at home. Sibonelo struggles to come to terms with Khehla and Nonka's burgeoning romance. Sbu proposes to Fikile with a stolen ring.



A blast from the past is back in town, back in business and determined to get back on track. Yvonne is confronted by a past she's been running from for decades. Kgosi and Kabza come to a staggering realisation that threatens their very freedom.

STILL GOES TO THE GYM AFTER JANUARY

1. Directed by Guy Ritchie, who plays the Genie in the 2019 adaptation of Aladdin?
A. Will Smith B. Keanu Reeves



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



LOCAL SEASON FINALES SCREENING THIS WEEK

1. Ithemba Si

It's another season finale for this Mzansi Magic drama that had the best of veteran actors and newcomers to the industry; things fall apart for Kingdom of Blessings as the community marches on their property. Nomonde (Brenda Ngxoli) and Philiswa are on the run, and there's dissension within the higher order of the church. With Vatiswa Ndara and Anelisa Phewa. **Today on Mzansi Magic (161) at 20:00**

2. Yim'Lo S2

Dineo Ranaka wraps up another season helping various people come clean to their loved ones about their double lives. From battling with booze and stealing money from the church to fund their addictions, Dineo's guests all seek one thing – redemption and starting over on a clean slate. **Tomorrow on Mzansi Magic (161) at 20:00**

3. Liefde Sonder Grense

In this final episode, host Rian van Heerden chats about how different lifestyles can impact the relationship causing happiness or extreme resentment. Meet a man who enjoys dressing up and acting like a baby, as in literally, sippy cups and rompers, and the woman who must powder him. Former stripper Gigi pops in as guest and she doesn't mince her words. **Today on kykNET (144) at 20:00**

4. Fynskrif

It's the final episode of Fynskrif and Ben decides to take a drastic decision, one that he's been putting off for too long, all the while Katrien's life hangs in the balance. Lara fights for her broken marriage and Rene receives some upsetting news. Corné's life takes an unexpected turn. **Tomorrow on kykNET (144) at 20:00**

5. Die Krone 6 Konsert

The sixth Krone concert includes a variety of SA's best artists, like Kurt Darren, Brendan Peyper, Juanita du Plessis, Snotkop, Elizma Theron and Andriette Norman who will put on their party shoes to celebrate some of the biggest local and international hits of all times. **Tomorrow on kykNET (144) at 21:30**

6. Boer Soek 'n Vrou

The farmers and their chosen partners go on a romantic holiday. Are all the couples still together or have some of them already parted ways? To those still



together, there's a chance to get to know each other even better away from the farm and the curious eyes of family and friends.

Thursday on kykNET (144) at 20:00

7. Reis na Gister

We take it back to where it all began in this lifestyle show hosted by singer Jak de Priester. Famous South Africans take a stroll down memory lane and they show us places where they grew up in helping us to learn more about the person in front of our TV screens. **Thursday on kykNET (144) at 21:00**

8. Die Stropers

Sibling rivalry takes a new turn with this emotional drama about a fiercely religious mother who adopts an orphan and introduces him to her son, Janne and the two boys start to compete for her affections. Set in a farming community in rural Free State and stars Morné Visser (Trackers) and Brent Vermeulen (Alles Malan). **Thursday 2 January on Showmax**

Intriguing shows from around the globe

1. Secrets of the Zoo 2

It's about to get wild at the zoo! Taking viewers behind the scenes at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, this series highlights the incredible bond between the many animals and their dedicated army of human carers. From classifying a cheetah cub's poop to analysing the weight-gain of an elephant, there's nothing these animal-lovers won't do for their charges.

Today on Nat Geo Wild (182) at 18:00

2. Power Influence & Hip Hop: The Remarkable Rise of So So Def

Founded in 1993, So So Def was the pioneering record label behind famous artists like Bow Wow, Usher and Kris Kross. Now, for the first time ever, music mogul and founder Jermaine Dupri reveal the fascinating journey of this pioneering label. Featuring exclusive interviews with stars Mariah Carey, Usher, Snoop Dogg, Da Brat, Bow Wow, T-Boz, will.i.am and Nelly.

Tomorrow on 1Magic (103) at 20:30

3. Africa's Deadliest S4

The harsh African continent is home to some of the most efficient and effective predators on Earth, having been forced to adapt their hunting methods to suit the unforgiving environment. From the agile speed of the fastest land mammal, to the advantage of having the ultimate camouflage, these hunters have evolved the best.

Wednesday on Nat Geo Wild (182) at 18:00

Kick off the New Year with spectacular kids' entertainment

Animal Cries S1

A makeover show with a difference to both homeowners and their furry friends. Designer Antonio Ballatore together with his project manager Grace and trusty companion Chewie the bulldog turn ordinary houses into homes both humans and pets will love. Antonio goes the extra mile by turning areas that were once white elephants into fully functional spaces. **Wednesday on Discovery Family (136) at 21:50**

Phineas and Ferb

Phineas and Ferb are two brothers who plot, scheme and invent zany tactics to stay ahead of their tattletale sister, Candice. Meanwhile, their pet platypus plots against

evil Dr Doofenshmirtz.

Wednesday 1 January on Disney XD (304)

Yabba-Dabba Dinosaurs

We loved the modern stone age family The Flintstones, along with the Rubble family, and now get to watch Fred, Wilma, Barney and Betty's cheeky kids in this fun reboot.

Follow the escapades of the Flintstone and Rubble kids as they navigate Bedrock with their pet Dino. **Wednesday on Boomerang (302) at 07:55**

Happy New Year Saga

We've just landed in 2020 with a real treat of classic movies to keep little ones

(and families) entertained all day long. **Wednesday on TNT (137) from 09:45**

Spy Kids

This classic is the perfect combination of action and comedy! When secret agents Gregorio (Antonio Banderas) and Ingrid (Carla Gugino) fall in love, they decide to leave their spy days behind and start a family. But when they are kidnapped, their two kids, Carmen and Juni are tasked with saving the day. Starring Alexa PenaVega, Danny Trejo and Daryl Sabara. **At 09:45**

Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams

After a whirlwind first movie, the Cortez siblings Carmen and Juni are back as super spies who are tasked with saving

the world. The pair search for a mysterious island where they encounter a genetic scientist and rival spy kids. Starring Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino, Alexa Vega and Daryl Sabara. **At 11:10**

Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over

After Carmen gets stuck in level four of a virtual reality game – designed by their new arch-nemesis The Toymaker – it's up to Juni to save his sister and ultimately the world. Starring Sylvester Stallone and Emily Osment. **At 12:50**

The Karate Kid

This iconic 80s classic is still proving popular almost 40 years after its original release, with its inspiring story of a teenager who is bullied soon after moving to California. When he learns that his bullies are part of a

karate gym called Cobra Kai, the boy seeks the help from an old karate master, Mr Miyagi to teach him martial arts. Starring Ralph Macchio, Noriaki 'Pat' Morita and Elisabeth Shue. **At 14:10**

The Karate Kid II

When Mr Miyagi learns about his father's illness, he and Daniel take a trip to Okinawa, Japan to see him. While there, Mr Miyagi confronts an old rival and Daniel inadvertently makes a new enemy. **At 16:20**

The Karate Kid III

Bitter over the closing of his karate gym Cobra Kai, John Kreese gets the help from a former military vet to exact revenge on Mr Miyagi and Daniel. **At 18:10**

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ADVERTISING



BARCELONA - Barcelona fans fancy Jurgen Klopp as their next manager, with supporters of the La Liga giants increasingly turning against current boss Ernesto Valverde, a poll has revealed.

The Catalan side sit top of La Liga but fans are not satisfied, with a drab performance in the El Clasico against Real Madrid and numerous slip-ups leaving them questioning whether Valverde is the man to take them forward.

Meanwhile, Klopp's Liverpool are streaming further and further clear in England - building a ten point lead over second place Leicester and remaining ruthlessly unbeaten.

The survey of club members by Mundo Deportivo outside the Nou Camp saw 80 per cent (240 individuals) revealing they want Valverde to leave when his contract ends.

It also asked who they would like to replace the Spaniard - with Klopp coming out at 33.6 per cent (82) of

the vote, closely followed at 31.96 per cent (78) by Barca legend Ronald Koeman.

Behind them, 17 per cent opted for Belgium coach Roberto Martinez, and six per cent were calling for the return of Pep Guardiola.

Valverde has the option to extend for another year when his contract ends, but first he will have to live up to Barca's exceedingly high standards. Dutch coach Koeman might be the most likely successor - after

the former Everton boss revealed there is a clause in his Holland contract that allows him to leave if he is offered the Nou Camp hot-seat.

It would be a triumphant return, after winning the Champions League and four Spanish titles on the pitch for Barca.

The former free-kick master moved into the dugout as assistant for two seasons after he retired - before jobs with Ajax, Benfica and Southampton as number one. *Daily Mail*

Beckham 'set to appoint first Inter Miami manager'

MIAMI - David Beckham is set to appoint former Monterrey boss Diego Alonso as his first manager at Inter Miami after speculation a big name would take over.

A host of high-profile managers were linked with the post as the former Manchester United star looks to get his new team off to a good start when they start their MLS season in February.

Carlo Ancelotti's name had been rumoured after working with Beckham at AC Milan, but the Italian has since joined Everton, while David Moyes and Nice boss Patrick Vieira were also mentioned. But Beckham is set to unveil the relatively unknown Alonso as his first manager on Monday, according to the Miami Herald.

Alonso was only in charge at Monterrey for one season, but he led the Mexican side to CONCACAF Champions League glory in May - paving the way for them to appear at the Club World Cup this month. However, the Uruguayan was sacked by the club in September after suffering a poor run of results and replaced by Antonio Mohamed, who led the team into the Club World Cup semi finals against Liverpool, losing 2-1 in stoppage time. This season was not the only time Alonso has lifted the North American Champions League, having won it with another Mexican side Pachuca in the 2016-17 campaign, having won the nation's top flight division the season before. His other posts have been in his native Uruguay, including at Olimpia, Penarol and Bella Vista.

Inter Miami's team is finally taking shape years after Beckham launched the ambitious project.

The Sun

Fans outraged as Lewis Hamilton snubbed

LONDON - Furious F1 fans are outraged that Lewis Hamilton has again been overlooked for a knighthood - despite winning the world title for a SIXTH time.

Angry supporters labelled the snub 'a disgrace', 'disgusting' and 'insulting' after Hamilton became a world champion in November.

And Labour peer Peter Hain called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to justify the decision.

Lord Hain, who wrote to the PM in November urging that the F1 legend should be honoured, tweeted out his shock at the snub.

Asked why he thought Lewis had been overlooked again, he tweeted: "Very good question which @BorisJohnson @NickyMorgan01 @DCMS @andrealeadsom should answer since it was their decision ultimately and they received strong letters supporting @LewisHamilton from amongst many @motorsportuk"

David Richards, chairman of Motorsport UK, has also championed the cause, not least because Hamilton has had to work so hard to make it to the top.

The 34-year-old grew up on a council estate in Stevenage and

remains the only black driver in F1.

Earlier this month Richards said: "I can't think of anyone more worthy of that recognition than Lewis."

"It would be a major oversight if that is not recognised in the New Year honours."

"He is a role model for underprivileged children in the UK to show them that anything is possible."

Other fans also expressed their anger and frustration on Twitter.

Some suggested that the fact he lives in tax-haven Monaco is the reason for the snub.

But others say he donates millions to charity.

Since then Bradley Wiggins, Mo Farah, Andy Murray and Alastair Cook have all been knighted for services to sport.

In November he said a knighthood is not his biggest concern at the moment.

He said: "I don't really like to think too much about it."

"Just the fact that people have mentioned it, it's already an honour, but it's not been something that I've been chasing in my life."

The Sun

Tyson Fury reveals he axed trainer

LONDON - Tyson Fury has revealed why he ditched trainer Ben Davison before his rematch with Deontay Wilder, claiming he had gone stale.

Fury parted company with Davison, who had been in his corner for his last five fights, earlier this month and has teamed up with experienced Javon 'Sugar' Hill to prepare for his WBO title fight with Wilder on February 22. 'I was going a little bit stale, repetitive, doing the same things day in, day out for years,' said Fury. 'I needed a change.' Davison was credited with playing a major role in Fury's battle back from depression, during which he swelled to 28st and spent two years out of the ring. Hill is the nephew of legendary trainer Emanuel Steward and Fury added: 'We're gonna go back to basics. I trained with Sugar Hill back in 2010, we got on like a house on fire.'

Fury also vowed to knock out Wilder, 12 months after their first fight ended



in a draw. 'This is unfinished business, but come February 22, this dossier will

finally get what's coming to him,' he said. *AFP*

Iniesta 'rejects move to Juan Sebastian Veron's Estudiantes'

Miami - ANDRES INIESTA HAS REPORTedly rejected a move to Estudiantes as well as three MLS clubs, including David Beckham's Inter Miami.

Iniesta was contacted by Estudiantes, whose president is former Manchester United midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron, in November but Spanish outlet Mundo Deportivo claims he has turned them down. But Veron remains hopeful of luring the Spaniard to Argentina and hopes to use Javier Mascherano, who

played alongside Iniesta at Barcelona, to persuade him to move.

Veron pulled off a huge coup when he signed Mascherano in November and is determined for the pair to recreate their midfield partnership at Estudiantes.

Assessing the mid-table side's chances of signing Iniesta, Veron recently said: 'We can't say today there are negotiations but there are conversations.'

'Going for Iniesta is something people are not going to forget, whether it ends up happening or not.'

One of Milito's players, Gaston Fernandez, even took to social media in an attempt to persuade Iniesta to join the club. He wrote on Iniesta's Instagram: 'Come on Andres, you won't forget it.'

Estudiantes are currently managed by Gabriel Milito, who played as a centre-back for Barcelona behind Iniesta and Mascherano between 2007 and 2011.

Iniesta has also attracted interest from MLS clubs Inter Miami, LA Galaxy and Seattle Sounders but has no interest in leaving Japan. *Daily Mail*

ARSENAL, MAN CITY BATTLING IT OUT FOR UPAMECANO

LONDON - Liverpool have revolutionised transfer spending and built what looks like an invincible squad by appointing Cambridge University physics PhD Ian Graham to interpret the mass of data available on players to give them an edge in the market.

Premier League clubs have long yearned to emulate baseball's Billy Beane, the Oakland Athletics general manager, who inspired the

Moneyball book and film by using stats to help win the 2004 World Series.

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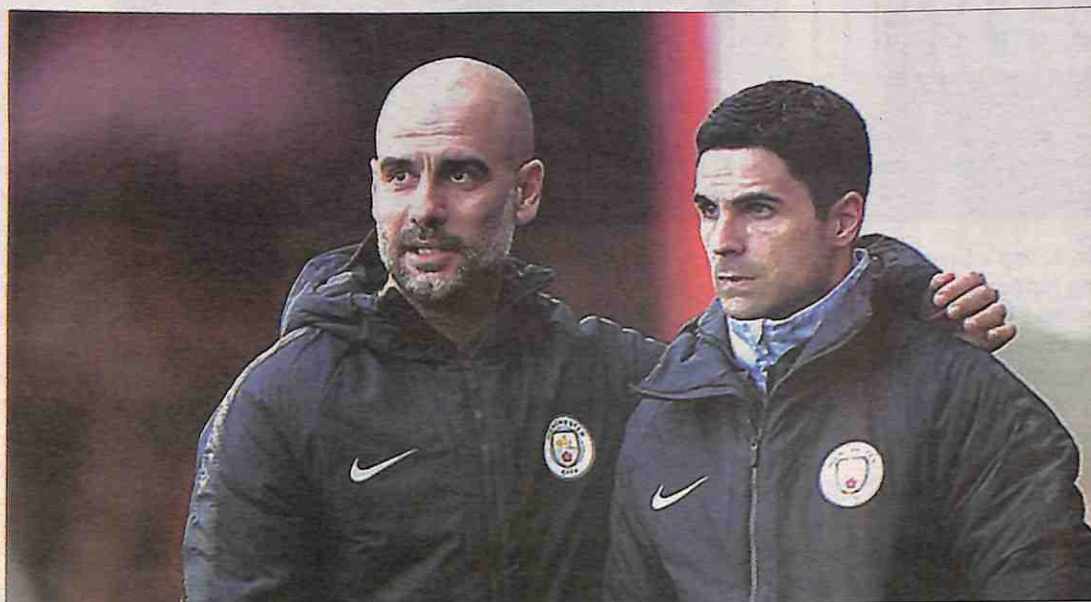
A ball-playing centre half for Manchester City or Arsenal?

Dayot Upamecano (RB Leipzig)

Pep Guardiola and Mikel Arteta will now be rivals rather than collaborators in the transfer market and they will surely end up chasing similar types given their playing style.

Arteta is in need of a defensive rebuild, though he has St Etienne's William Saliba arriving in the summer.

He will insist on a central defender who is comfortable passing from the back. But, with the departure of Vincent Kompany and injury to Aymeric Laporte having also exposed Guardiola's back four, City will be in a similar market.



Man City boss Pep Guardiola and Arsenal Manager Mikel Arteta should be active in January.



Defender Dayot Upamecano has caught the eye with his performances for RB Leipzig.

Upamecano has represented France Under-21s but it's his performances for RB Leipzig which have caught the eye. He has pace and strength but crucially is adept in possession.

He is averaging 74.1 passes per 90 minutes, well above anyone currently in the Arsenal defence, with a good completion percentage of 89 per cent. He has won 76 per cent of tack-

les and 79 per cent of aerial duels.

A downside is that he has been dribbled past more than average, but, at 21, Upamecano could star in an Arsenal backline for years.

Other option: Jonathan Tah, 23, at Bayer Leverkusen might be more achievable.

A left back for Manchester City or Chelsea?

Raphael Guerreiro (Borussia Dortmund)

Price: £35m

Everyone knows that both Chelsea and Manchester City need a left back.

Leicester's Ben Chilwell would be the obvious choice but he's both expensive and under contract at a top-four team so difficult to prise from his club.

The alternative? Step forward Raphael Guerreiro, of Borussia

A replacement for Paul Pogba at Manchester United?

Rodrigo De Paul (Udinese)

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer insists Pogba won't be sold in January but what if Real Madrid test that resolution?

With 18 months left on his deal, United have to sell soon or lose all value, so he seems likely to leave in the summer. Step forward Rodrigo De Paul, 25, Udinese's best player.

He's an Argentine international but, as part of a struggling Udinese side, his stats suggest he won't be there for long.



Rodrigo De Paul could be an option if Manchester United decide to sell star man Paul Pogba.



Goncalo Paciencia has scored seven Bundesliga goals for Eintracht Frankfurt this season

A centre-forward for Chelsea?

Goncalo Paciencia (Eintracht Frankfurt)

Despite the emergence of Tammy Abraham, Chelsea will definitely move for a centre forward next month or in the summer, with Michy Batshuayi not having settled and Olivier Giroud out of contract.

Timo Werner at RB Leipzig is the dream signing at 23 with 18 goals in 17 Bundesliga

appearances this season but the German could cost £100 million. Goncalo Paciencia is a much cheaper option.

The Portuguese 25-year-old has scored seven Bundesliga goals this season.

He is excellent in the air, 34 per cent of his 'shots' this season have been headed (compared to an average of 22 per cent for strikers).



Swiss midfielder Denis Zakaria has been compared to Arsenal legend Patrick Vieira.

Man United to wait for Eriksen

LONDON - Manchester United are reportedly prepared to wait until the end of the season to sign Christian Eriksen on a free transfer.

Eriksen, whose deal expires in six months, has been stalling on a new contract and will be able to discuss deals with European clubs once the January transfer window opens.

There is a chance he could leave next month but clubs may be unwilling to pay Tottenham's asking price of £40m when they know he will be available for free in a matter of months.

United have been closely monitoring the situation and The Telegraph are reporting that they believe they will be able to land the player when his deal expires.

The prospect of Spurs persuading Eriksen to stay looks unlikely as the Dane is reported to have told Jose Mourinho he has no intention of staying. 'The only thing I will tell you about Christian is that I would like him to sign a new contract. Apart from that I'm not going to tell you anything,' Mourinho said last week.

'He has been here such a long time, Mourinho said in another press conference. 'If I was Christian, I would stay.'

He has been living the life of the club for the last five or six years. The transition from White Hart Lane to the best stadium in the world and knows the perspectives of the future and the vision of the club.'

The Sun

DE JONG REGRETS LA LIGA MOVE

BARCELONA - Arsenal and Manchester City target Frenkie De Jong may be regretting joining Barcelona after admitting that the Premier League is the strongest in the world.

The 22-year-old was unveiled by the La Liga champions this summer having agreed a £65million deal from Ajax earlier this year.

The Dutch midfielder revealed that he had planned to follow Marc Overmars in playing for Arsenal after leaving Ajax, before then joining Barcelona.

While he was advised by Holland boss Ronald Koeman to join Manchester City, but Pep Guardiola's side refused to bow to his £275,000-a-week demands.

De Jong has since settled well into life at the Nou Camp, but he admitted in an interview with The Mirror that the Premier League is superior to La Liga.

He said: 'I used to think that La Liga was the strongest football league in the world. You could

see their dominance in European Cup competitions.

'The Spanish clubs always progressed a long way and often grabbed the main trophies, the Champions League and Europa League.

'But the Premier League has gained power over the last few years.

'When it comes to pure skills, La Liga is better. But because of the sheer intensity, the

English competition is at a slightly higher level.'

Former Everton boss Koeman confirmed that he urged Guardiola to sign

De Jong and his former Ajax teammate Matthijs de Ligt when they were both at Ajax.

The 20-year-

old centre-back was also on City's wishlist but ultimately joined Juventus after his financial package again became too rich for the Blues.

Koeman said: 'I had discussed two names with Pep for a long while - and those names were Frenkie de Jong and Matthijs de Ligt.'

'Pep was wild about the type of midfielder Frenkie is. He wanted to know all about him.'

'Frenkie is now one of the best midfielders in the world. His biggest quality? He has the ability to wait one of two more seconds before he decides what he is going to do with the ball.'

The Sun



Paul Pogba looking over his shoulder - Solskjaer

LONDON - Paul Pogba was absent from the Manchester United squad that faced Burnley on Saturday night to raise further question-marks about his future at Old Trafford.

Pogba, 26, didn't travel to Turf Moor despite playing in the club's previous two matches as a substitute, following an injury lay-off.

Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer insisted afterwards Pogba had been left out because he'd suffered a reaction to a long-standing ankle problem after playing 45 minutes against Newcastle on Boxing Day.

'He has been out for a long while and

he didn't feel right so we will just have to take our time and get him ready for next time,' said the United boss.

'He wasn't ready today. He just needed one more day of recovery. He's been out for a long time so it wasn't the right time to bring him today.'

However, the explanation won't convince everyone given the recent history between Pogba and the club.

The World Cup winner and his agent Mino Raiola have been open to a move to Real Madrid and Juventus for guaranteed Champions League football. Solskjaer has categorically stated the

midfield superstar won't be allowed to leave in January but the long-running saga has become damaging to United and he hasn't started a game since September because of an ankle knock that's never been explained, and illness.

Still the Premier League's most expensive player having been signed by United for £89million in 2016, Pogba's no-show was a surprise to people connected with the club as there didn't seem to be any issues after his 45 minute-cameo against Newcastle on Boxing Day. *Daily Mail*



ABSENT: Manchester United player Paul Pogba.

Mourinho laments sloppy goals conceded at Norwich City

LONDON - Jose Mourinho has joked that Amazon can make an episode of their Tottenham Hotspur series on defensive mistakes as a lack of concentration at the back meant his side left Carrow Road with a point against Norwich City.

Spurs were made to come from behind twice to ensure they earned a share of the spoils on Saturday evening after defensive errors put the visitors on the back foot for much of the contest.

The Canaries cut through Spurs with ease for the opening goal while a calamity at the back led to Serge Aurier putting the ball in his own net in the second half.

Goals from Christian Eriksen and Harry Kane ensured that Spurs avoided an embarrassing defeat to the team at the bottom of the Premier League.

And Mourinho has said that his side's inability to keep it together at the back has been the

story of their season.

'I think the same defensive mistakes we made in the first half we made in the second half,' he said.

'This has been a little bit our history.'

The Portuguese joked that documentary makers Amazon, who have been given exclusive access by Spurs to film behind-the-scenes this season, could make an entire episode dedicated to his side's defensive lapses.

'I think if Amazon want to do an episode they will for sure have one episode about our defensive mistakes and the goals that we concede.'

'I think we start very well. We concede two very bad goals.'

The first and the one that was offside. Then in the second half I think we were very good with the ball.

We create, we dominate.

The Telegraph

LEONARDO 'MADE AN APPROACH TO JURGEN KLOPP' OVER CHRISTMAS

LONDON - Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp 'spent an hour on the phone discussing a possible move to Paris Saint-Germain with the club's sporting director Leonardo' before insisting he is content at Anfield.

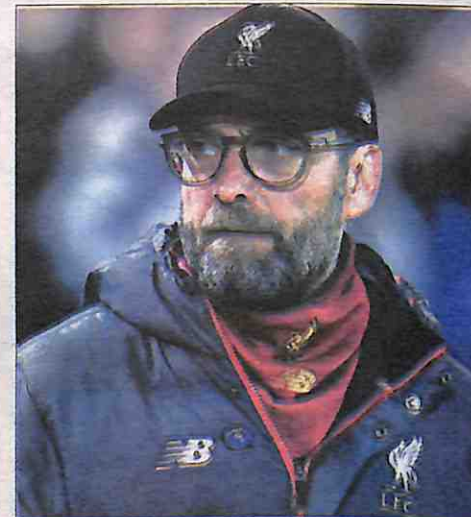
According to French outlet Le10Sport, Leonardo reached out to Klopp to sound him out about taking over the reins with current boss Thomas Tuchel under increasing pressure.

Tuchel guided PSG to the Ligue 1 title last term but club chiefs are desperate to win the Champions League, and the German is expected to be axed if he cannot deliver it this season.

Leonardo explained the club's vision to Klopp during their discussion over the festive period in an attempt to convince the Liverpool boss to jump ship should a vacancy become available at PSG.

However, Klopp, who signed a new deal earlier this month to keep him at Liverpool until 2024, gave no indication he would be interested in joining PSG.

Klopp has received huge plaudits for the job he has done at Liverpool after claiming Champions



DISCUSSING: Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

League glory last season and taking them to the top of the Premier League this term and opening up a massive points gap over Manchester City and Leicester. *Daily Mail*



Goncalo Paciencia.

Denis Zakaria.

Rodrigo De Paul.

Raphael Guerreiro.

Dayot Upamecano.

Five players on Premier League radar

LONDON - Liverpool have revolutionised transfer spending and built what looks like an invincible squad by appointing Cambridge University physics PhD Ian Graham to interpret the mass of data available on players to give them an edge in the market.

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Every club now employs an army of data analysts to search for the best players. With the January window approaching, Sportsmail asked football boffin Adam Shafiq to crunch data and identify five players on the radar of the top Premier League clubs.

A BALL-PLAYING CENTRE HALF FOR MANCHESTER CITY OR ARSENAL?

Dayot Upamecano (RB Leipzig)

Price: £35m

Pep Guardiola and Mikel Arteta will now be rivals rather than collaborators in the transfer market and they will surely end up chasing similar types given their playing style.

Arteta is in need of a defensive rebuild, though he has St Etienne's William Saliba arriving in the summer.

He will insist on a central defender who is comfortable passing from the back. But, with the departure of Vincent Kompany and injury to Aymeric Laporte having also exposed Guardiola's back four, City will be in a similar market.

Defender Dayot Upamecano has caught the eye with his performances for RB Leipzig.

Upamecano has represented France Under-21s but it's his performances for RB Leipzig which have caught the eye.

He has pace and strength but crucially is adept in possession. He is averaging 74.1 passes per 90 minutes, well above anyone currently in the Arsenal defence, with a good completion percentage of 89 per cent.

He has won 76 per cent of tackles and 79 per

cent of aerial duels.

A downside is that he has been dribbled past more than average, but, at 21, Upamecano could star in an Arsenal backline for years.

Other option: Jonathan Tah, 23, at Bayer Leverkusen might be more achievable.

A LEFT BACK FOR MANCHESTER CITY OR CHELSEA?

Raphael Guerreiro (Borussia Dortmund)

Price: £35m

Everyone knows that both Chelsea and Manchester City need a left back.

Leicester's Ben Chilwell would be the obvious choice but he's both expensive and under contract at a top-four team so difficult to prise from his club.

The alternative? Step forward Raphael Guerreiro, of Borussia Dortmund and Portugal.

Raphael Guerreiro of Borussia Dortmund would be a good option for Man City and Chelsea.

His former manager Thomas Tuchel said that

Guerreiro is 'much too good to be limited to just have one position'.

The 26-year-old has played at left back, wing-back and midfield, a versatility that will appeal greatly to Pep Guardiola. And Guerreiro also looks like a Guardiola player statistically.

This season he has averaged 71 passes per 90 minutes with the majority of these passes being short with good accuracy,

26 per cent of his crosses find a target (the average for left backs is 22 per cent). The price also wouldn't be a problem for City or Chelsea.

Other option: Robert Skov, 23, at Hoffenheim has similar stats as an attacking left back.

AN UPGRADE ON GRANIT XHAKA FOR ARSENAL?

Denis Zakaria (Borussia Monchengladbach)

Price: £40m

The parallels are uncanny: a Swiss midfielder shining at Borussia Monchengladbach, just as Xhaka was in 2016. Arsenal fans might point out it did not work out well last time, with Xhaka being booed and now in line to join Hertha Berlin.

But Zakaria's game has been compared to Patrick Vieira, which should soothe them. The 23-year-old, with 24

Swiss caps, is a key part of the Monchengladbach side now in second place in the Bundesliga.

He has featured at centre back, although midfield is his preferred position. He has won 77 per cent of his tackles and 94 per cent of his attempted passes are short, showing he has the mindset to suit Arteta's midfield. His short-pass completion is also above average. Zakaria has covered more distance so far this season than any of his team-mates (105 miles).

His desire, technical, physical and defensive abilities make him a perfect fit for Arsenal's midfield.

Other option: Valentin Rongier, 25, at Marseille could be cheaper.

A CENTRE-FORWARD FOR CHELSEA?

Goncalo Paciencia (Eintracht Frankfurt)

Price: £20m

Despite the emergence of Tammy Abraham, Chelsea will definitely move for a centre forward next month or in the summer, with Michy Batshuayi not having settled and Olivier Giroud out of contract.

Timo Werner at RB Leipzig is the dream signing at 23 with 18 goals in 17 Bundesliga appearances this season but the German could cost £100million. Goncalo Paciencia is a much cheaper option.

The Portuguese 25-year-old has scored seven Bundesliga goals this season. He is excellent in the air, 34 per cent of his 'shots' this season have been headed (compared to an average of 22 per cent for strikers).

Paciencia is also excellent at bringing others into play, averaging 1.6 key passes compared to 0.9 for the average striker. Paciencia would come in at a third of the price of Werner.

Other options: Apart from Werner, Joaquin Correa and Wout Weghorst have similar profiles.

A REPLACEMENT FOR PAUL POGBA AT MANCHESTER UNITED?

Rodrigo De Paul (Udinese)

Price: £30m

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer insists Pogba won't be sold in January but what if Real Madrid test that resolution?

With 18 months left on his deal, United have to sell soon or lose all value, so he seems likely to leave in the summer. Step forward Rodrigo De Paul, 25, Udinese's best player.

He's an Argentine international but, as part of a struggling Udinese side, his stats suggest he won't be there for long.

He's also a prime example of the need to apply human intelligence to raw data. For example, his passing stats look unimpressive but Udinese only average 45 per cent possession, which means the stats may not represent his ability.

De Paul's other attributes are similar to Pogba. He averages 2.4 key passes per game, as well as 2.4 shots and 3.1 dribbles (the averages for a player in his position are 1.1 key passes, 1.2 shots and 1.8 dribbles per game).

He is good defensively, winning 63 per cent of his tackles. He has played at left back and as a second striker, alongside his preferred central midfield role.

Other options: Kerem Demirbay, 26, at Bayer Leverkusen is similar. *Daily Mail*



ATT BARLOW AT THE EMIRATES: A late double from Jorginho and Tammy Abraham handed Chelsea a vital win as the visitors came from behind to snatch victory from Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium. In a feisty affair in which referee Craig Pawson brandished the yellow card on a number of occasions, Aubameyang nodded Arsenal into the lead from close range in the opening 13 minutes.

ARSENAL'S ANNUS HORRIBILIS ENDS WITH ANOTHER LOSS

LONDON - Two goals in the final 10 minutes saw Chelsea rally from behind to defeat Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The Gunners boss Mikel Arteta made two changes to the side that drew at Bournemouth, as Calum Chambers and Matteo Guendouzi returned to the side at the expense of the injured Sokratis Papastathopoulos and Granit Xhaka, who was reported ill. Meanwhile, Frank Lampard also made two alterations from the loss to Southampton, as Mason Mount and Mateo Kovacic started ahead of Jorginho and Callum Hudson-Odoi.

The hosts had a bright start as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired them ahead in the 13th minute with a diving header from close range after a flick-on by Chambers from Mesut Ozil's corner.

Arteta was forced into an early change midway through the first stanza, as Chambers picked up an injury and he was replaced by fellow defender Shkodran

Mustafi while Lampard raised eyebrows with a tactical change just after the half-hour mark, bringing on midfielder Jorginho in place of left-back Emerson. Chelsea started getting more on the ball after that but they were vulnerable to counter-attacks as Aubameyang almost snatched the second goal for the Gunners three minutes before the break after breaking away on the left side but his curling shot hit the side-netting. The visitors were on the front foot in the early exchanges of the second stanza but they were repelled by a solid defensive play from the Gunners and Lampard made another tactical change on the hour-mark, bringing on teenage wing-back Tariq Lamptey in place of centre-back Fikayo Tomori.

Lamptey almost created the equaliser for Chelsea immediately after coming on, using his pace on the right channel to sent Abraham through in the centre of the box but the English striker's shot was crucially blocked by David Luiz.

The Blues had another glorious chance to level matters with 15 minutes remaining after Mount's corner found Abraham unmarked in the centre of the box but the latter headed straight at Arsenal shot-stopper Bernd Leno.

Chelsea finally found the equaliser with seven minutes remaining after Leno went out of his area in anticipation of Mount's diagonal free-kick and missed it completely, allowing Jorginho to score inside an empty net at the back post, 1-1. The game was opening up after that and Abraham snatched the lead for Lampard's troops in the last three minutes firing a low shot in between Leno's legs after Willian delivered a cut-back from a quick counter-attack, 1-2. There were still chances in either end in the closing minutes but neither side was clinical enough as the Blues clinched victory and they remained in fourth place with 35 points while the Gunners dropped down to 12th with 24 points.

Daily Mail

Leopards confirm new head coach

LIMPOPO - Black Leopards have confirmed the appointment of Cavin Johnson as their new head coach, following the departure of Luc Eymael.

Eymael surprisingly handed in his resignation earlier this week with the side sitting in 11th position after 14 matches. Leopards have now managed to bring in Johnson, who parted ways with AmaZulu after just five games in the 2019/2020 season. *KickOff*



Jordie Barrett kicked out of MCG Test

CAPE TOWN - All Blacks back Jordie Barrett has been kicked out of the Test match between Australia and New Zealand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for bad behaviour, it was reported on Saturday night.

According to Stuff.co.nz, Victoria police removed two men from the cricket ground on Saturday afternoon during the third day of the Boxing Day Test between the two Trans-Tasman rivals.

The two were evicted from the grounds around 2.50pm [Australian time] for behavioural issues, a Victoria police spokesperson said according to the report.

"The 22-year-old and 23-year-old, both New Zealand nationals, have been evicted and have incurred a 24-hour ban from the MCG," the spokesperson said.

A witness, also a New Zealander, who claims he saw what happened, said: "He sat down and had a big

gulp of half-a-beer and got kicked out... I was sitting 10 metres from him. He remained calm and had a big gulp."

This is not the first time the All Blacks' utility back has found himself in trouble for an alcohol-related incident. Last year, police were called after an allegedly intoxicated Barrett was found eating a McDonald's burger in the wrong flat at 5am in the morning after a Hurricanes game.

"I was not intoxicated". He apologised for the incident at the time.

"I can't say I'm embarrassed by what's happened, I'm just disappointed with the events that have unfolded. I don't believe I've caused any harm to anyone."

"It was a human error, I walked into the wrong flat and then we left."

"I had a couple of drinks in town with mates and basically I can recall everything that happened that night."

IOL SPORT

Serena Williams named AP's top female athlete of decade

NEW YORK - Serena Williams dominated the decade, on the court and in conversation.

There were, to begin with, the dozen Grand Slam single titles — no other woman had more than three over the past 10 seasons — and the three and a half years in a row at No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

And then there was the celebrity status that transcended tennis, making everything she did and said newsworthy, whether it was the triumphs and trophies and fashion statements or the disputes with tour-

nament officials, the magazine covers or the Super Bowl ad with a message about women's power, the birth of her daughter or the health scare that followed.

Still winning matches and reaching Grand Slam finals into her

late 30s, still mattering as much as ever, Williams was selected by The Associated Press as the Female Athlete of the Decade on Saturday after a vote by AP member sports editors and AP beat writers.

"When the history books are written, it could be that the great Serena Williams is the greatest athlete of all time. ... I like to call it the 'Serena Superpowers' — that champion's mindset. Irrespective of the adversity and the odds that are facing her, she always believes in herself," said Stacey Allaster, CEO of the WTA from 2009-15 and now chief executive for professional tennis at the U.S. Tennis Association, which runs the US Open.

"Whether it was health issues; coming back; having a child; almost dying from that — she has endured it all and she is still in championship form," Allaster said. "Her records speak for themselves."

Gymnast Simone Biles, the 2019 AP Female Athlete of the Year, finished second to Williams in voting for the decade honour, followed by swimmer Katie Ledecky. Two ski racers were next, with Lindsey Vonn finishing fourth and Mikaela Shiffrin fifth.

Three of Williams' five AP Female Athlete of the Year awards came during the last decade, in 2013, 2015 and 2018. She also won in 2002 and 2009. *Daily Mail*

Forlan bids farewell as he plays his last ever match

MONTEVIDEO - Former Manchester United forward Diego Forlan bid an emotional farewell as he played his last game as a footballer in a testimonial in his native Uruguay.

The ex-Atletico Madrid star was joined by some big names from the world of football as the likes of Juan Roman Riquelme and Juan Sebastian Veron turned out to play in the match.

His countryman Luis Suarez also took time out to show his appreciation for Forlan, but while he can often be seen scoring goals for Barcelona, the Liverpool man opted to give goalkeeping a go as he featured in between the sticks. And Spanish golfer Sergio Garcia traded his driver for a pair of football boots as he pulled on a jersey to play in the spectacle at the Centenario Stadium on Saturday. Meanwhile, Inter Milan legend Javier Zanetti turned back the years to put a shift in for Forlan after the pair played together at the Italian giants, with Diego Milito and Esteban Cambiasso also taking to the pitch. Former Uruguayan internationals showed their support too as Sebastian Abreu and ex-captain Diego Lugano were seen in the line-up that played against him, with Forlan picking a team of his closest friends and



IT'S BEEN GOOD: Diego Forlan bids farewell after playing his final match in Uruguay.

team-mates. Forlan was given the perfect send-off as he scored along the way to a 6-6 thriller, before his farewell was wrapped up with a feel-good ceremony with pyrotechnics and music.

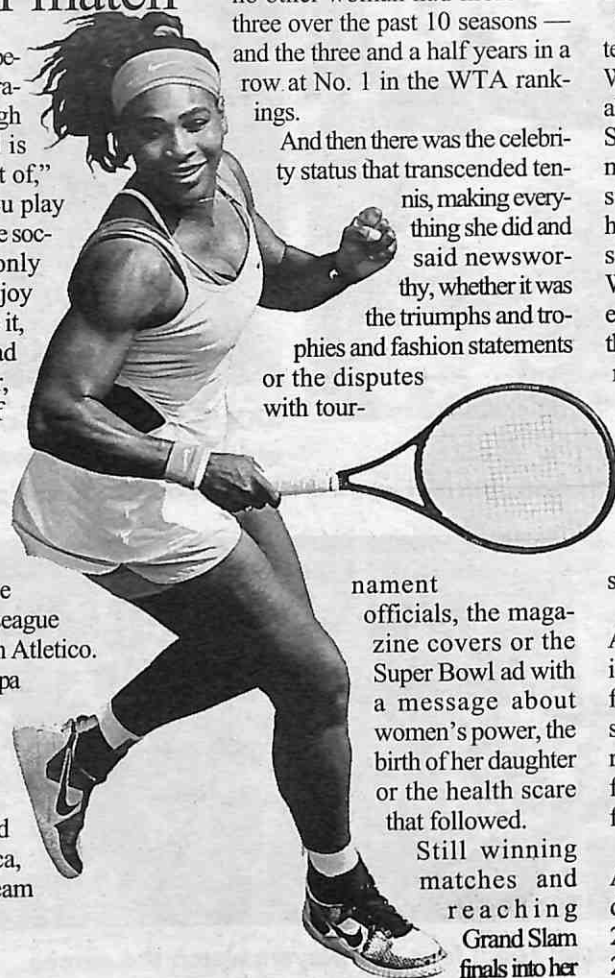
The 40-year-old is now set for the next chapter of his career as he prepares to take on his first managerial job in charge of Uruguayan side Penarol.

He started his youth career with the Montevideo-based team before joining them later on in his career for one season in 2015-16, and said the opportunity to coach them was a dream come true.

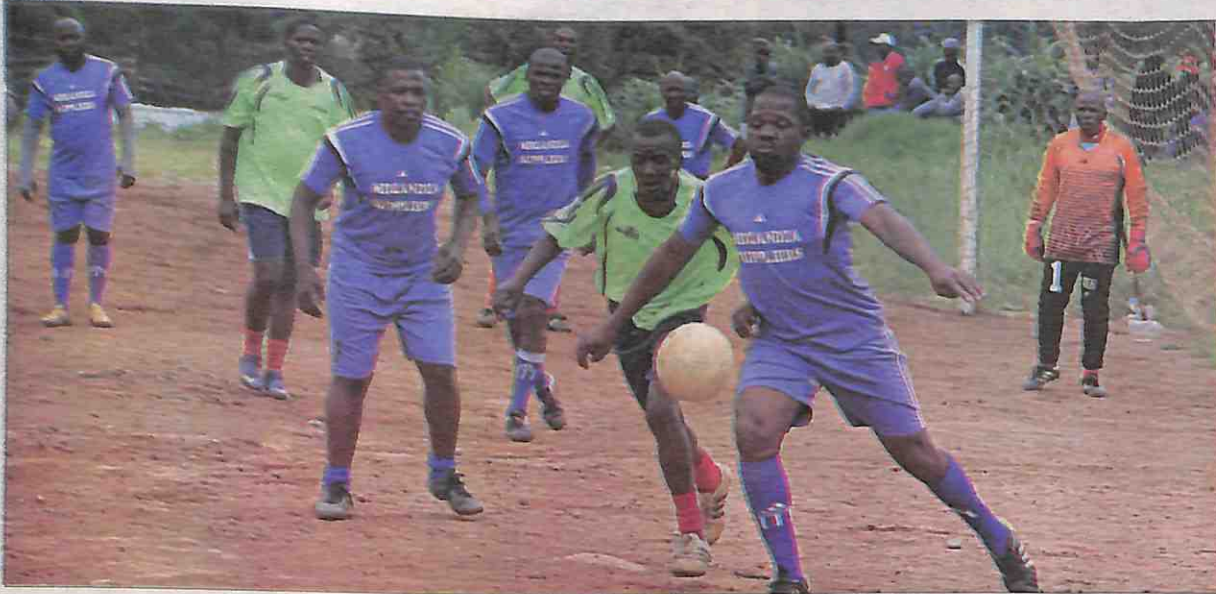
To have my first experience in a club of traditions and of a high level like Penarol is more than I dreamt of," he said. "When you play you notice if you like soccer itself. It isn't only about playing. I enjoy it, I like it, I analyse it, I see it." Forlan had an excellent career, winning an array of trophies throughout his 21 years on the pitch, first winning the Premier League and FA Cup with Man United before lifting the Europa League and Super Cup with Atletico.

He also won the Copa America with Uruguay in 2011 after finishing as the top goal-scorer at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, where he led his team to the semi-finals.

Daily Mail



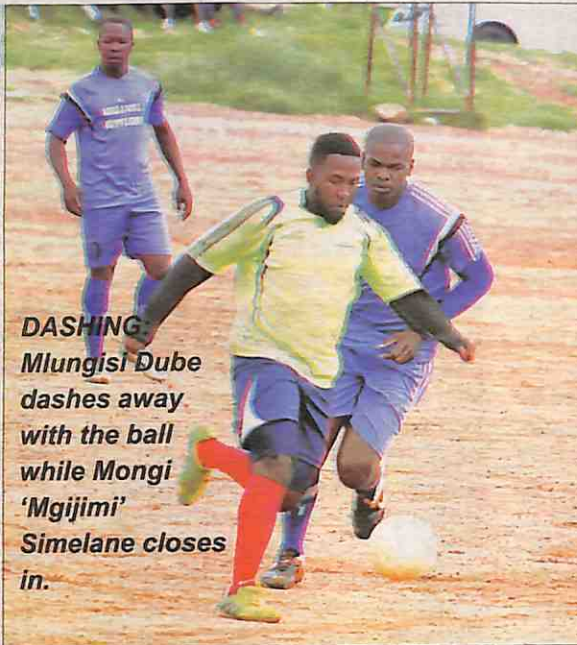
MSUNDUZA FESTIVE TOURNEY



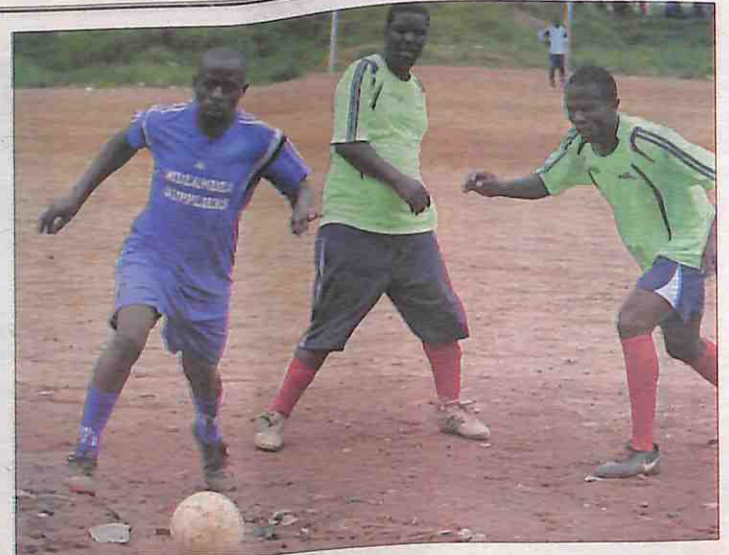
CLEAR: Garage XII Ambi Maziya clears the ball during their game against Skokorinko held at Msunduzi Sports ground yesterday. Garage XII won the game 2-0 to advance to the quarter finals of the Mbabane East MP festive tournament. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



FOUL: Mancoma Nkhohlo cries foul next to Kawa Dlamini.



DASHING: Mlungisi Dube dashes away with the ball while Mongi 'Mgijimi' Simelane closes in.



LEGEND: Sandile Mdlovu of Garage XII dribbles past Skokorinko players.



WATCHING: Garage XII and Sandla players watching the game.



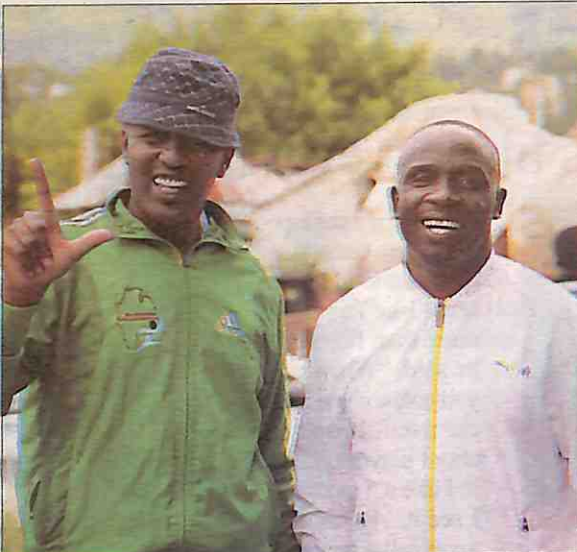
FIGHTS: Macoma Nkhohlo from Skokorinko fights for the ball.



NET: Skokorinko goalkeeper fails to stop a shot from Garage XII's Chappies Simelane.



SPONSOR: Minister Harries 'Madze' Bulunga watch the games he sponsored.



SKY IS THE LIMIT: Sandla Social Team player Mphumlele Mkhwanazi and former Mamelodi Sundowns player Michael Manzini.



IN NUMBERS: 6 to 6 Social Team fans and players watch the games.



SHOW-OFF: Some of the fans came in big cars which drew attention from everyone.

LOCAL FOREIGN PLAYERS ANALYSIS

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

HOW THE NEW FOREIGN STARS
FARED IN THE FIRST ROUND

SOCCER – Following the end of what was an exhilarating first round of the MTN Premier League, we take a closer look at how the new foreign players have fared in the league.

Punch Masenemela (Mbabane Highlanders)

A lot was expected from the South African born defender when he was signed by the capital city giants. However, the former Mamelodi Sundowns player had spent most of the time on the stands than on the field of play.

With the January window transfer around the corner, chances are high that the left back might be shown the exit door.

Rating: 3/10**Josef Lekata (Mbabane Highlanders)**

After making a statment in local football with the EPTC Charity Cup Top Goal Scorer award where his club eventually clinched the annual soccer spectacular, the former Amazulu striker went to slumber.

He had been conspicuously missing from the team activities until he resurfaced during the derby whereby he scored the goal that was disallowed by referee Theminkosi Dlamini.

Rating: 4/10**Patrick 'Nandos' Mashele (Mbabane Highlanders)**

The former Orlando Pirates winger showed some flashes of a good player. However, just like his fellow countrymen, 'Nandos' spent most of the time on the stands due to injuries.

He can be an asset in the team, if he can deal with his off the field problems.

Rating: 4/10**Thabiso Mokenkoane (Mbabane Swallows)**

After ditching, Mbabane Highlanders for the red and white glamour side, the lanky striker failed to shine at his new team. He had scored only one goal for the entire first round, something which is bad for the former EswatiniBank top goal scorer.

Rating: 4/10**Vusumuzi Zungu (Mbabane Swallows)**

The industrious South African midfielder only shone during opening games of the league and later switched off. No wonder, he was not even fielded during the derby, a week ago.

Rating: 4/10**Kingu Pemba (Mbabane Swallows)**

The former Manzini Sundowns defender brought stability in Mbabane Swallows defence. He is good in aerial balls and will be an asset for the team in their quest to reclaim their glory days.

Rating: 5/10**Aboudou Chafiou Houessou (Manzini Wanderers)**

The former Vovovo FC player fits in well with the team.

He is doing the dirty work with perfection

**AFRICAN BATTLE: Reagan Kangumbi and Aboudou Chafiou.**

and makes his presence felt in the belly of the park.

Manzini Wanderers need to keep this player as he is the mainstay of the club.

Rating: 6/10**Laurent Abah (Manzini Wanderers)**

There were a lot of expectations from Manzini Wanderers supporters when the striker was signed by ex-coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati from Moneni Pirates. However, the Cameroon born forward is seemingly struggling style of play. He had been used as a substitute in many games, a thing that is not good especially for an international player.

Rating: 4/10**Thami Zulu (Manzini Wanderers)**

The South African born defender a good job in the maroon and white outfit after he joined them from Mhlume Peacemakers at the beginning of the season. He provided steel at the back when captain Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya was out of action

due to injury. The lanky defender is currently in South Africa where is on the verge of joining Stenberg FC.

Rating: 5/10**Romanus Idigimba (Moneni Pirates)**

The former Manzini Wanderers shot stopper is the reason the 'Sea Robbers' have conceded a few goals in the first round. His acrobatic saves are second to none. No wonder, Manzini Wanderers want him back.

Rating: 8/10**Fabrice Mopina (Moneni Pirates)**

The DR Congo player played a pivotal role in the club. He is a workaholic who contributes immensely in the team goals. Even his coaches speak highly of him.

Rating: 8/10**Chimwanda Takawira (Moneni Pirates)**

The Zimbabwean player was converted into a defensive midfielder as a defender by his coach Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini and he has been doing well though there is still room for improvement.

Rating: 7/10**Reagan Kangumbu (Tambuti FC)**

The DR Congo strong midfielder is enjoying himself at the Lubombo based side. He makes the team tick with his pin point passes in the belly of the park. He is also deadly in set pieces. The goal he scored in a set piece against Young Buffaloes at Mavuso Sports Centre was superb.

Rating: 6/10**Charles Molopo (Malanti Chiefs)**

Molopo rejoined the gold and black outfit from ABSA Premiership side, Baroka FC. The bulky forward is yet

**Josef Lekata.**

to announce his return he was a fierce striker in the 2017/18 season whereby he was the league top goal scorer.

Rating: 4/10**Sibira Yanusu (Royal Leopard)**

The Ugandan born player has made a good impression.

He is a silent killer who enjoys entering the opposition defence.

Rating: 5/10**BAD BOY: Punch Masenemela.****STRONG DEFENDER: Kingu Pemba.**



● Manchester United are prepared to wait until the end of the season to sign Tottenham and Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen, 27, on a free transfer. *(Sunday Telegraph)*

● Real Madrid have told boss Zinedine Zidane to forget about signing Paul Pogba, 26, from Manchester United because the France international would block the development of Uruguay midfielder Federico Valverde, 21. *(AS)*

● New Everton boss Carlo Ancelotti will block any bid by Manchester United to sign Brazil forward Richarlison, 22, even if the Red Devils offer £70m. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● David Moyes and Tony Pulis are the leading contenders to take over at West Ham after Manuel Pellegrini was sacked. *(Sunday Telegraph)*

● Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola will honour his contract and remain at the club until the end of next season, according to chief executive Ferran Soriano. *(Mail on Sunday)*

● The year of the 'armpit offside'? VAR check at Norwich's Carrow Road More VAR controversy in the Premier League

● England right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold, 21, says he wants to remain at Liverpool for his entire career and become a club legend. *(Sportbladet, via Independent)*

● Juventus boss Maurizio Sarri is keen on signing France striker Olivier Giroud, 33, from his former club Chelsea. *(La Stampa - in Italian)*

● Bayern Munich, Juventus and Paris St-Germain are interested in signing Germany goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen, 27, from Barcelona. *(Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish)*

● Sheffield United are chasing QPR's £12m-rated 21-year-old English forward Eberechi Eze. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● Barcelona say Arturo Vidal's legal complaint against the club over alleged unpaid bonuses is an attempt by the Chile midfielder, 32, to force through a January move to Inter Milan. *(ESPN)*

● Liverpool are stepping up their interest in Lille and Nigeria forward Victor Osimhen, 20. *(Sunday Express)*

● Fiorentina are keen on signing Manchester United and Argentina defender Marcos Rojo, 29, next summer. *(La Nazione, via Football Italia)*

● Southampton and Denmark defender Jannik Vestergaard, 27, is a target for former club Werder Bremen in January. *(Sky Sports)*

● Former Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta, 35, has rejected offers from Major League Soccer sides LA Galaxy, Inter Miami and Montreal Sounders to stay at Japanese team Vissel Kobe. *(Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish)*

CHESS NATIONAL TEAM OFF TO RUSSIA NEXT YEAR

BY NOMALUNCELO PHIRI

CHESS -The Eswatini Chess Federation (ECF) will send a national squad to the 44th World Chess Olympiad to be held in Russia, August next year.

This was revealed by Tournament Director William Seyame during an interview yesterday.

He said the federation was in the process of selecting the squad to represent the country, stating that

it would be Eswatini's fourth participation in the biggest chess festival in the world where over 187 countries and over 1 600 players are expected to take part.

"We will select more players who will present Eswatini on other international assignments which include the Manzini Open Section to be staged in January," he said.

Seyame highlighted that their first participation in the World Chess Olympiad was in Stokksom, Norway in 2014 meanwhile their second

participation was in 2016 at Baku, Azerbaijan.

"The last time we participated was in 2018 at Batumi, Georgia and we are preparing ourselves for the 44th World Chess Olympiad tournament next year," he added.

The director said they would take advantage of other tournaments before the 44th World Chess Olympiad as they would practise for the bigger assignment.

Seyame further said they were pleased with the standard of the

sport in the country

"We are on the right track, and in few years' time we will produce not only candidate masters, but fide and international masters," he added.

The World Chess Olympiad is held every two years.

This will be the 44th men's Chess Olympiad (the first one took place back in 1927 in London) and the 29th women's Chess Olympiad. Moscow has hosted the Chess Olympiad twice, in 1956 and 1994 and Khanty-Mansiysk once, in 2010.

ENVA PRAISES TEAMS FOR IMPROVED STANDARDS

BY JONGILE XUBA

VOLLEYBALL - Eswatini National Volleyball Association has praised local teams for improving the standard of the sport in 2019.

This was revealed by the association Vice Secretary General, Eric Zwane, who said teams have done well this year as they managed to produce a photo finish in the Nedbank League title that was won on the last day.

ENVA received an invitation to participate in the Ulundi Volleyball tournament where Chilli Babes and Bob Cats represented the country in the annual international competition in South Africa.

"We had a good league season this year and

we saw some good performances by Bob Cats and Chilli Babes even though they did not win anything this year. The two teams still managed to show quality by getting good results throughout the season. It is not only these two clubs that did well, but the rest of the teams also excelled," he said.

Zwane further stated they were still having challenges to secure sponsors for other domestic competitions.

"All our competitions went well this year as there were no cases or incidents to report of. One of the difficulties we had was finding sponsorship for some of our tournaments like the Eswatini Trade Fair Cup. We hope to get more sponsors next year that will cover the other local competitions," he said.



Volleyball players listening to speeches during the presentation of the 2019 Nedbank League.

Shooting is improving - ESA

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SHOOTING - Eswatini Shooting Association (ESA) President Sipho Ntshalintshali says the standard and quality of the sport has drastically improved in the country

He said this during an interview with the publication, where he stated that they managed to attract new participants to joined the sport this year.

He said for now nothing was happening as many people were on holidays but on January 11, 2020 they would have games for individuals at Mzimfufu. He added that they were look-

ing forward to the games and he wished all shooters happy holidays.

"It is true that as an association we had challenges financially, but we are very happy that some sponsors came on board to support us. We were able to play our tournament with their assistance and we would like to urge some companies to support us as well. The sport is gaining popularity," he said.

"We are looking forward to the upcoming tournament and we urge players to attend the tournament in their numbers. We are still committed to improve the sport and make it better in the new year," he further said.



CHAMPS: Eddie Mkhonta (far right).

Eddie wins Singles Open Pool Tournament

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

POOL - Gifted youngster Eddie Mkhonta won the Singles Pool Tournament which was played at Mbabane Express Car Wash on Saturday.

The tournament was sponsored by Express Car Wash to a tune of E3 000.

Mkhonta was crowned a champion after beating Jarius Mhlanga 9-1.

The champion walked away with E1 500 plus a trophy while runner-up, Mhlanga, took E1 000. Mhlanga said fatigue cost him after he had played a long semi-final. "I was tired in the final after a grueling semi-final. Therefore, my opponent capitalised on that. However, having said that, congratulations to my opponent for being crowned a champion," he said.

Eddie Mkhonta could not be reached for comment as his mobile phone was off for the better part of the day. Meanwhile, semi-finalists Flag Nxumalo and Sindiswa Dlamini took home E500 each.

The Prizes Breakdown

Champion	Eddie Mkhonta E1500
Runner up	Jarius Mhlanga E1000
Semi Finalists	Sindiswa Dlamini E500
	Flag Nxumalo E500
Quarter Finalists	Dodge Matsebula E200
	Siziba Dlamini E200
	Nathi' Bhubesi' Sihlongonyane E200
	Norman Khoza E200

Seven Sea Birds stars rock Msunduza stokvel

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER – IT seems like Sea Birds Director Sicelo Mkhonta's recent warning to Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) players against playing in stokvel tournaments fell on deaf ears.

This comes after seven of his team players were spotted during the Solani's/Msunduza Rocks Charity Tournament which took stage at Msunduza Sports Ground yesterday.

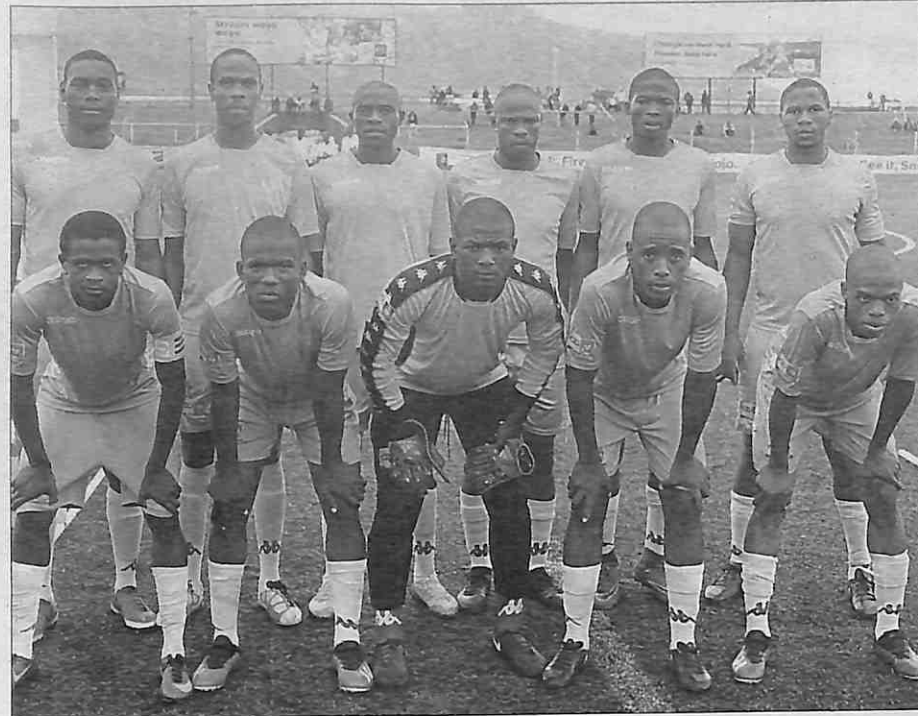
The players are Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze, Muzi Tsabedze, Sibusiso Dlamini, Khaya Dlamini, Wandile Nhleko, Mfundo Zwane and Gcinizwi Dlamini.

Discuss

Mkhonta said they were not aware of these players and would hold a meeting to discuss the issue, saying that players should use the holidays to prepare for the second round which resumes this coming weekend.

"Players should not take part in stokvel tournaments during the festive holidays, instead they should use the break to rest.

By so doing they will prove that they are true professionals of the sport and become role



models to a lot of youngsters," he said.

Other PLE players who were part of the stokvel games include Mbabane Highlanders mid-

fielder Mlamuli Nkambule and Manzini Wanderers playmaker Njabulo Magongo, among others.

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER – An Australian soccer consultancy and marketing company for both players and coaches will soon start operating in the country.

Interviewed yesterday, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Professional Soccer Management (PSM) Emmanuel Emenogu said the programme is aimed at identifying talent around the country, give opportunities to local players and move Eswatini football to the next level.

"It's not easy to make a living as a professional soccer player.

Competition is fierce, and players must work hard to receive the soccer training necessary to meet various objectives on the path to becoming

Australian soccer consultancy to start operating in Eswatini

ing a professional soccer player. Football trials can be an opportunity to get your foot in the door with a professional football club.

Performance

However, high performance soccer academies might be a safer option for beginning your journey to become a professional soccer player," he said.

Emenogu confirmed the launch of the initiative at Eswatini Football Association (EFA) offices today at noon.

"I shall meet with the members of Eswatini

football press and discuss all the logistics behind the programme," he said.

He also revealed that the agency has secured a two-year working permit and they are fully registered in Eswatini.

Ready

"We are legal here and ready to work and I shall be in the country for some time," he added.

Eswatini Football Association marketing and communications officer Muzi Radebe said he was not aware of the launch as they were still enjoying holidays.



'SAVIOLA' SURPASSES GOAL SCORING RECORD

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER – YOUNG Buffaloes midfielder Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze has reached Green Mamba striker Musa Dlamini's record.

This comes after the Young Buffaloes player managed to score 15 goals in the first round where he further helped his side clinch the E350 000 first round best finisher. The Sihlangu player dedicated his achievement to his teammates when quizzed about winning the E6 000 award.

"I would like to thank to the entire Buffaloes family including my coaches and teammates for supporting me throughout the season.

I would not have done this without their support and will continue working hard until the end of the season."

Managed

"I am very excited that I managed to score quite a number of goals in the first round and I will continue to work hard and my target is to score more goals even in the second round.

I am also happy that some of my teammates were also competing for the award which shows that we are in the right direction as a team," he said.

Buffaloes will kick-off their second round campaign with a tricky clash against Mhlume Peacemakers on Saturday at the Mavuso Sports Centre.

GRATEFUL: Young Buffaloes Midfielder Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze



CONFIRMED: Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati.

Bull, 'Sea Robbers' headline second round first clashes

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – MBABANE Highlanders will face Moneni Pirates when the MTN Premier League returns this coming weekend.

This is according to a fixture released by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati recently.

Malanti Chiefs will take on Milling Hotspurs at Somhlolo National Stadium on January 4, meanwhile Green Mamba have a date with Denver Sundowns at the same venue in the second match. King Sobhuza II Stadium will host Mbabane Swallows against Tambuti with the match scheduled to start at 3:30pm.

Royal Leopards will play Manzini Sea Birds at Mavuso Sports Centre with Young Buffaloes taking on Mhlume Peacemakers in the second match of the double header.

This means that teams will play their first games without their new signings.

FIXTURE:

Saturday				
MTN Premier League				
Somhlolo National Stadium				
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Milling Hotspurs		2pm
Green Mamba	vs	Denver Sundowns		4pm
King Sobhuza II Stadium				
Mbabane Swallows	vs	Tambuti		3:30pm
Mavuso Sports Centre				
Royal Leopard	vs	Manzini Sea Birds		2pm
Young Buffaloes	vs	Mhlume Peacemakers		4pm
Sunday				
Somhlolo National Stadium				
P/P Black Swallows	vs	Manzini Wanderers		2pm
Mbabane Highlanders	vs	Moneni Pirates		4pm

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE LOG:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Young Buffaloes	12	9	2	1	31	7	24	29
Mbabane Swallows	12	9	2	1	24	6	18	29
Moneni Pirates	12	7	3	2	18	9	9	24
Royal Leopard	12	7	3	2	16	8	8	24
Green Mamba	12	5	2	5	16	9	7	17
Mbabane Highlanders	12	3	7	2	9	8	1	16
Manzini Wanderers	12	4	3	5	12	17	-5	15
Denver Sundowns	12	3	4	5	12	17	-5	13
Tambuti	12	2	7	3	14	23	-9	13
Mhlume Peacemakers	12	3	3	6	13	12	1	12
Milling Hotspurs	12	2	5	5	8	15	-7	11
Sea Birds	12	3	2	7	10	19	-9	11
Black Swallows	12	3	1	8	12	26	-14	10
Malanti Chiefs	12	2	0	10	5	19	-14	6

RESULTS

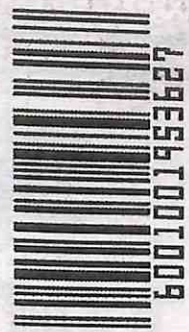


Premier League		
Arsenal	1-2	Chelsea
Liverpool	1-0	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Manchester City	2-0	Sheffield United

Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Monday December 30, 2019



EFA IN ALLOWANCES DILEMMA

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - Eswatini Football Association and Sihlangu players have been caught in allowances dilemma.

This follows reports that the players recently raised concerns to the mother body over their unpaid allowance for the 2020 CHAN qualifiers match against Zambia.

The first and second leg of the match was played in October 2019.

It had been gathered that shortly before Christmas, the players were only paid their allowances for the World Cup Qualifiers against Djibouti and Senegal in the AFCON qualifiers. The two matches were played in September and November, respectively.

As a result, the October allowances were skipped. A source close to the mat-

- Sihlangu players still owed CHAN allowances
- Players have enquired about the outstanding bonuses
- Squad to return to action in March under a new coach

ter revealed that the players had already informed the squad management through their captain Banele 'Makonese' Dlamini.

"The players are still waiting for their monies after asking the captain to speak, on their behalf, to the management and they haven't received any response from the management.

Each player is owed E3 000 by the mother body.

"The players are entitled to E1 000 for training allowance, E2 000 for a win and E500 for a loss," said the source.

"We are now in dilemma since we were not paid the money, yet the some of the officials are insisting that we were paid," said one of the players.

Eswatini Football Association Marketing Officer Muzi Radebe said these matters were administrative when sought for comment yesterday.

"These are administrative issues between the employer and employee; therefore, I cannot go into details," he said. Meanwhile, the nation's pride will return to action in March under the guidance of a new coach during the 2021 AFCON qualifiers. This follows the recent departure of Serbian coach, Kostadin Papic who parted ways with the national mother body amicably.

'MANYISA GOING NOWHERE'

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - Hub giants Manzini Wanderers say their gifted youngster, Leon Manyisa, is going nowhere unless it is a move outside the borders.

This follows reports suggesting that one of the capital city sides is chasing the signature of the former Green Mamba development product.

Wanderers Chief Executive Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini said the Elangeni pupil was their player and had a running contract except the ongoing case with Armenian side FC Van.

"Manyisa is our player and we are not pleased when we read in newspapers that certain teams want to sign him. The player is back with the team following his trials at Highlands Park," he said.

Dlamini further said they were waiting for the verdict of the appeal from the Protest and Disciplinary Committee.

This was after the Mayoyo Dlamini-led committee ruled in favour of Malanti Chiefs in December 9. The verdict saw the hub giants losing three points to Malanti Chiefs.

The maroon and white ensemble was also fined E5 000 for fielding a default player in the MTN Premier League.

The enterprising player will not kick the ball until the January transfer window and depending on the outcome of the appeal.

Meanwhile, Manzini Wanderers finished in position seven in the MTN first round log standings. The Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe charges will face Pigg's Peak Black Swallows on Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium during their first second round assignment.

African superstar rescues Liverpool after VAR drama

LONDON - Liverpool ended the year with three points as Sadio Mane's solitary strike secured victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers last evening.

Reds manager Jurgen Klopp only made change from the win over Leicester City as Adam Lallana replaces Naby Keita in the midfield, while Adama Traore and Raul Jimenez were only named on the bench for Wolves.

The hosts dominated in the opening exchanges but were unable to make that dominance count as Mohamed Salah squandered a glorious opening after being played in by Trent Alexander-Arnold, while the Egyptian was denied by Rui Patricio moments after.

The visitors, meanwhile, were quite content to sit back and allow the Reds to have the ball although they failed to provide any threat on the counter-attack.

The breakthrough did arrive minutes before the halftime break Virgil van Dijk's long pass found Lallana, who knocked the ball into the of Mane to slot home from close range, while the Video Assistant Referee was unable to spot any handball after appeals from the Wolves players.

Equaliser

There was enough time for Wolves to grab an equaliser when Pedro Neto fired home into the far corner, but the goal was disallowed by the Video Assistant Referee for an offside in the build-up.

In an attempt to claw their way back into the contest, Wolves coach Nuno Espirito Santo opted for a double change just before the hour mark as Traore and Saiss were brought on.

The double change improved the visitors' outlook going forward and they were nearly gifted a goal in the 76th minute when Diogo Jota robbed van Dijk of possession, but his stinging effort was palmed away by Alisson Becker.

Wolves only had themselves to blame for not bagging an equaliser as Joao Moutinho squandered two chances late in the game as the Reds held on to claim three points. *Daily Mail*

