

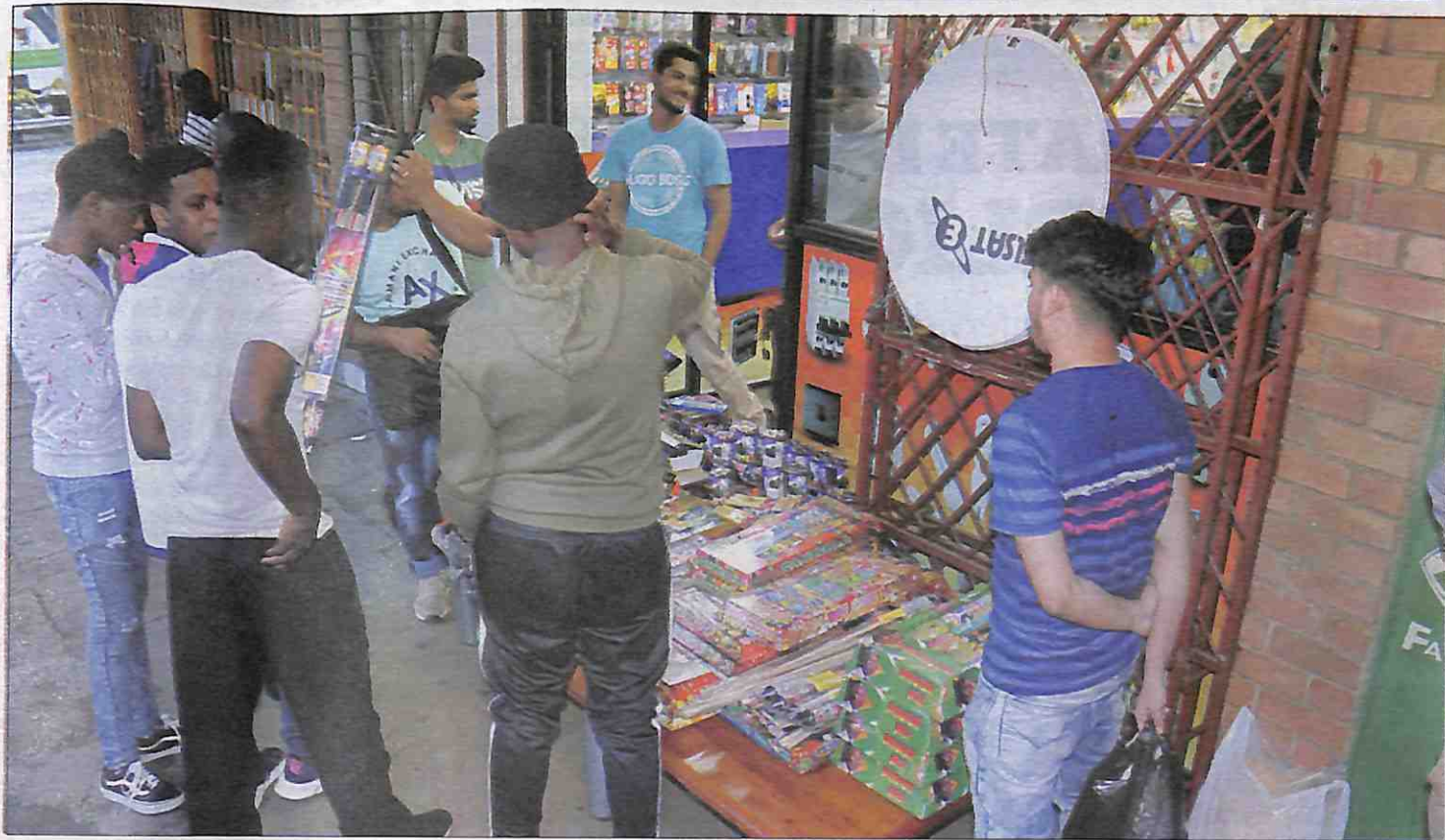
ESWATINI Observer

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Revived, Reliable and Read

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31, 2019

PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)



GETTING READY: Customers buying firecrackers along Bettfusile Street in readiness for the crossover to the New Year tonight. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

'I KILLED CHILD TO GET LOVER'S ATTENTION' ...attempted suicide twice, failed

STORY ON PAGE 3

NOSA NOW

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SIPHO SHONGWE'S APPLICATION DISMISSED

PAGE 2

EXAMS COUNCIL WARNS OF FAKE RESULTS

PAGE 3

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Eswatini Observer takes a break

Owing to the New Year holiday tomorrow, your favourite Daily will be back on the streets on Thursday morning, packed with exciting news and

coverage. We wish our loyal readers a Happy and prosperous New Year and be safe. Enjoy your read.

MTN accused in US court of paying 'protection money' to terrorists

US - Telecoms giant MTN yesterday said it was reviewing allegations raised in a US complaint that accuses several firms of paying protection money to militant Islamist groups in Afghanistan.

The complaint was filed in the US District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington on Friday. It alleges that the firms violated the US Anti-Terrorism Act by paying protection money to al Qaeda and the Taliban, thereby providing material support to known terrorist organisations. It seeks damages on behalf of US military members and civilians killed or

wounded in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2017.

"MTN is reviewing the details of the report and is consulting its advisers but remains of the view that it conducts its business in a responsible and compliant manner in all its territories," said the company in a statement. UK security services company G4S, which was also named in the lawsuit, declined to comment. The complaint follows investigations by a group of large Washington-based law firms and alleges that firms provided "material support" to known terrorists, leading to numer-

ous US injuries and deaths, according to a statement by the law firms involved.

MTN spokesperson Nompilo Mofafo said the company could not yet respond directly to the specific allegations in the report as it was still going through the details.

"We cannot comment further than what we've said in the statement. We want a chance to review the allegations. We only received the suit on Friday and we're still going through it. I also can't confirm how long it's going to take," said Mofafo.

Reuters

PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE DISMISSES SHONGWE'S APPLICATION

...Court says it's too risky to travel to South Africa to interview witnesses

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Manzini

MANZINI Principal Magistrate David Khumalo yesterday dismissed an application by murder suspect, Sipho Shongwe, who in this case is defending his extradition, to visit South Africa to interview two suspects he served with whilst in the Barberton Maximum Prison.

Shongwe's lawyer, Ben J. Simelane made the application in a bid to prove that Shongwe did not escape from prison. His legal team informed the court that there are two other inmates who were serving time with Shongwe for the same case who were released on parole.

The problem is that the two cannot be brought to Eswatini to be witnesses as part of their parole conditions does not allow them to visit Eswatini.

Shongwe's attorney wanted Principal Magistrate Khumalo to have the court officials go to South Africa to record statements from these witnesses.

However, in dismissing the application, Magistrate Khumalo stated that it is risky for judicial officers to go to South Africa.

Explaining the situation, Khumalo said in a case where the court fails to bring witnesses to the country where the case is heard, the court can go and record evidence of that witness in the state where that witness is based.

Statements

The principal magistrate pointed out that the provision of having a Judicial officer going to South Africa to record statements from the inmates who were serving time with Shongwe and now on parole has to be considered as a last resort.

Khumalo said this was because of a number of reasons, noting that the prosecution has pointed out that there are diplomatic procedures that have to be followed and these are time consuming.

The principal magistrate said the second reason is that there is a risk factor if a judicial officer will go all the way to South Africa to record a statement from a witness who is based there. Khumalo said there are security measures that need to be considered.

The principal magistrate said other than that, the country has in its law another provision which



ACCUSED: Sipho Shongwe.

provides for another alternative.

He said the law states that the court may at any stage of the trial call any witness or recall a witness who has testified before to give evidence on the case that is before it if the evidence to be delivered by the witness appears to be essential in the decision of the case.

Khumalo indicated that instead of going to South Africa, the court would call other witnesses to deliver their evidence before it on January 28.

The court indicated that the Crown must avail to the court any member of the case management committee so that he could account on who was responsible for the release of the inmates who were with Shongwe and placed them on parole even before their 20 years of being considered for parole was achieved.

Inmates

The principal magistrate said the Crown may also call any other witness who was directly involved in the releasing and placing of parole of those inmates. He said these witnesses would explain what considerations were used to put these inmates on parole before the 20-year sentence elapsed.

Shongwe, when applying for the extradition case not to be heard by the court had argued that the Crown's witness S.E Mokoena had relied on the affidavit of Anthony Mashabane in proving Shongwe's outstanding sentence yet Mashabane did not have the power and competence in law

to calculate and determine dates of release for prisoners.

Shongwe, through his attorney, pointed out that the responsibility of calculating and determining remaining dates for the release of prisoners relied with the prison's case management committee.

Records

The court in its ruling on the application for absolution had stated that on the question of whether or not there is still an outstanding sentence for the Shongwe to serve in Barberton Correctional Services facility, cognisance must be taken of the fact that at the time the respondent was released through the forged documents, he was still serving his sentence and had it not been for the fact that he got released through those documents, he would still be serving his sentence.

The principal magistrate stated that during the trial, in cross-examination of the Crown's witnesses, it unfolded that at the time Shongwe was liberated, his other inmates with whom he had been serving the same sentence remained behind.

He said this was evidence that Shongwe was released solely on the basis of the forged documents.

The court stated that had it not been for those documents, he would have not been released.

The court had also indicated that non-calling of the members of the case management committee by the Crown to testify on the outstand-

Shongwe to enter 2020 in prison

DESPITE being granted bail for the murder of business mogul the late Victor Gamedze, murder suspect Sipho Shongwe will be crossing over to yet another year behind bars.

Shongwe is currently fighting tooth and nail to gain his liberation. What is keeping him behind bars now is the extradition matter which is pending before the principal magistrate.

In this case Shongwe is fighting to prove that he did not escape from Barberton Maximum Security Prison as it is alleged that he did so through using forged documents.

The Crown has already paraded its in the case and more are expected to be paraded on 23 January.

ing sentence has not dealt a fatal blow to the case in the manner described by Shongwe's attorney.

The principal magistrate had stated that S.E Mokoena who testified in the matter was working in the same unit that kept and dealt with the records containing the sentences of the convicts.

The court indicated that Mokoena testified on the sentence that was outstanding at the time Shongwe was released.

The principal magistrate had stated that the issue of the alleged outstanding sentence for Shongwe is not only a question of fact but also of law.

Khumalo stated that the law stipulates that a prisoner serving a life imprisonment sentence can only be considered for parole after 20 years, adding it has not been disputed that Shongwe had not been placed on or considered for parole at the time of his release as he had not served the necessary period for him to be considered for parole.

The principal magistrate in his ruling pointed out that Mokoena who testified on the outstanding sentence said Shongwe had an outstanding 12 years 11 months and three days to serve.

Mokoena's testimony was regarded by the court as not faulted because Mokoena worked in the section that dealt directly with the relevant records relating to sentences to be served by offenders.

His evidence was regarded as not hearsay and inadmissible in the circumstance as he was a custodian of such records.

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I WANTED MY LOVER'S ATTENTION - MAN WHO KILLED DAUGHTER

• He twice attempted to commit suicide after incident

STORIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

AN excuse cited by the 22-year-old man of Bethany who is accused of killing his one-year-old baby girl was that he wanted to get his lover's attention.

Petros Veli Mfuma was arrested and charged with the murder after he strangled his lover's child. The incident happened on Christmas Day at around 7pm.

Information gathered was to the effect that the child had arrived with its mother on Christmas Eve and they had been visiting Bethany for the holidays since they lived in Pretoria, South Africa.

In the evening the following day, December 25, the child's mother asked his lover to show her around the area. Veli agreed to take her out to the shops nearby.

Socks

However, while the two love birds were by the gate at Veli's home, he reportedly jokingly told her to go and put on a pair of socks since she had cracked heels (*umkenke*).

This comment by Veli about her feet seemed to anger the woman as she turned back into the house and said she no longer wanted to go for the walk to the shops.

Veli allegedly asked why his lover was angry at him because he was only pulling her leg. Besides, Veli wondered why his lover was offended because she also used to tease him about his height but he never got cross with her.

When the two got back into the house, they engaged in a verbal altercation that quickly escalated to a point where it got physical.

The toddler's mother is said to have packed her bags and threatened to leave. On the other hand, Veli blocked her from leaving the house while he persuaded her to stay so that they could sort out their differences.



SUSPECT: Petros Veli Mfuma, now 22 years old in this undated photo.

Their argument escalated where the woman shoved and pushed in an effort to leave the house. Their argument ended with the woman telling Veli that it was over.

This declaration about the end of their relationship hit hard on Veli who made it known to his lover that he was going to take his life.

Indeed, he went into a house where he was to take a rope with which he would hang himself at an unknown destination. Meanwhile, the woman is said to have gone into Veli's mother's house. Just as Veli was about to take the rope, the toddler went into the same house in which Veli was in.

Temperature

"He then opted to take the child and run away with her with the hope that his lover would follow her, and they would have a chance to talk things through," a source said.

Veli ran for about 500 metres while holding the toddler by the neck with one hand.

After running for some time, Veli allegedly used both of his hands to hold the child's neck until he felt her body temperature rise before she passed loose stool while dangling in the air.

Shaken, Veli noticed that the toddler was unconscious so he tied her body on the fence surrounding Bethany Mission Primary School so that she could not be eaten by stray dogs since it was already dark.

The 22-year-old then took to his heels barefooted onto the hills of Mahlanya until he got to his friend's home where he intended to ask for a place to sleep.

Before reaching the friend's home, Veli attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself with his belt. However, life seemed not to permit him to cut corners as the belt torn into half and he fell on the ground.

At the friend's home in Mahlanya he asked for some shoes to wear after giving a sobbing story that he had been robbed.

Veli continued running until he halted under a bridge in Ezulwini near The Gables where he slept.

Before he slept, Veli attempted to commit suicide for the second time by making a rope with which he hung himself on a tree near the bridge. Still, he failed as the branch on which he hung the rope broke. The following day, Boxing Day, Veli reportedly received a call from the toddler's mother who apologised for all that she had done.

"She said she was pained by that she almost lost two of the people she loved," a source said.

Veli informed the lover that he was troubled by the child's ghost. The woman told him that she knew of someone who would help her in Siteki.

They arranged that he should go to Siteki and all along the woman directed him, even when he was to alight from the bus in which he travelled from Manzini to Siteki.

Just when he got out of the bus, the police allegedly apprehended him in the presence of his lover who had reported him. Veli is expected to appear in court tomorrow for a remand pending his committal to the High Court.

VELI MET PREGNANT LOVER ON FACEBOOK

NEW information on the relations of Veli and the deceased one-year-old toddler is to the effect that he was not the biological father of the child.

A well-placed source said Veli met the child's mother on social platform Facebook where they communicated until they got into a courtship.

The two are said to have met, and after some time into the relationship, the woman told Veli that she had a situation that she felt necessary to share with him.

Sources said it is then that the woman, originally from Eswatini, but currently residing in Pretoria, South Africa with her mother, informed Veli that she was pregnant with another man's child.

The accused person accepted the news so much that he expressed his love for

her, meaning that he accepted the child which he vowed to raise as his own.

Agreement

Indeed, after the baby was born sometime in 2018, Veli was a hands-on father who provided for her.

Sometimes, he travelled to Pretoria just to check up on his lover and child, while at some instances he would meet the woman at the border post so that she could have some items needed by the baby.

When the two made the agreement to raise the baby as their own, he did not inform his family until the baby was born.

His sister is said to have noticed that he used to post a picture of the baby on his WhatsApp profile picture so she asked about her. It was at this time that

Veli told her that he and his lover had a baby.

"He did not tell his family that the child was not his so much that rituals of burning of *tinyamatane* and the brief ritual to welcome the child home, which involves smearing it with ash on the forehead and also making it drink a bit of it were undertaken by Veli's family," a source alleged.

Additionally, as per cultural custom, Veli's family members inspected the child and they duly confirmed resemblance.

All this was done, yet the woman dropped out of St Joseph's High School after she was impregnated by her cousin in 2018, and Veli was well aware of it, but he continued to love her as his own anyway.

Beware of fake results – ECESWA

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

EXAMINATIONS Council of Eswatini (ECESWA) has warned the public to disregard inaccurate information that could be on social media regarding the release of results.

The warning was issued by ECESWA Registrar Dr. Edmund Mazibuko yesterday afternoon. He noted that last year the council was presented with a challenge as Form Five results were compromised when there was inaccurate information on social media misleading the public on the release of the results.

He said the public at large should ignore such information as it was misleading and the official results would be released once they were presented to the Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza.

He added that last year the council reported the matter to the police who conducted investigations but added that as of this point, no one had been held accountable for the release of the incorrect information.

He assured that the council with the help of the police would continue to trace the culprits responsible for the misleading information and they would be held accountable once they were caught.



WATCH OUT: ECESWA Registrar Dr. Edmund Mazibuko.

"This is not good as it compromises the credibility of the results and taints the council's credibility," he said.

With pupils and the public at large patiently waiting for the results, the council has confirmed that the results would be released soon.

Mazibuko further confirmed that Eswatini Primary Certificate (EPC) examination results would be released on Friday and the Junior Certificate (JC) examination results would be released on January 8.

He said the results would be presented to the minister before being released to the public.



REST IN PEACE: Inkhosikati LaKunene.

LATE PRINCE SOBANDLA'S WIFE PASSES ON

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

THE late Prince Sobandla's surviving spouse has also passed on.

Inkhosikati LaKunene form Siphocosi passed on three weeks after her husband's death in one of the medi-clinics in the neighbouring Republic of South Africa on Saturday, reportedly after a long illness.

Acting Ludzidzini Royal Residence Governor Lusendvo Fakudze confirmed the inkhosikati's demise.

He said they had received the

news from immediate family. It has also been reported to Their Majesties.

"We have received the news of Inkhosikati LaKunene's demise, and we have reported it to Emakhosini. This is really sad; the family hasn't healed from the prince's death which was hardly a month ago and now this," said a distraught Fakudze.

Inkhosikati LaKunene will be buried on Monday morning following the royal traditional procession (*ngelisiko leMalangeni*). There will be a night vigil on Sunday at KaNdlela (KaHhoye) at Nkhanini before her burial.

WEEDING OF MFABANTFU ROYAL FIELDS



JUBILANT: Ingaja captured in song and dance as they go about their duties at Mfabantfu Royal Field yesterday. Libutfo continues to turn out numbers for the royal duties. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



ENGOMENI: Inkhanyeti Yamswati regiment in a jubilant mood as they join in one of the songs.



SPOTTED: Morris Dlamini from the Central Bank of Eswatini and artist Themba Mavuso among the regiment.



PRESENT: Chiefs Bonginkhosi Dlamini of Bhekinkhosi and Ndabakawombe Dlamini of Mambafweni were also spotted.



ALSO THERE: Prince Mphiwa Dlamini, Prince Hlangusemphi and Hhansense Dlamini were among the emajaha present.



ON DUTY: Musa Mdluli, Chief Mdlaka Gamedze, Mahhunga Mndzebele and Dr. Daniel Dlamini up and about.



ALSO WEEDING: Paramedics from the EMS were not only there for the first aid but were also actively involved.

WONKHE WONKHE: Members of the Umbugu Eswatini Defence Force also took part in the weeding exercise.



AT WORK: Libutfo invaded Imfabantfu in numbers as per the Royal Command.



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FIRECRACKERS ALL OVER



FIREWORKS CORNER: With only a few hours left before the crossover, shoppers have already started buying fireworks as witnessed around the city's streets yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



ON SALE: One of the Asian retailers waiting for customers to buy some of the firecrackers which were on sale.

SIBEBE GIGANTIC SWIMMING POOL TO BE UNVEILED



BREATHTAKING VIEW: The gigantic swimming pool at Sibebe Resort which will be unveiled with a pool party, crossover event and family fun day. The pool will be the first of its kind in the country and has been under construction for many months. It was finally filled with water yesterday. (Courtesy pics)



VIEW: A view of the gigantic pool which is ready for use after being filled with water which will be circulating through.

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LUKHELE GADGETS TO HIT STORES

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

AFTER about a year-long wait, Emaswati will be happy to learn that the much-anticipated Lukhele Mobile phones are set to hit stores in April.

This was confirmed by Lukhele Mobile Country Manager Bongani Shiba, who promised that there would be an official press statement end next month.

"We are looking at distributing the product in stores on April 6, 2020 in time for Easter 2020. Consumers can expect the updated/refreshed offering in our press release due end of next month," answered Shiba briefly.

When quizzed on the reason behind the delay, Lukhele said it was a matter of ensuring that they offered a quality product.

"As a young brand you never get a second chance at a first impression and

we wanted our product delivery to be solid as we value and treasure our customers and most importantly, how they experience our product offering.

With that said, our main delay has been due to some latent defects that were identified in our long term testing of our product. These unfortunately have taken a while to correct with our manufacturing partner, but we assure our consumers that the decision to delay the product delivery to the market was made so that we could ensure that we have a quality product," he said.

Capable

Shiba added that the company looks to grow the communications industry in Eswatini as well as make an impact in the economy as a whole through enabling the growth of internet capable devices at an affordable price providing access to educational material and financial services.

"We are working with Mobile Money

providers and free open universities to deliver on enabling the growth of internet capable devices at an affordable price. This will therefore boost financial inclusion and allow for consumers to interact more with other facets of the economy. We are also proud to mention that we have also partnered with a local Eswatini based company that will be bringing a ride hailing app that will be imbedded in all our products," he concluded.

Worth noting is that in fast developing economies in the world, low cost, and at scale internet has empowered historically marginalised people, including those in peri-urban and rural areas, with the ability to create and finance their businesses, to collect payments, as well as to receive and disseminate knowledge.

Lukhele, who is based in South Africa, is the first Liswati to launch his own mobile brand.



WINNER IS? Eswatini Observer's Business reporter Bahle Gama, sub-editor Howard Mavuso and Entertainment desk reporter Setsabile Nkambule conducting a the All White New Year's Eve party draw yesterday at Eswatini Observer offices. (Pic: Ayanda Dlamini)

All white New Year's Eve Party lucky winners:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bahle Mdluli | 6. Sindiswa Dlamini |
| 2. Kholile Simelane | 7. Vuyile Tsela |
| 3. Nelisa Dlamini | 8. Michael Evans |
| 4. Tekhaya Simelane | 9. Sabelo Johnson |
| 5. Tebisa Charm | 10. Ali Johnson |

CANGO appreciates work done by NGOs in Eswatini

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) has appreciated work done by Non-Governmental Organisations who are able to continue serving the most vulnerable in our society.

This was mentioned by CANGO's Communications Officer Nkosingphile Myeni in their end-of-year statement released yesterday.

He mentioned that even with limited resources, the NGOs managed to fulfil their mandate.

He further recognised the impact made by the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act in 2018 which has attracted national attention in ways that have never been seen before.

"As a comprehensive law, the SODV Act promotes the realisation of the rights of women and girls in line with international principles and the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)," he said.

He mentioned it also ensured that the country met targets including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063 and CEDAW to eliminate gender-based violence.

He said the organisation also had

a role to play in eliminating gender-based violence.

By being aware of the Act, it was possible protect each other than treating crime as a normalcy. Against the popular belief, this Act does not only protect women as it modified offences that have been there and also created new offences and prohibited all crimes.

It addresses all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse ensuring that men can also lay charges; and the Act promotes and protects children's rights by providing the age of consent ensuring that both men and women can report sexual crimes.

Myeni added that the Act has also improved the justice system and ensured that government departments work collaboratively to protect complainants from unfair treatment.

He however noted that it was worrying that in some cases suspects were still roaming the streets unprosecuted.

"This defeats the realisation of the principle that all are equal before the law and justice delayed is justice denied," he said.

He stated it was also worrying that some members of Parliament (MPs) called for the review and amendment of the legislation.

He noted that it sent signals that voters are only important during elections, leaving legislators to now serve their own interests or of a few.

Three-year-old cancer patient dies

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

A three-year-old cancer patient in the Phalala Fund waiting list succumbed to death at Good Shepherd Hospital yesterday.

According to her father, Thabiso Mndzebele they were saddened by the loss and expressed disappointment at how the slow government processes might have resulted in the child's death. He however said, nothing could change the situation and bring the child back to life.

"Kwalile, the Senior Medical Officer at Good Shepherd Dr. Qosh personally went to Baragwanath hospital to find out what was happening with Nomsa's case to quicken the processes. He was overtaken by events as she died before he could see everything through. We really appreciate this gesture," said an emotional Mndzebele. *Nomsa Mndzebele had been in and out of hospital since May, initially because she had a cyst in her left kidney and a corrective operation was performed at the Mbabane Clinic. Mndzebele said his daughter got sick again where they took her to Good Shepherd Hospital where she was diagnosed with cancer. She also had difficulty breathing where they were informed

Phalala Fund has improved - Minister

MEANWHILE, Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi said as much as there were still challenges, the fund had made significant progress.

She said there were now residential oncologists in the country and some diagnosing tools including MRI scans. The recommendations of these specialists are highly put into consideration because at times patients are diagnosed when the cancer is at an advanced stage.

Nkosi added that at times, for cancer which is advanced only pain drugs

through palliative care are provided as going treatment would bring no fruits. "Please also note that Phalala Fund was without budget before and no specialists. Any GP would recommend a referral to Mbabane.

We have also decreased the expenditure from E400 million to E100 million annually.

We have done well in this quarter because of better management. We also cut middlemen to decrease the expenses and a lot of money has been saved," stated Nkosi.

that the cancer was quickly spreading. "Around August or September we were told that they she should come with her mother for a medical visa but told they had been called by mistake. About a month ago, she got worse, when we took her to hospital we were given antibiotics and told that her left lung was filled with water.

After seven days she was re-admitted because she couldn't breathe on her own as the cancer had progressed and had completely damaged the left lung," said the father.

Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula said they he was aware of

Nomsa's plight and had tried working on it with expedience.

He said they booked her into the South African hospital in July but had no control from there onwards.

"We could not push them further than what we did because there has to be beds available in order for Emaswati to be accommodated and some patients were turned back for the same reasons.

Of course, we have other hindrances; the government is still trying to pay some of the hospitals. We have four children registered since July, we also have quite a number of people on the waiting list," said Magagula.

Dams show slight improvement

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

WITH the rainy season in full swing, there has been a slight increase in dam levels.

The ministry of natural resources and energy has indicated that this month, there has been a slight increase in dam

levels around the country's reservoirs.

The ministry's communications officer, Sikelela Khoza also confirmed that recent recordings indicate that Lubovane Dam is at 84.7 per cent and Mnjoli Dam 63.81 per cent. Maguga Dam remains at 63.85 percent, Hawane Dam at 77 per cent and Luphohlo Dam at 70.86 per cent.

Khoza said the current levels at Maguga

Dam were not a cause for concern as the rainy season was still underway and as a ministry they were optimistic that the dam levels would continue to improve.

"We are not concerned about the dam levels as we are confident that the levels would continue to improve throughout the rainy season," he said.

He said the main functions of the dam were supporting downstream farmers as well as a hydro station for Eswatini Electricity Company.

Name of Dam	River	Full Supply Storage Million Cubic metres	Current Percentage Storage (%)				
			02nd Dec	05th Dec	09th Dec	17th Dec	30th Dec
Mnjoli	Black Mbuluz	177	61.92	61.85	62.05	65.46	63.81
Lubovane	Great Usuthu	155	76.90	76.3	77.57	82.64	84.7
Maguga	Komati	332	58.66	57.79	57.09	63.1	63.85
Hawane	BlackMbuluzi	2.75	62.00	62.00	65.00	78	77
Luphohlo	Lusushwana	23.6	44.90	44.9	47.8	61.74	70.86

Patients left stranded as nurses 'enjoy Christmas'

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

PATIENTS were either turned back or had to wait for hours over the past holidays as nurses in some hospitals were nowhere to be found.

Patients who visited Sinceni and Bholi Clinics had to wait for over two hours to access health care services. Those who were not patient enough or could afford to buy medication from nearby pharmacies left the clinics unattended.

According to some of the patients and relatives who were accompanying the patients, they were told by the casual workers at the healthcare facilities to plead with the nurses on duty.

One Angela Mkhathshwa, who had taken her son to the clinic, was not ready for what she encountered at Sinceni Clinic in the Lubombo region.

Mkhathshwa said upon arrival at the clinic she found a few queuing. She then asked the whether they had received any help.

"They said nurses were not working as it was a holiday," she said.

Looking at the condition her son was in, they then asked the casual workers at the clinic about the medical staff's whereabouts.

Mkhathshwa said the workers told them that the nurses who were on duty were relaxing in their houses which are within the clinic's vicinity.

She said they had to go and beg the nurse to attend to them.

"Even after we had begged her she told us right on our faces that she was supposed to be relaxing like everyone else," she said.

She said because they needed her service they had to endure her aggressive words she directed to them.

Another clinic that had similar challenges was Bholi in Big Bend.

In this clinic, it is said doors eventually opened at 1100 hours after countless attempts by patients pleading with the healthcare workers to attend to them.

Meanwhile, Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula said he

would investigate the matter. Magagula said if the healthcare professionals really acted in this manner, they were on the wrong.

He said as long as they are healthcare professionals on duty, they should be at work.

He said they would take drastic measures against those found to have neglected patients to spend time at their homes.

He described this as a serious neglect of duty.

“Even after we had begged her she told us right on our faces that she was supposed to be relaxing like everyone else”



Sihhushuhshu and Sigcebhe could not miss the royal assignment.

Mother flees home as mentally challenged son bays for her blood

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A mother has deserted her home as her mentally challenged son is reportedly baying for her blood.

Nosmilo Mtfupha of Letindze in Qomintaba is now living with some neighbours in fear that her son will kill her.

Mtfupha said on numerous occasions her son would attack her using bush-knives or any weapon he would lay his hands on to try and kill her. She said she has evaded the anger of her son many times and is now living in fear. Mtfupha, who is a widow, said the bone of contention is that after the demise of her husband in 2012, she had no money to cater for her other son who was studying at the University of Eswatini.

So, she then sold a cow whose proceeds would be used to cater for the other son's basic needs at university. "My sin was that I told him to repay me when he gets a job because it was the only thing his father left me and I think that did not go down well with Mphumuzi," she said. Mtfupha said after her eldest son started working it was when Mphumuzi demanded that he should pay back the cow that was sold to cater for his university expenses. She said at first she said not take him seriously but after some time she heard that her son was now smoking dagga and that could have been the cause of the violence.

It was early this year that Mphumuzi was alleged to have developed a mental health problem. Her mother said she started to act violently and he easily was upset even over minor things.

She said it got worse when she asked both her sons to contribute money for ploughing and Mphumuzi said he will not contribute anything because he was not taken seriously by the others in the family.

"When I asked him where all that was coming from, he became violent and threatened to kill me and his elder brother.

He went to his house at that moment and grabbed a spear, came charging and we had to run for our dear lives," Mtfupha explained.

At one point, he threatened to poison them if they did not leave the home. She stated that she now fears for her life as her elder son is always at work and she stays with the mentally challenged son.

Mtfupha mentioned that she is now living with neighbours because her son does not want to see her in her matrimonial home.

"He is making my life very difficult because now I have to seek refuge from my neighbours and I am not able to carry on with my daily chores as a woman," she said.

She further said that means of getting her son for a psychiatric evaluation proved futile as he disappeared from home when he was supposed to be taken there and he only surfaced now where he is baying for her blood.

2 000 abuse cases in 11 months

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

CLOSE to 2 000 cases of abuse have been reported this year alone.

These cases were reported between the months of January and November.

This was confirmed by Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) Communications and Advocacy Officer Slindele Nxumalo.

According to reports during the cause of the year, there were 1 920 cases of abuse reported to the organisation and the most common form of abuse reported was emotional abuse.

The highest number of cases was reported in January, where a total of 221 were reported and the least number was in November where a total of 95 cases were reported.

She said emotional/verbal abuse continued to record the highest number of

cases followed by financial and sexual, physical and lastly, neglect.

She said SWAGAA's counselling department provided post-abuse care services to clients who reported abuse related cases, that is, the client was either sexually, physically, neglect, financially or emotionally abused.

She said the cases were reported in the organisations service sites being Manzini, Simunye, Hlatikulu, One Stop Centre in Mbabane and Mbabane OPD and under USAID funded project Insika Yakusasa.

Noted

She added that cases was higher than the number of clients because a client can report multiple types of abuse at the same time as there were examples of 151 cases of abuse that happened to 112 clients. She also noted that the Manzini region recorded the highest number of abuse cases during the cause of the year. She said the clients who reported cases

of abuse were both male and female perpetrators were also from both sexes.

She said during the month of November, survivors' relatives were the main perpetrators of violence, where 15 survivors reported to be abused by their ex-husbands. "Intimate violence indicated that 15 survivors reported to be abused by their ex-husband and two by their ex-wives, 10 by their boyfriends and four by their girlfriends.

Furthermore, five survivors reported to be abused by person in their neighbourhood and two survivors were abused by strangers or unknown persons while 12 victims were abused by parents, mother and father and 11 were abused by their relatives or persons they trusted," she said.

She added that homes continued to be the predominant place where most of the reported abuse cases took place. She said this could be the survivor's or perpetrator's home, which indicated that most of the abuse was committed by people who stayed with and were known to the survivor.

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

TUCOSWA TO FIGHT FOR E3 500 MINIMUM WAGE

TRADE Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) has revealed that for the year 2020 it is planning to fight for a minimum wage of E3 500, among other issues affecting the working class.

TUCOSWA Secretary General Mduduzi Gina stated in the federation's end of year statement that the struggle to close the gap between the rich and the poor had to be intensified. He stated that the institutional framework within which the country is governed is anti-the poor as all meaningful policies and practices favour the rich. He said the current political set-up is such that only

the rich could make it to national policy making structures. Gina said the buying of votes for parliamentary seats was overly practiced during the election of Senate members and should have been a cause for concern within some institutions like Anti-Corruption Unit and others but "nothing happened despite the much publicised allegations of corrupt tendencies. "This was a clear indication that our system as a country tolerates corruption as long as it will at the end promote and defend the interests of the minority rich at the expense of the majority poor," Gina stated. He said Parliament was dominated by indi-

viduals who are determined to put in place policies that will protect their class and property interests. He said the federation was not surprised when the finance minister introduced a proposal for the reduction of corporate tax by almost half. Gina stated that the argument by the government that such reduction will attract foreign direct investment is a false argument. According to Gina, working is no longer a mitigating factor or act against poverty as a majority of workers remain poor despite being employed. Gina lamented the delayed promulgation of the Employment Bill into an Act of Parliament.

He said the legislative process in this Bill was stalled because it included the banning of labour brokers and the payment of severance at retirement. Notwithstanding the well-established rule that labour is not a commodity, he added that these individuals within the echelons of power still want to continue manipulating labour for their unending appetite for profits. Gina pointed out that as workers they are entering the New Year with news that the economy of the country has shown a six per cent improvement.

He said the alleged growth must result into improved offer by the government

to the public sector workers. Gina said attention should be given to the shortage of drugs in public health institutions and in education facilities.

For the year 2020, Gina said as TUCOSWA they undertake to put in place programmes and activities for the realisation of their outstanding demands, in the main being the following: payment of severance allowances at retirement, banning of labour brokers, banning of perpetual fixed term contracts on posts of permanent nature, E3 500 national minimum wage, conversion of the National Provident Fund to a pension fund.

MP Bulunga brings smiles to Mbabane East residents

...distributes food parcels, school bags and stationery packs

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

MBABANE East Member of Parliament (MP) Harries 'Madze' Bulunga yesterday brought smiles to close to 200 people under his constituency.

Through his foundation, 'Madze 17 Foundation,' Bulunga, who also doubles as minister of sports, culture and youth affairs, distributed food parcels, school bags and stationery packs to 192 beneficiaries.

The 70 food parcels consisted of beans, salt, teabags and sugar. The MP further distributed 74 school bags to primary school pupils and 48 stationery packs to high school learners. Another donation made on the day was a wheelchair to Yolanda Harrison, who had asked for help from the MP two weeks ago. Luckily, he was able to come to her rescue with the assistance of a local donor.

Speaking during the donation, Bulunga said this was his way of giving back to the community and making their lives better.

He said these were individuals that made the person he is today.

"The residents of this area made me the person I am today so this is the least I could do for them, hence the formation of the 'Madze 17 Foundation,'" he said. The MP said through the foundation, he mobilises resources that will be adequate enough to help change lives of the less privileged from the Mbabane East Constituency.

Bulunga said yesterday's exercise followed another conducted on Sunday at Worship Centre in Mbabane. He said



CARING FOR THE NEEDY: Minister of Sports Harries 'Madze' Bulunga who is also Mbabane East MP and Msunduzi resident Terrence Zwane pose with Yolanda Harrison during a donation of a wheelchair and hampers to the needy residents yesterday. The event was held at the Msunduzi Hall. (Pics: Mduzuzi Mngomezulu)

his foundation works hand-in-hand with the church to make lives of the needy better.

"We were able to make a difference to 150 people on Sunday through the assistance of Worship Centre," he said.

Bulunga thanked those who have partnered with him through the initiative. Amongst those, he cited was Terrence Zwane, who currently resides in the United States of America (USA).

He said some of the packages distributed were mobilised by Zwane from his fellow colleagues.

"The school bags and stationery were obtained through networking overseas," he said.

He said he believes in as much as Christmas has passed, the food parcels would still come in handy. He added that the school bags would lessen the January woes that come with the opening of schools.

Describing the donations, he said they wanted to reduce schools opening costs for parents since government provides stationery as part of the free primary education and most parents still struggle to cater for the other needs such as school bags and uniform. He added that the young ones cannot be left out in community building, hence they want to motivate and encourage them to take education seriously.



CHEESE: Bulunga hands over school bags to the young ones.



ALL ASSORTED: These are some of the food items included in the hampers.



FOR YOU: Thabiso accepts a hamper on behalf of an elderly relative.



BAGS: The children display the school bags they received.



BENEFICIARIES: A section of the beneficiaries focused on proceedings.



ONE LINE: The elderly of Msunduzi getting their hampers from MP Bulunga and Zwane.

Our votes not in vain – Residents

HAPPINESS, gratitude and emotions were written all over Msunduzi Hall as the Mbabane East MP showered residents with gifts and back to school packages.

Gogo Zanele Hlophe was one of those filled with emotions and words of gratitude as she received her food hampers. Hlophe thanked Bulunga and his team, saying she wishes him showers of blessings from God.

She now understands that her vote was not wasted but it was channelled to the right person.

In addition, Hlophe said the stationery and school bags would lessen the stress

that normally engulfs them during the schools opening in January. "Now we no longer have to buy school bags and stationery for our children," she said.

She added that she wished some Members of Parliament could emulate their MP and make the lives of the less privileged better.

Young people also expressed their gratitude to the MP. Ngcebo Nhlabatsi knelt in front of the MP in appreciation for what he had done for them.

The MP was friendly enough to give advice to the young ones by asking them to take education seriously and excel in their school work.

Zwane, who is one of Bulunga's partners residing in the USA, said he was amazed by what the vision had turned out to be.

He thanked Bulunga for making their vision greater than it was.

He said initially he had planned to help 10 families with a month's worth of groceries but because his dream was big, Bulunga said they could do something bigger than that, hence yesterday's exercise.

Zwane, who grew up at Mgababa, is currently working for the Information and Communication Technology in the USA.

INALA CAPITAL

HIGHLIGHTS

Nav per
share
E 1.03

Equity Investments
valued at
E 43.9 m

E 40.0
invested in
2019

Figures in Emalangeni
Unaudited for the
year ending
30 September 2019

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Interest Income	499 726
Operating expenses	(2 005 845)
Operating profit / (loss)	(1 506 119)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments	1 412 000
Loss before taxation	(94 119)
Income tax credit	414 183
Total Comprehensive Income	320 064

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	43 912 000
Deferred tax asset	414 183
	44 326 183
CURRENT ASSETS	
Other financial assets	20 499 726
Cash and cash equivalents	9 250 623
	29 750 349
TOTAL ASSETS	74 076 532

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

EQUITY	
Share capital	73 373 123
Retained profit	310 023
TOTAL EQUITY	73 683 146

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities	
Trade and other payables	381 076
Amounts owing to related parties	12 310
TOTAL LIABILITIES	393 386

TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	74 076 532
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

SHARE CAPITAL	73 373 123
RETAINED INCOME	310 023
Balance at the beginning of the period	(10 041)
Profit for the year	320 064
TOTAL EQUITY	73 683 146

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Cash used in operations	(1 620 461)

NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(1 620 461)
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CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of investments	(40 000 000)

NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(40 000 000)
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CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Proceeds on issue of shares	40 480 023

NET CASH INFLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	40 480 023
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NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1 140 438)
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TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	10 391 060
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TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	9 250 622
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Unaudited for the
year ending
30 September 2019

Figures in Emalangeni

NOTES

1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial results have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and in the manner required by the Companies' Act 2009.

The financial results presented have been reviewed by the auditor of Inala Capital Limited (the Company), but not audited.

2. HEADLINE EARNINGS

2.1 EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic and diluted earnings per share 0,004

2.2. NUMBER OF ORDINARY SHARES OF E1 EACH IN ISSUE

Actual 71 497 844
Weighted average 71 497 944

3. INVESTMENTS

Unlisted 43 912 000
43 912 000

4. LOANS AND RECEIVABLES

Investment in promissory notes 20 499 726

5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Management and performance fees 497 054

All related party transactions are made at terms equivalent to those prevailing in arm's length transactions. There have been no guarantees provided or received for any related party receivables or payables. The company has not recorded any impairment of receivables relating to amounts owed by or investments in related parties during the period.

6. CASH USED IN OPERATIONS

Loss before tax	(94 120)
Adjustments for:	
Interest Income	(499 726)
Change in fair value of investments through profit or loss	(1 412 000)
Increase in trade and other payables	385 385
	(1 620 461)

COMMENTARY

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of Inala Capital Limited ("Inala") is to create a formal investment vehicle, which is listed on the Eswatini Stock Exchange ("ESE") that will provide investors with attractive long term returns. Inala will invest primarily in a diversified portfolio of unlisted privately owned businesses (as opposed to being listed or traded on a stock exchange, i.e. the private equity asset class) in the agriculture, food production and food retailing sectors.

Inala formally started trading on the Eswatini Stock Exchange on 3 June 2019.

Inala performance

Key highlights for the period ending 30 September 2019 have been:

- Inala's reported Net Asset Value ("NAV") per share at 30 September 2019 is E1.03.

Inala Capital Limited provisional unaudited financial results for the year ended 30 September 2019

COMMENTARY (CONT.)

- The equity investment portfolios valued at E43.9 million; and
- E62.5 million invested since Inala was incorporated.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the period, Total Comprehensive income for the year was E320 064. There was no dividend income in the year ended September 2019 from underlying investments. Interest income from the year was E499,726 which relates to interest from the E20 million Promissory Note investment. The revaluation of the underlying equity investments was E1.4 million.

Operating expenses amounted to E2.0 million and comprise of day-to-day operational expenses incurred to run Inala, audit fees, professional fees, listing fees and the managers management fee.

INVESTMENT REVIEW

As at 30 September, Inala had invested a total of E62.5 million in various equity and debt investments. Inala acquired 27.2% of Alliance Foods (Pty) Limited, 8.7% of General Africa Foods Eswatini (Pty) Limited and invested E20 million in a short term debt instrument.

KPMG was engaged to perform the independent valuation of Inala's unlisted investments.

For Alliance Foods and General Africa Foods the primary valuation technique applied by KPMG was the discounted cash flow methodology. In addition, as a reasonableness test, KPMG used the capitalisation of maintainable earnings methodology, using the EV/EBITDA multiple of comparable companies.

The respective applied multiples and the discounts to the observed peers is as follows:

Investment	Multiple Applied / Discount Rate
General Africa Foods (Pty) Limited	23.8%
Alliance Foods (Pty) Limited	17.0%

The investment portfolio ("Investment") comprises of:

Investment	Ownership	2019 Value	XIRR
General Africa Foods (Pty) Limited	8.7%	21 728	-1.8%
Alliance Foods (Pty) Limited	27.2%	22 184	32.3%
Equity Investments		43 912	
Promissory Note		20 450	
Total Investments		64 362	

The underlying Investment portfolio is relatively new and thus it is premature to measure returns. However, the portfolio is currently valued at E 64.4 million which is in total E1.9 million above the cost of these investments.

OUTLOOK

The 2019 calendar year has been a productive year for Inala with the company listing and raising close to E75 million, of which over 80% has already been deployed. Inala will continue to look for new investment opportunities and aims to conclude further transactions in 2020.

POST BALANCE SHEET

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The unaudited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and have been reviewed by the auditors.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Inala Capital Limited will be held on or before 31 March 2020. Adequate notice will be given to all shareholders prior to the meeting.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The directors and management of Inala Capital Limited confirm their commitment to the principles of openness, integrity and accountability as advocated by sound principles of Corporate Governance contained in the King Reports.

By order of the Board

AT Dlamini

Inala Capital Limited
(Incorporated in the Kingdom of Eswatini Reg. No. 2364 of 2017)

Directors: AT Dlamini (Chairman), AMB de Castro, M Dlamini, TM Dlamini, NK Mabuza, SS Msibi

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MANAGER

AFRICAN ALLIANCE

AUDITORS

pwc

PricewaterhouseCoopers Services (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 569, Mbabane

TRANSFER SECRETARY

KPMG

KPMG Chartered Accountants
P.O. Box 331, Mbabane, H100

STOCKBROKERS

AFRICAN ALLIANCE
CAPITAL MARKETS

African Alliance Eswatini Securities Limited
P.O. Box 5727, Mbabane, H100

Girl (16) slapped with SODV charges after assaulting sister

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A pregnant 16-year-old girl was slapped with a charge of contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act after assaulting her older sister and newborn baby.

Ncobile Sethabile Shongwe appeared before Magistrate Nelisiwe Hlophe at the Manzini Magistrate's Court. According to her charge sheet, Shongwe allegedly insulted and beat her older sister Nozipho Nokwethu Maziya with open hands several times on the face. The incident happened at Mashayazafe in Matsapha.

According to court records, Shongwe was invited to Maziya's place in Matsapha to look after her as she was from delivering her baby. Maziya said before Shongwe came to her place, she had asked for Shongwe's stepmother's consent.

Upon arrival at Matsapha, Shongwe is said to have changed her clothes and wore a short pair of trousers which Maziya disapproved of asking her to find alternative clothes that would cover her thighs since there were boys within the homestead.

Shongwe is said to have then insulted Maziya telling her that she would not listen to a prostitute. She is said to have then left the house only to return at 11pm.

The following morning, Maziya said she asked Shongwe to cook sour porridge (*incwancwa*) for her but more insults were hurled at her, and further refused to wash a pot which her sister uses to cook the sour porridge.

"I then told her that since she was failing to assist me she should leave. When I handed her a plastic bag full of her clothes she assaulted me with open hands," Maziya told the court.

The teenage girl is said to have

proceeded to snatch Maziya's phone and smash it on the floor. As if that was not enough, Shongwe is said to have grabbed a hammer before charging towards a bed where Maziya's newborn baby was sleeping.

Luckily, before assaulting the newborn with the hammer, Maziya managed to push her away from the baby.

"She bit me on my left hand, and after a relative intervened, she was not fazed as she went for a stick and attempted to assault my elder child who was outside," stated Maziya.

On the other hand, Shongwe told the court that on the day of the fight she had cooked okra (*ligusha*) and pap, but her sister said she did not want it.

Instead, Shongwe said she was ordered to cook something else but she refused. After she was given her clothes and ordered to leave, Shongwe claimed her sister had a hammer on her hand with which she wanted to assault her. "I overpowered her and grabbed the hammer, and I wanted to hit her baby," Shongwe told the court.

She was sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of E3 000 fine. Half of the sentence was suspended on condition that she did not commit the same offence during this period.

"She bit me on my left hand, and after a relative intervened, Shongwe was not fazed as she went for a stick and attempted to assault my elder child who was outside"



THE SEXUAL OFFENCES & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2018

TAIWAN AVAILS MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EMASWATI

BY NOMTHANAZO NKAMBULE
Mbabane

ANOTHER opportunity for locals who are keen on pursuing their studies in Taiwan in the coming year has been availed.

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has announced the availability of the Taiwan ICDF Scholarship 2020. The International Cooperation and Development Fund in Taiwan (Taiwan ICDF), in cooperation with 20 partner universities which cover 30 programmes; eight bachelor, 19 master's and three PhD degrees, all conducted in English, would be providing financial support for Emaswati to pursue tertiary studies in Taiwan in 2020.

The embassy advised though that applicants had to apply for Taiwan ICDF scholarship and university admissions separately.

Requirements for scholarship application: a completed application form

Programmes:

1. National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST)
 1. Undergraduate Program in Tropical Agriculture
 2. Master Programme in Tropical Agriculture
 3. PhD Programme in Tropical Agriculture

March 15, 2020

2. National Chengchi University (NCCU)
 1. International Undergraduate Programme in Business Administration
 2. International Master of Business Administration
 3. International Master's Program in International Studies in College of International Affairs

March 15, 2020

March 20, 2020

(completed online, printed out and signed), a photocopy of the applicant's passport or proof of nationality, a photocopy of the applicant's highest-level diploma and academic transcript (authenticated by ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation and the Embassy), two letters of reference. The application period: for scholarship: January 1 – March 15, 2020 (application documents have to be sent to the embassy before March 13, 2020). For university admissions: applicants

must refer to the programmes listed below for application deadlines.

Application documents should be sent directly to the universities by applicants themselves before the deadline.

The embassy added that the duration of scholarship was four years for undergraduate programmes; two years for Master's programmes; four years for PhD programmes.

Scholarship benefits included; economy class return airfare, housing, tuition, textbook costs and a monthly allowance.

2020 ICDF Scholarship

National Tsing Hua University (NTHU)	1. International MBA in Technology Management 2. International Master Program in Information Systems and Applications	March 15, 2020
National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU)	Graduate Institute of International Human Resource Development	March 16, 2020
National Yang-Ming University (NYMU)	1. Master's Program in International Health 2. Ph D Program in International Health	March 31, 2020
National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU)	International Master's Program in Aquaculture Technology and Management	March 15, 2020
National Central University (NCU)	International Master's Program for Environment Sustainable Development	March 15, 2020
Kun Shan University (KSU)	International Bachelor Program in Mechanical Engineering	March 31, 2020
National Sun Yat-Sen University (NSYSU)	International Master's Program in Electric Power Engineering	March 31, 2020
Yuan Ze University (YZU)	International Master's Program in Industrial Engineering and Management	April 15, 2020
National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Science (NTUNHS)	International Nursing Master of Science Program	March 31, 2020
National Taiwan University (NTU)	International Master's Program in Agricultural Economics	February 14, 2020
National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)	International Master Program in Civil Engineering and Management	March 30, 2020
Ming Chuan University (MCU)	1. Undergraduate Program in International Business and Trade 2. Undergraduate Program in Journalism and Mass Communication 3. MBA Program of International Business and Trade	March 15, 2020
Kaohsiung Medical University	M. Sc. Program in Tropical Medicine	April 1, 2020

2020 ICDF Scholarship

Taipei Medical University (TMU)	1. Ph D Program in Global Health and Health Security 2. International Master's Program in Health Care Administration	March 15, 2020
Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA)	International Master of Arts Program in Cultural and Creative Industries	April 1, 2020
National Chung Hsing University (NCHU)	1. International Bachelor Program of Agribusiness 2. International Master Program of Agriculture	March 31, 2020
National Chung Cheng University (CCU)	Master in Educational Leadership and Management Development	March 15, 2020
National Dong Hwa University	International Bachelor Program in Computer Science and Information Engineering	March 31, 2020

Duration of Scholarship: Four years for undergraduate programs; two years for Master's programs; four years for Ph D programs.

Scholarship benefits: economy class return airfare, housing, tuition, textbook costs and a monthly allowance. See Taiwan ICDF website for details.

Interested candidates can refer to Taiwan ICDF website at www.icdf.org.tw or contact Ms. Vini Nombulelo of this embassy at 24044740 ext.111 or e-mail at roszembassy@mcn.net for more information.

Two bogogo arrested for drink-driving

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

TWO elderly women found themselves on the wrong side of the law after being nabbed driving intoxicated.

One of the women Elizabeth Mazibuko (62) of Nyonyane appeared before Mbabane Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati facing two traffic offences.

The accused was charged with drink-driving and her breath specimen read 0.91mg/l on the breathalyser test.

This reading was above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Due to her being intoxicated the accused is alleged to have caused an accident as she rammed from behind a Toyota Quantum near Cuddle Puddle on Sunday morning. The accused pleaded guilty to two charges of drink-driving and that of causing an acci-

dent.

Magistrate Vilakati who was presiding over the matter expressed his disappointment on the behaviour of the elderly woman.

He said at her age Mazibuko shouldn't be driving at all. Vilakati said Mazibuko's grandchildren (*batukulu*) should be the ones driving her around. The magistrate said it pained him sentencing such a old person.

The accused was sentenced to 15

months imprisonment with a fine option of E1 500 for driving while under the influence of alcohol. For crashing into a Toyota Quantum, the accused was sentenced to five months imprisonment with a fine option to pay E500. The sentences were set to run concurrently.



Meanwhile, in the same court another elderly woman also made a court appearance facing a similar charge for driving her vehicle while intoxicated. She too was found guilty and sentenced to 15 months in prison with a fine option to pay E1 500. Sonto Sabbath Dlamini was charged with drink-driving after her breath specimen read 0.49mg/l. She was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with a fine option of E1 000.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WANTS ITS MANDATE CLARIFIED

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE Human Rights Commission says there is need for the mandate and functions of the commission to be clarified so that the country meets the international standards of treaty bodies.

In a report, the Commission of Human Rights and Public Administration states that its relationship with the ministry of justice should be clarified.

The commission states that there is need to pursue efforts to ensure the smooth functioning and full independence of the commission in conformity with the Paris principles.

Status

The commission also cites in their report that there is need to adopt appropriate legislation to render the commission fully operational.

"The status of the Human Rights Commission on right and human rights and public administration



and its mandate powers together with its relationship with the ministry of justice should be clarified.

There is need to pursue efforts to ensure the smooth functioning and full independence of the commission in conformity with the Paris principles," the report states.

It further states that there is need to adopt appropriate legislation to render the commission fully operational and strengthen its capacity. This will allow the commission to operate on the necessary

financial resources so that it is in full compliance with the Paris principles.

To enhance the effectiveness of the commission, it is recommended that it should be full-time; there is also need for the secretariat to be strengthened to effectively execute its revised functions.

In addition, the report states that the commission has to be a totally independent institution, both functionally and financially.

This is also vital given that the

attorney general and governments are likely respondents in the most human rights related cases.

Moreover, there is need to articulate its functional independence in order for government officials to understand and appreciate their roles and functions of the Human Rights Commission as an independent entity. The commission is established by the constitution to promote and protect the rights of every individual in the country. "There is need for the commission to continuously engage with all actors and a human rights arena. The commission must make a deliberate intent to human rights culture among the population and within government institutions and clear misconceptions that are perceived as important values that are contrary to Swati tradition," reads the recommendations.

It further cites that the commission and other human rights activists should adopt the holistic approach to human rights education and advocacy.

Man (29) faces jail term for indecently assaulting toddler (3)

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A three-year-old toddler has been left immensely traumatised after a man took advantage of his innocence and violated his body.

Relaying her side of events before the court, the toddler's mother Rose* recalled that on the day of the incident she had left for work and left her son in the care of his helper.

"I had left the house at around 1230 hours that Saturday, and returned later that day to the shock of my life. When I arrived, Sphe*'s nanny informed me that something had happened to my son, however, she insisted that I speak to him so he could tell me what had happened," Rose recalled.

According to her, when she left her house, Sphe had already been bathed and was wearing clean clothing. However, when she returned she discovered that he had changed his clothing, and questioned him why he had done so.

"He told me his trousers were dirty and wet, stating that Zulu* had stained them with what he described as 'mucus'. I was left confused as I was under the impression that Zulu may have expelled his nasal mucus on my son's trousers. Sphe then informed me that Zulu had lifted him on his bed, and made movements, which I later deduced as sexual movements on him. He told me that as a result of Zulu's movements, his private part area was painful," an emotional Rose explained, to a shocked court gallery. On her inspection of Sphe's trousers, Rose discovered that there were traces of semen. "That was when I realised what had happened and I quickly called Sphe's father and informed him of the abuse that had taken place. He was as shocked as I was and hastily drove us to the police station with my son and we recorded a statement," she told the court.

Rose added that although her son seemed to be fine after the incident occurred, he would duplicate the movements made by Zulu on him that day. After his arrest, Zulu was charged with contravening Section 36 (1)(a) (ii) of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.

The charge sheet stated that the accused person indecently assaulted the minor on August 17 in the Hhohho region and the matter has been postponed to January 30.

'ACCESS TO JUSTICE REMAINS LIMITED IN ESWATINI'

PHYSICAL access to justice from the countryside remains limited.

The Human Rights Commission states that people living in rural areas have limited access to justice. "The Industrial Court, High Court and Supreme Court are only located in Mbabane. However, Magistrate's Courts have branches in all the four regions while Swazi Courts are more decentralised and spread throughout the

country," reads the report. Therefore, the commission recommended that barriers in the administration of justice play a huge part and need to be addressed. Firstly, it is recommended that the Judiciary should also deal with the backlog problem which is caused by a number of different factors, including unwarranted adjournment of court proceedings. The report also touches on omitted courtrooms and recording equipment, absence of

computerised case management systems and out-of-date fighting systems. "The need for structural and systematic reforms by the Judiciary in general cannot be overemphasised."

The commission also addressed the importance of availability of Small Claims Court as it will aid in the backlog of cases.

"There is therefore need for the Judiciary and other actors in the administration of justice and con-

sider adopting and following a systematic reform process that is deliberately designed to increase access to justice for the maturity of Emaswati," reads the report.

The Judiciary and other actors in the administration of justice were urged to strengthen the case management committees.

These committees will be responsible for setting up timelines in increasing sessions and decentralised services.

Mom locks 10-month-old baby inside car, goes shopping

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A 25-year-old mother was arrested for leaving a 10-month-old child locked inside a car.

Zinhle Lungelo Motsa of Mankayane appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at the Matsapha Circuit Court last Friday on a charge of contravening the Child's Protection and Welfare Act of 2012. The incident happened on December 24 at the Mahhala Shopping Complex.

Information gathered was that Zinhle was in the company of her sister-in-law and her 10-month-old baby when they went to Mahhala for Christmas shopping. Zinhle is alleged to have left her baby locked in the car after she fell asleep. Zinhle and her sister-in-law reportedly left the minor in the car with the hope that they would quickly return while she was still asleep.

The car had a window slightly opened to allow air circulation since

it was hot on the day. After some time that the mother and her family member had gone into the shops, the baby waited for some time in the car.

Upon noticing that there was something amiss in the vehicle, the police stationed at the Mahhala Complex attended to the scene only to find the baby unsupervised.

Since the window was open, the police managed to take the baby out through it.

When in court last Friday, the 25-year-old mother said they had planned to leave the baby for about 20 minutes, a period which they would spend at the shops.

She was shocked to find her baby with the police outside the car.

Magistrate Lukhele condemned the mother's negligence, citing that she exposed the baby to danger of being stolen since she was unsupervised while asleep. The mother was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

FTM Garments donates motorbikes to Nhlangano police

BY STARKSKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

ONE of the leading textile garment factories in Shiselweni, FTM Garments has donated three motorbikes to the Nhlangano police.

The donation comes at a time when government is reportedly facing serious fiscal challenges which have seen civil servants not getting their cost of living salary adjustment for a long period now.

With the Nhlangano police not spared in as far as shortage of transport is concerned, FTM Garments came to their rescue by donating the three motorbikes worth over E45 000.

The brand new motorbikes were presented to the police during the company's end of year party which also marked its closure for the festive season.

Shiselweni Regional Commissioner Wendy Hleta received the motorbikes while in the company of her deputy Chris Lukhele and other senior officers from the police service.

Help

The three motorbikes are still to be officially presented to the National



RECEIVED: Shiselweni Regional Commissioner Wendy Hleta.

Commissioner of Police William Dlamini.

FTM Garments senior manager Sam Mdluli said the company saw it wise to donate to the police as a way of appreciating their good work. He said as a company, it was part of their social responsibility to assist wherever a need arises. Mdluli said it was important that companies take the lead in assisting the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) combat crime.

"If we can all come together, both companies and individuals and fight all criminal elements, I have no doubt Eswatini can be crime free and becoming every investor's preferred destination thus boost our economy," said Mdluli. Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the donation, adding they were yet to hand it over to the NatCom.

Drunk teen slapped with 3 charges

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A recently graduated high school pupil had his joy ride short-lived as he was arrested and charged for driving while under the influence of alcohol on Sunday.

Sifiso Nkambule (18) is said to have been driving a Mazda 3 sedan to along the Golf Course road.

Officers

When police officers stopped his vehicle, it was ascertained that not only was he intoxicated, but did also did not have a driver's licence in his possession.

Several attempts to request Nkambule to alight from the vehicle for the police to administer a breathalyser test proved futile, earning him additional charges.

According to court records, he was charged

for contravening the Road Traffic Act in that he drove the said vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating substance.

Conducted

The court heard that when the breathalyser test was conducted on him, he was found to have a blood alcohol content reading of 0.71 mg/l which is above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l and was further charged for failing to produce a driver's licence, and failing to follow police officers' instructions.

In mitigation, the young-drink driver admitted that he did not have a driver's licence, a statement which prompted Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati to show him.

"You need to have this document to be able to drive in this country's roads. You are too young to have been drinking anyway, even though you may be of legal drinking age.

Alcohol destroys lives," the judicial officer warned. He further warned him to desist from

A LIST OF DD OFFENDERS		
Name	Alcohol Content	Sentence
1. Mbonjeni Petros Dlamini	1.65mg/l	E1 700/ 17 months
2. Mpendulo Dlamini	0.74 mg/l	E1 000/ 10 months
3. Vikelwe Mavuso	0.40 mg/l	

drinking alcohol, stating that by the time he start working, he would be ravaged by its effects. "Your Worship, I bought the alcohol with money that I earned while working, and did not use money my parents gave me.

Lenient

I do, however, intend on going to university next year, and I hope that the court can be lenient so that I am able to do so," he responded.

After giving several more warnings, the court sentenced him to 15 months in prison, with an option to pay E1 500 fine.

Fortunately for Nkambule, the court also ordered for his fingerprints to be exempted from the system.



PRESIDING: Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati.

HALLO THERE: A toddler enjoys pressing his face against the window while the mother patiently waits for the bus to leave at the Mbabane Bus rank yesterday. (Pic: Mduzuzi Mngomezulu)

ENJOYING THE DRIVE



Man steals E8 000 from his employer

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

WHILE thousands of young people remain idle due unemployment, a man lost his employer's trust and was dismissed from work due to his thieving ways.

Sipho Ginindza (39) of Nsingweni area was arrested and charged with theft by false pretences after allegedly promising his employer that he would purchase E8 000 worth of vegetables.

Charge

According to his charge sheet, Ginindza is said to have intentionally stolen, defrauded and misrepresented to his employer Lindokuhle Dladla, by taking E8 000 after having promised he would purchase the vegetables, knowing very well he would keep the money for himself.

Ginindza is said to have agreed to purchase fruits and vegetables to be sold at Dladla's market stall.

Ginindza was said to have made the misrep-

resentation near Mbabane market on December 18.

During his appearance before the court, Ginindza pleaded not guilty to having committed the offence, which prompted the prosecution to postpone the matter to January 10, 2020 for trial. After making his bail application before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati, Ginindza was granted bail fixed at E2 000.

Ginindza agreed to purchase fruits and vegetables to be sold at Dladla's market stall, however, he never did so and instead disappeared

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Mbabane

DOC:20963

Zille blames cartoon outrage on EFF 'fake accounts'

CAPETOWN - The DA Federal Council Chairperson Helen Zille has been vocal in her suspicions that some of the outrage surrounding her tweets - including the ones on colonialism - is manufactured. Democratic Alliance (DA) federal council chairperson Helen Zille believes the outrage surrounding a cartoon she shared on Twitter is "orchestrated" by the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). "A colleague told me that the EFF runs a botnet of around 11 000 fake accounts," she said. *Citizen*

GLOOMY CHRISTMAS FOR UNPAID HERD-BOYS

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

TWO herd-boys from Lavumisa had a gloomy Christmas as they were not paid their December salaries.

The two teenage boys Vusani Masuku who is 19 years and Thembelani Dlamini aged 18 said their employer promised to pay them their December salaries on the 20th but to their dismay, he failed to live up to his promise.

One of the aggrieved employees said they had hopes of having a merry Christmas with his family like every employee, but the unfaithfulness of their employer washed away all their dreams.

"We have been patient with him since we were employed here. He would not pay us in time and we would understand but not paying us at this time of the year where we expected to be merry with our families was something else," Masuku said.

He said ever since he dropped out of school in Form One he has made a living through peace work. Masuku said in April this year he was employed by Christopher Masina together with his colleague to look after his over 100 herd of cattle.

He said Masina would pay them at the beginning of each new month and there was no way they could think of leaving because that was the only way of putting bread on the table.

Meanwhile, Thembelani said their employer who is employed in the South African mines had told them he was going to even buy them Christmas goodies in addition to their salaries and that did not happen.

Dlamini said he dearly needed the December salary for many things such as paying for his sickly grandmother's medication and buying food for his siblings. "This Christmas has been the worst of them all in my life and will not experience such again," he said.

Meanwhile when contacted for comment the employer said he did not know his employees had not been paid. He said he had made an agreement with them yet they were now acting as if nothing was communicated.

Woman loses E4 000 in bogus investment 'opportunity'

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A 55-year old woman has been arrested for obtaining an amount of E4 000 from her neighbor, with the promise of investing the money for her, yet she was not.

Zakithi Simelane (55) is said to have approached Jabulile Mlota and informed her of a new scheme that she had recently joined.

With the promise to invest the money on her behalf, Mlota is said to have believed Simelane, to the extent that she handed over E4 000 to her. However, when the scheme fell apart, Simelane is said to have been left indebted to Mlota.

Simelane has since been arrested and charged with theft by false pretences, as she is said to have, during the month of October at Mnyamatsini, intentionally stolen, defraud and misrepresent to Mlota.

Records

Court records stated that Simelane committed the offence by promising to invest the E4 000 from Mlota on her behalf, thus obtaining the monies stated above.

In her appearance before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi on Monday, Simelane stated that she did not expect the scheme to fall apart.

"The investment plan I had in place did not go according to plan, and I found myself owing Mlota her monies. She had initially given me E5 200; however I was fortunate enough to pay her E1 200. She later agreed that I pay her back the rest of her money by January 1, 2020," Simelane explained.

In passing her sentence, Principal Magistrate Nhlabatsi explained that instead of Simelane paying a fine towards the government, it would help to compensate Mlota.

"In the event that you are unable to compensate Mlota the money you will spend two years in prison," the judicial officer ordered.

THANK YOU...



WITH DUE RESPECT: Minister Harries 'Madze' Bulunga talks to a young boy who felt the need to personally thank him for the donation of hampers and school bags at Msunduzi yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

DECEMBER PROMOTION

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LUBOMBO NEWS

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Wonderboy DlaminiLOCAL CHURCHES
HOST CROSSOVER
PRAYER SERVICES

WHILE other entertainment stables host crossover shows in various places around the country, some churches in the Lubombo region will be hosting prayer services to round up the year.

The churches will be hosting all night prayer services to seek God's guidance for the year 2020.

One of the churches, the Disciples of Christ Assemblies, will also undertake a similar exercise. The church is located near Mabuda Farm and its leader Pastor Theminkosi Shongwe stated that the prayer service would be characterised with



prophecies that would give direction to both the church and individual members. Shongwe highlighted the importance of seeking God's guidance at the beginning of each year, saying it was the only way to have a meaningful year. He invited members and non-members of

the church to attend the life-changing service which will start at 20:00 hours today until tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, Abundant Grace Ministries International will be also hosting a crossover service at KaShoba branch.

The church has its main branch in Siteki and Pastor

Lusendvo Dlamini said they have elected to host the crossover service at their recently established branch to reach out to many lives in the rural area.

A number of other churches also confirmed that they will be hosting crossover services this evening.

Siteki to cross over to
2020 in a dry spell

IT has been a bleak festive season for Siteki and surrounding communities as the town and its surroundings might cross over to 2020 in a dry spell due to water shortage.

Siteki and surrounding communities been without water after Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) taps ran dry since Boxing Day.

Communities that include Siteki, Mzilikazi, Mhlumeni, Malindza, Sikhuphe, Mpaka, Mpolonjeni and KaLanga are the most affected.

Through a statement issued by the company, they notified consumers about the interruption of water supply.

The EWSC public affairs and customer service department stated that the interruption had been solely to allow routine maintenance 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.

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, Mzilikazi Stores, Mpolonjeni Inkhundla and Lonhlupeko. The interruption, according to many, has caused serious inconvenience to customers, especially because it came during the festive season.

Businesses have also not been spared with the most affected being eateries operating within the town centre.

Sikhumbuzo
Foundation deserves
support - Buthelezi

DEPUTY Speaker in the House of Assembly Phila Buthelezi has commended the work of Sikhumbuzo Foundation in its endeavour to create a better life for all.

Buthelezi noted that such an initiative required dedication and true love. He further noted that Christmas was a day which was most appreciated by children, especially because it was a time when they receive various gifts from parents.

Buthelezi said the foundation's gesture was highly commendable because it touched the hearts of the children currently kept at the hospital.

For this, Buthelezi said such organisations deserved support, both from government and the private sector.

"This is one organisation which deserves support as it touches lives and creates a better life for the underprivileged," he said. The deputy speaker urged Shongwe to stick to his vision by reaching many lives.

Meanwhile, Shongwe also commended the administration and staff of the hospital for working tirelessly in saving the lives of the young generation.



Sikhumbuzo Foundation brings smiles to children

THE Sikhumbuzo Foundation has brought smiles to children's faces admitted at the Good Shepherd Hospital by spending Christmas with them and further treating them to goodies.

The founder Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe of Divine Healing Ministries International presented the children with Christmas gifts on the eve of the day.

The event was also combined with the celebration of Shongwe's daughter Avumile's second birthday. Volunteers from the foundation spent the day at the children's ward, feeding and dressing them with new clothes. The presence of Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi, who also took part in feeding the children, seemed to have sealed what was supposed to be a Merry Christmas for the children.

Addressing nurses and all present, Shongwe said the foundation's vision is to create a better life for all by mobilising resources which would then be used in providing for the needy.

He stated that the organisation had already undertaken a number of projects under the theme; 'Sihamba Sonkhe' and disclosed that amongst the projects they have facilitated, they prioritised children as they viewed them as the kingdom's



A GIVER: Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe of Divine Healing Ministries International.

future.

He thanked various organisations and individuals that have supported some of their projects, among them Archbishop Bheki Lukhele

of All Nations Christian Church in Zion who forked out an undisclosed sum of money towards the children's Christmas party at the hospital. The foundation then presented

the children with clothing while expectant mothers at the maternity ward also received gifts which included disposable nappies and clothing for their unborn babies.

"This is to appreciate God's blessing which is in the form of a baby to parents," said Shongwe.

Speaking on behalf of the mothers, Delisile Sifundza thanked the organisation for the kind gesture. Sifundza said the organisation's visit gave them hope that they would soon be marching out of the hospital with their children.

Her words were echoed by the hospital's Chief Executive Officer Muzi Dlamini, who said the organisation's visit also motivated staff members who worked tirelessly in taking care of the children.

The foundation's vision is to create a better life for all by mobilising resources which would then be used in providing for the needy

Textile employee nearly gives birth at work

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mhabane

A woman employed in one of the textile factories in the Shiselweni region nearly gave birth within the company premises as her employer refused her permission to go to hospital.

Women employed in the textile industry have in the past raised concerns of alleged abusive labour conditions experienced in the textile and garment industry in Eswatini.

Employees from one of the textile factories in the Shiselweni region also expressed similar concerns.

According to the employees who preferred not to have their names published in fear of victimisation, the employee had been requesting for permission to go to hospital several times from their employer as she felt the time was nigh for her to give birth, hence medical attention was needed.

However, all her pleas are said to have fallen on deaf ears as her employer refused her permission to go ordering her to continue working. Her supervisors took her to one of the offices after realising that her condition was worsening.

"The woman when she reported for work

...As employer denies her right to go to health facility

was deprived of her right to go to hospital and two more attempts were made, but again permission was denied when she was heard screaming in one of the offices," said the employees.

Seeing the situation was worsening, some of her colleagues hastily organised transport to ferry her to hospital.

It has been gathered that this is not the first time such an incident happened and furthermore, the employees alleged that they are even refused permission to send their children to school no matter what the situation is.

Secretary General for the Amalgamated Trade Unions of Swaziland (ATUSWA) Wonder Mkhonza, when sought for comment, said some textile firms around the country have brought similar complaints and the one cited was no exception.

"We are aware of all the problems these employees face, some have reported that they are locked inside the company premises from the time they report for work in the morning till their knock-off time," said Mkhonza.

He also added that they were in constant meetings with the minister of labour and commissioner of labour in forging a way forward to see to it that textile workers'

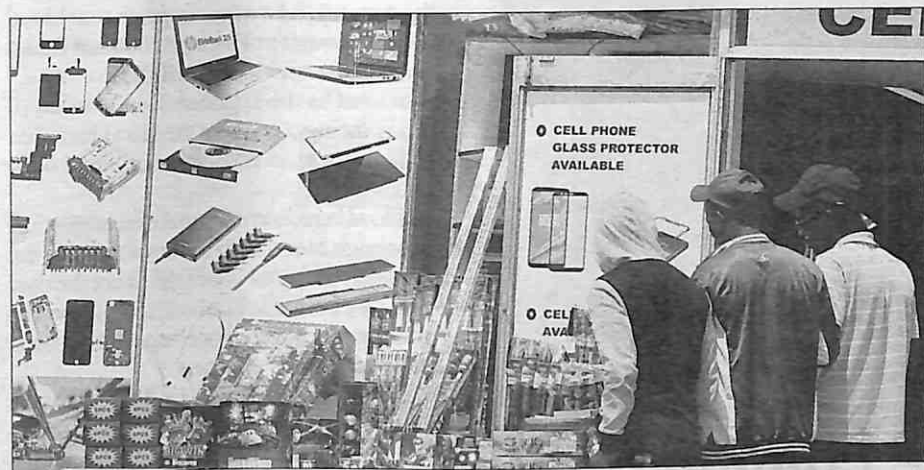
rights are not violated in the kingdom. Meanwhile, the textile company's human resources manager said he was not in a position to comment as he was not aware of such cases with the company.

The name of the textile company is known to this publication but has been deliberately withheld for ethical reasons as no official complaint has been reported with the relevant authorities as yet.

"

We are aware of all the problems these employees face, some have reported that they are locked inside the company premises from the time they report for work in the morning till their knock-off time

"



CHOOSE YOURS:
Consumers looking for the right fireworks for the crossover celebrations to be held worldwide tonight.
(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Rapist spends Christmas in jail after 15-year sentence

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A man from Macetjeni who was out on bail for a rape charge got the shock of his life when he lost his freedom and spent Christmas in jail.

This was after he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for rape.

Mduduzi Mkhonta (38) was arrested before the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2018, hence he was charged under the common law.

He was alleged to have wrongfully and unlawfully forced a woman into a sexual activity without her consent.

The charge was accompanied with aggravating factors which included that the accused person threatened to stab the complainant with a knife to induce submission and the act inflicted a lifetime trauma to the complainant.

When the matter commenced trial,



Mkhonta pleaded not guilty to the charge. He was further granted bail at the High Court while the matter was heard before the Siteki Magistrate's Court. The prosecution led a number of witnesses in a bid to prove commission of the offence. Mkhonta was eventually proven guilty after the crown led satisfactory evidence.

Magistrate Dumisani Magagula noted that the accused person failed to repudiate critical evidence as presented by the witnesses.

Furthermore, the court noted that the accused person in mitigation pleaded for leniency when passing sentence, admitting to have engaged in a sexual act with the complainant, which he however, said was consensual.

He was sentenced to 15 years in a correctional facility without an option of a fine. The sentence translated to a cancellation of his bail as he was subsequently taken to Big-Bend Correctional facility after losing his freedom.

ANOMALY



TOUCHLINE: A referee's assistant walks on a not so straight line as he performs his duties at Msunduzi Sports Ground. This was during the Solanis Shisanyama festive tournament over the weekend. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Pre-school teachers' jobs in limbo

STORIES BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

SIX pre-school teachers' jobs are in limbo after being allegedly informed by their boss that they should re-apply if they want to remain with the institution.

The six, some who enrolled for the Early Childhood Care Programme at Ngwane College, are worried as to whether they would be re-employed or not following the directive.

Pemisa Pre-School is a private institution owned by Lloyd Mumanga, a Zambian who has been living in the kingdom for years and taught in some schools around Nhlangano.

He operates two pre-schools, one in Big-Bend and the main one in Nhlangano where the six teachers are based, teaching about 75 children each year.

Expressing their concerns, the six teachers stated that it was on December 2 before their boss left for his home country, that he dropped the bombshell informing them that they must re-apply if they still wanted to be part of the institution.

"We were taken aback by this as we were legitimately employed as professionals by the institution and need to be accorded the respect we deserve not to be exploited. He communicated this directive during a one-on-one session. This has now left us in a dilemma," they said.

Mumanga is alleged to have further informed the teachers he was not begging them as there were highly qualified teachers, some with degrees interested in being part of the institution.

The teachers now suspect that their boss has already interviewed new staff for the positions and wants to get rid of them.

In an earlier interview with Mumanga, he disputed some of the allegations by the teachers but confirmed that they were ordered to reapply.

Mumanga further requested to be given until next Sunday to respond to some of the allegations by the teachers.

"I am in Zambia and will be back in Eswatini next Sunday," Mumanga said.

It still remains unclear whether the teachers entered into any written agreement with the institution when they were employed.

Qualified teachers allegedly paid 'peanuts'

FURTHER allegations are to the effect that PEMISA Pre-school teachers are paid 'peanuts' despite that being qualified professionals.

They graduated under the Early Childhood programme at Ngwane College.

This is a three-year programme.

It has been alleged that the highest paid teacher earns E1 800 while others get between E1 200 to E1 450 as their monthly pay. It has been gathered that their salaries are done manually. The teachers also alleged

that they were at times forced to do manual labour reserved for cleaners and grounds-men.

"It was not our intention to go public about the on-goings at the school, but we have been pushed to the corner since we have realised that our boss wants to expel us by forcing us to reapply. We feel it is vital for the world to know our circumstances here, where we earn a meagre E2 000," the visibly aggrieved teachers said.

It has also been revealed that there are no deductions for the National Provident Fund.

Cliff 'N' Max Charity donates wheelchair to girl with disability

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Siphofaneni

A Mamba family from Siphofaneni received the best gift ever when two young men committed to changing lives of Emaswati donated a wheelchair for their daughter.

Cliff 'N' Max Charity Organisation reached out to the Mamba family and donated a wheelchair for their 10-year-old daughter at Mgwanyaneni area. Sandzisiwe Mamba, who was rendered unable to walk since birth, was presented with the wheel-chair in order to see her move around like any other child.

Speaking during the donation, her mother Thandi Zwane said she would now be able to carry on with other duties as she would not have

to carry her daughter on her back more often than she used to.

Zwane thanked the directors of Cliff 'N' Max Charity Organisation Bandile Msibi and Menzi Dlamini for providing their daughter with the wheelchair.

Parcels

The family was delighted in that the organisation did not only present the wheelchair to them but also food parcels for the festive season, and in addition clothes and nappies were presented to the family.

Founder of the organisation Bandile Msibi said even though they were located in Ezulwini they would reach out to as many Emaswati and change their lives.

He said the Mamba family was a special case since both parents were unemployed yet responsible for a disabled child.

He said he believed Thandi Zwane would now be able to make means and provide for her family as she will not have to look after her daughter on full-time basis.

"I believe her mother will be able to do her house chores because she was not able to do much, as she had to take care of the child now and again," he said.

The organisation is barely a year old but has managed to change lives around Ezulwini and surrounding areas and is now spreading its wings.

DIFFERENCE: Cliff 'N' Max Charity Organisation Directors Bandile Msibi and Menzi Dlamini flank Thandu Zwane and Sandzisiwe Mamba after presenting the wheelchair. (Pic: Nonduduzo Kunene)



Eswatini still running short of blood

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

As the festive season hype is still being felt in the country, it however appears that blood is still not enough at Eswatini National Blood Transfusions Services (ENBTS).

From what has been gathered, the ministry of health is facing a crisis as the blood bank has been hit by a serious shortage of blood once again.

The blood bank normally makes sure that they have enough blood at this time of the year but information gathered is that this is not the case despite that before schools closed for the last term, campaigns were done to get more blood but their target was not met.

Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula when sought for comment as regards the matter, mentioned that, there can never be enough blood more especially since more and more people still want blood transfusions in health facilities on a daily basis.

He also stated that accidents occur every day, which is another reason there is not enough blood within their bank.

Magagula further stated that ENBTS is currently in a bid to get more blood donors to boost the bank which services the entire Kingdom.

"ENBTS is still doing its campaigns of going around the country and finding donors. We can never have enough blood," he stated.

Magagula went on to plead with the nation to assist in any way they can to give blood in order to save lives. By donating blood, one may be saving a relative.



CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH: Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula.



Voluntary Disclosure Programme coming to an end on 31st December 2019

Addendum to the Practice Note on Voluntary Disclosure

This addendum shall be read together with the Practice Note No.: DT-IT/016-16 on Voluntary Disclosure dated 7 June 2016.

The purpose of the Voluntary disclosure Practice note as cited above is to encourage taxpayers to come on their own volition to disclose and adhere to their tax obligations as required by the law.

Period of disclosure

The Voluntary Disclosure Program as commissioned in 2016 will end on 31 December 2019. This means that at that point, all taxpayers who may not have utilised this opportunity can no longer apply to disclose voluntarily in exchange for a waiver of penalties.

Accordingly, upon lapse of this program, penalties and additional taxes will be imposed as envisaged by the law and criminal prosecution may be pursued for failure to disclose.

DUMISANI E. MASILELA
Commissioner General



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What's in Your Mind

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER

... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

THE TWO FACES
OF AUTHORITY

Authority refers to the legitimate power which one person or group possesses and practices over another.

There are two kinds of authority leaders possess: positional authority and relational authority.

Positional and relational authority

Positional authority is the one that comes from title, rank, and status. It is the authority you get from the hierarchy of an organisation.

Relational authority is different. It is the authority that comes from the trust and respect of others. It cannot be demanded, but is given freely by your followers. Leaders and managers ought to know that, it is possible to have positional authority without relational authority.

Effective leaders know that they need to possess and combine both positional and relational authority to influence their organisations meaningfully. It is possible to have positional authority without relational authority. All of us have come across a leader who just flaunts the position but has no respect of the followers and reality is that it is difficult to work for a person like that. It is also possible to have relational authority without positional authority. Again, all of us have worked with someone like this. That is the person whom everyone goes to when they need something done. This person appears nowhere in a formal chain of command, but their influence is felt everywhere.

Limitation of positional authority

The leadership effectiveness of a person with positional authority but without relational authority is limited. Yes, they can tell you what to do, and, eventually, you will do it. But only because you have to and people tend to do only what is absolutely necessary. Leaders that flaunt their position fail to optimise the power of synergy because when people are not motivated, they only give what is expected and not the best of what they can give. The leadership effective-



ness of a person with relational authority and no positional authority is also limited in their leadership. Sure, they get things done, but when decisions are made, they are usually not in the room because the organisational hierarchy does not include them in decision making.

High level leadership

Leaders who operate with high levels of guidance effectiveness possess both positional authority and relational authority. People give their all for leaders like this.

They follow them anywhere—and freely do their best work—because they respect both the person they are and the position they hold.

Leaders with relational authority understand that because they have the position and the power, they have the responsibility to push productivity without alienating team members. Such leaders use their authority to create healthy organisations, teams and healthy team members.

Building relational authority

To have relational authority, a leader needs to lead from the front

- Practice what you preach and lead by example.

- Honour your word. When you say you are going to do something, do it.

- Be real, remember that though you are the head of the group, you are still a team member.

- Give credit to others and accept blame yourself. Do not be like most leaders who tend to do the opposite.

- Say sorry. When you make a mistake, admit it, openly and honestly.

- Never give up. Cling to the courage of your convictions, even when things are not going your way.

In building relational authority, it starts with a genuine interest in others. Coleman J. (2018) cites that leaders that need to build relational authority need to create personal relationships

with people and everyone they could. The personal connection they develop could become a strategic partnership when needed to be. The role of the leader in building relations is to: guide, nature and take interest in people. Such relationships are not purely instrumental but authentic, sincere and driven by a genuine interest in others. Relational authority in leadership is further founded on empathy, understanding others and meeting them where they are.

Relational authority is different. It is the authority that comes from the trust and respect of others. It cannot be demanded, but is given freely by your followers.

South Africa in unfamiliar terrain

...as national carrier goes into business rescue

SOUTH Africa's national carrier, South African Airways, has been placed in voluntary business rescue.

It's an historic moment as it's the first business rescue attempt of a state owned entity. The decision places the country in unfamiliar territory – politically, economically and legally.

What happens next will determine whether the decision was the right one or not. A great deal rides on Les Matuson, the man appointed the business rescue

practitioner. The business rescue practitioner is key to the success of the rescue process. His personal qualities of integrity, independence, professional skill, and expertise are vital factors.

The airline's board of directors appointed Matuson as the business rescue practitioner. This had trade unions up in arms, as they were not consulted.

Legally, the power to appoint the rescue

practitioner depends on how the business rescue came about. In this case, given that the airline went into voluntary business rescue, the board had the sole power to appoint the practitioner.

The process would have been different if it had been as a result of a court order. For example, if a court had ordered the business rescue at the request of the Trade Union Solidarity and other unions,

then the trade unions would have nominated a business rescue practitioner of their choice and the appointment would have been made by the court.

But will the rescue work, or is it too late. After all, the airline is in dire financial straits, with its liabilities exceeding its assets by about R 13 billion. The Companies Act stipulates that for a business rescue the company must be in financial distress or near insolvency. If it is already insolvent, it is too late.

There are lots of burning issues raised by the business rescue that hasn't yet been tested in South Africa. Many will no doubt land in the courts where those

presiding over cases will also be walking unfamiliar territory.

One possible outcome still remains: that the airline will be shut down. If the practitioner finds that there is no reasonable prospect of a successful rescue, he is duty-bound to have the airline liquidated. Where the power lies

The business rescue practitioner has wide powers over the company. The board of directors continues to manage the company, but is subject to his control.

The practitioner's fundamental task is to rehabilitate the airline by developing a suitable business rescue plan within 25 business days. *The Conversation*



What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 31

1687 - The first Huguenots set sail from France for the Cape of Good Hope, where they would later create the South African wine industry with the vines they took with them on the voyage.

1695 - The window tax was imposed in Britain, which resulted in many windows being bricked up.

1711 - The Duke of Marlborough was dismissed as commander-in-chief.

1775 - The British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec. Montgomery was killed in the battle.

1841 - The State of Alabama enacted the first dental legislation in the US.

1857 - Britain's Queen Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

1862 - US President Lincoln signed an act admitting West Virginia to the Union.

1877 - US President Rutherford B. Hayes became the first US President to celebrate his silver (25th) wedding anniversary in the White House.

1879 - Thomas Edison gave his first public demonstration of incandescent lighting to an audience in Menlo Park, NJ.

1891 - New York's new Immigration Depot was opened at Ellis Island, to provide improved facilities for the massive numbers of arrivals.

1897 - Brooklyn, NY, spent its last day as a separate entity before becoming part of New York City.

1923 - In London, the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben.

1929 - Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians played "Auld Lang Syne" as a New Year's Eve song for the first time.

1946 - US President Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

1947 - Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were married.

1953 - Willie Shoemaker broke his own record as he won his 485th race of the year.

1954 - The last episode of the radio show "Adventures of Wild Bill Hickok" aired.

1955 - General Motors became the first U.S. corporation to earn more than one billion dollars in a single year.

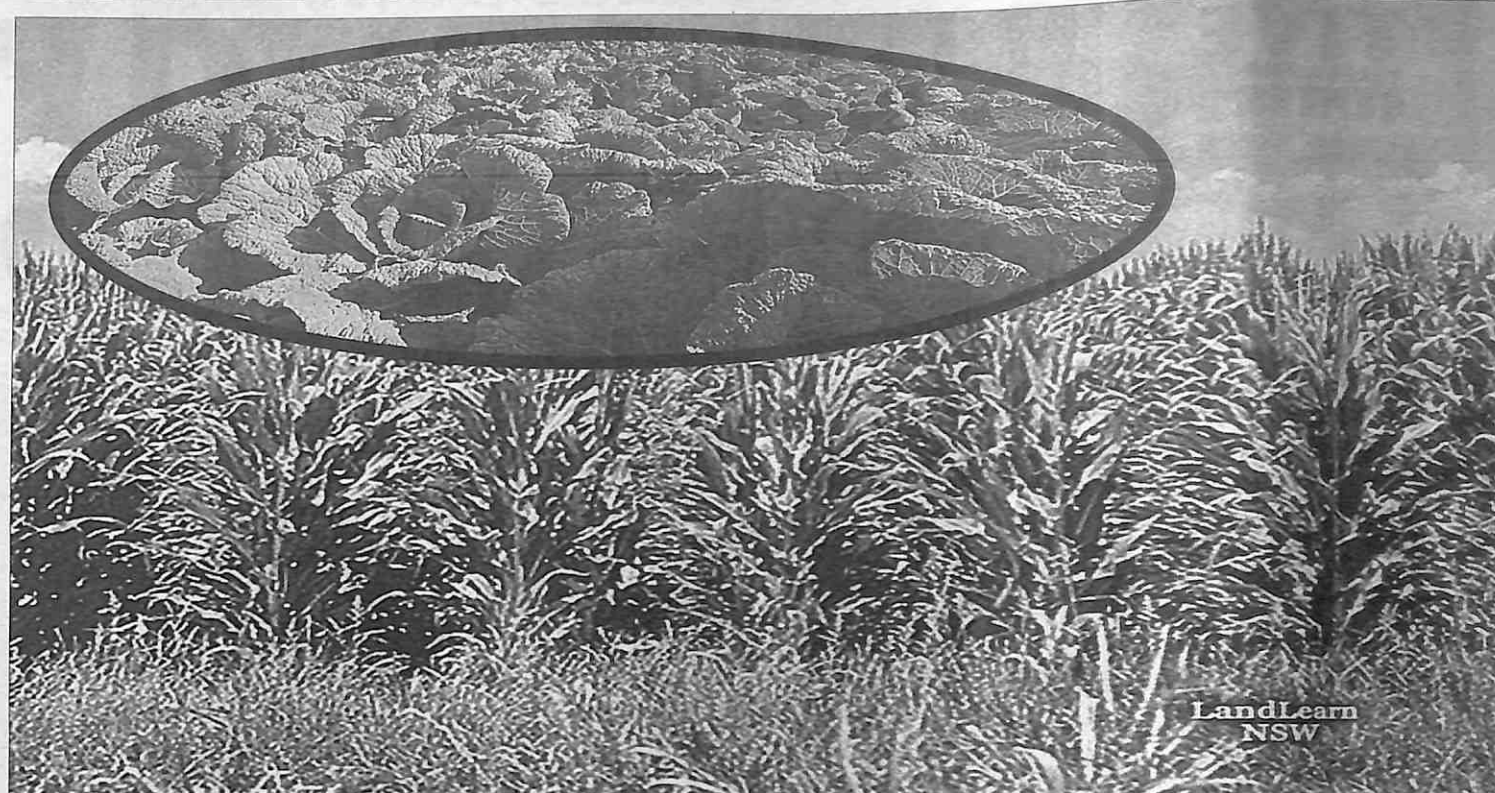
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



SALMAN (KING)
December 31,
1935 - 84 years old



ALEX FERGUSON
(SOCCER COACH)
December 31,
1941 - 78 years old



THE intentions were good when the government came up with the farmers input subsidy idea, it needs to be fine-tuned so that it works as a catalyst to boost the country's ailing economy.

The input subsidy needs to be used as a bait to get more people to fall in love with farming, it may not be an easy task since the maize input subsidy was disbursed once a year, then farmers dealing vegetables can also get it once a year.

Once the farmers have sold their produce they will need to grow vegetables they will sell to National Agricultural Marketing Development Board (NAMBoard) where the government can deduct her fraction to use it as a revolving fund. Vegetable farmers can bring in the much needed foreign currency greatly needed to stimulate economic growth.

Skilled

The ministry of agriculture has highly skilled personnel to be able to lead the ministry in the right direction. The regional block and continental body have had a series of summits meant at assisting governments to align their policies in line with the needs of the people.

Failure to fast track these initiatives will lead to a majority of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to remain elusive yet the world was left with 10 years to reach 2030 where the 17 SDGs are supposed to have been addressed.

A full implementation of the SDGs can help save millions of Africans who perish while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe in search of greener pastures.

In 2017 there were reports to the effect that close to 80 000 people perished while in search of green pastures in Europe.

The advantage is that our country has a reasonable number of initiatives meant to improve food sustenance but there are a lot of gaps that have to be closed before Eswatini

HARNESSING THE NEXT BILLIONAIRES

....African Development Bank Chief Executive Officer Akinwumi Adesina has repeatedly said the next generation of billionaires in Africa will be farmers. It is for that reason LUNGA MASUKU looks and triumphs and trials for the country.

make full use of the fact that about 70 per cent of the country's population resides in rural areas.

Starting point should be the distribution of government tractors according to the 59 Tinkhundla centres. It does not make business sense to see a government tractor climbing the Mafutha steep hill to Mzimba or Dlangeni, it becomes a worrisome situation when farmers are then will be told that government tractors are grounded because there is no diesel, does it not indicate that tonnes of litres of fuel was consumed by the long distances that these tractors have to travel to the areas.

Committee

Another area that the portfolio committee in the ministry should focus on is ensuring that government provides all farm tools and implements. Reason for that has to do with the high costs that private tractor owners charge farmers; it is not worth it to pay E320 for an hour to plough and also E350 to have the same tractor plant for you, before you realise you will have paid more than E5 000 just before your maize germinates.

In short farming is becoming very costly for the poorest of the poor.

Urban areas that have tinkhundla centres should not be given these tractors. At the end of every farming season, the government would need to ensure all tractors are serviced in readiness for the next farming season.

Tractors

At the Motshane RDA, there were only three functional tractors yet the area serves farmers up to Lundzi/Mangcongco, Nkhamba, Mdzimba/Dlangeni, Maphalaleni, Lobamba and LaMgabhi Tiyeni just mention a few areas that come to mind.

It becomes saddening when one visits the rural development areas when one finds a tractor leaning on a wooden stump or a huge boulder. Maybe these tractors need to be serviced at the end of every farming season so that they are ready to meet the needs and expectations of farmers when it is time for farming.

If all the above listed ideas can be tackled, the country could attain SDG 1 which talks about no poverty, SDG 2 talks to zero hunger which will lead to the attainment of good health and well-being which is SDG 3, decent work and economic growth expected to lead to a prosperous nation and a well fed nation that

will enjoy quality education which is SDG 4.

Earth dams should be dug in all regions of the country, this can assist since the world over is facing acute bad weather conditions that make it quite a risk to rely on erratic weather patterns. As the year comes to a close let there be people who dedicate their energies of salvaging the situation.

The country will continue to rely on donor aid as long as it does not have a well-defined turn-around strategy.

“Urban areas that have tinkhundla centres should not be given these tractors. At the end of every farming season, the government would need to ensure all tractors are serviced in readiness for the next farming season”

REFLECTIONS

WITH MIKE DREW
GUEST WRITER

THE opportunity to relocate and to live in another country is a privilege and not a right.

The original reason for the founding fathers decision to relocate to the American colonies was to escape from religious persecution.

Today, the reasons to move to another country may be very different and may include a desire to do charity work or to enjoy a new lifestyle or a better quality of life and to experience a new culture and different local customs or to set up a new business venture.

If a population census were to be carried out in the Kingdom of Eswatini today, the writer has no doubt that many of the nationalities throughout the world would be represented. The Kingdom of Eswatini is just one big melting pot of different religions and cultures.

So, it is so important for the stability of the country that all the different nationalities are able to live together in peace and harmony and not just exist within their own insular communities.

Differences in culture should be celebrated and not seen to be an insurmountable barrier but, that requires compromise on both sides.

In the writer's opinion, some cultures seem to have deliberately isolated themselves from mainstream Swazi society whilst still looking to reap all the benefits.

My own reason for seeking residency status was to live in a country with amazing scenery, a rich historical heritage and a peace loving and friendly people. I also made the conscious decision not to live in a 'glass bubble' but to fully embrace the Swazi culture.

I have met paupers and princes, teachers and technicians, doctors and dagga growers, ministers and MPs.

All of whom have richly contributed to my own experience. On reflection, to relocate does not come without an element of risk as happened in Uganda in 1972, when President Idi Amin issued his infamous decree.

Fortunately in Eswatini, all foreign nationals have the benefit of the protection offered by the 2005 Constitution, provided their actions are law abiding and their behaviour is not prejudicial to the stability of the Monarchy or to the peace of Kingdom of Eswatini.

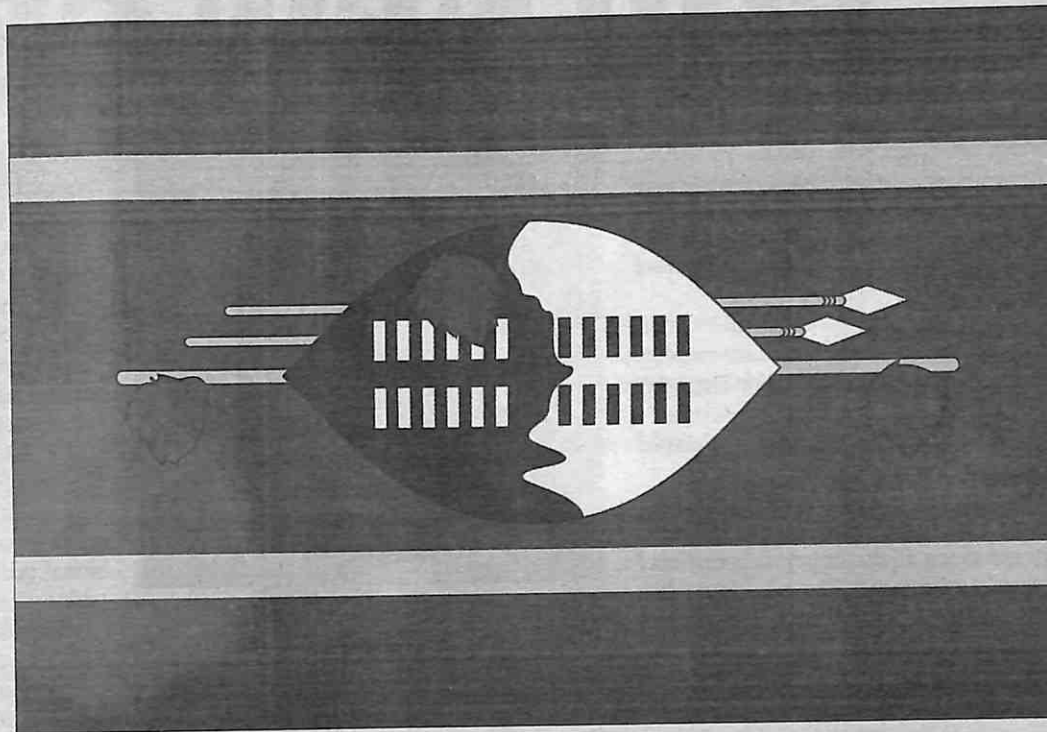
If the intention is to set up a business, then it must also be for the economic benefit of the local Swazi community too.

Having spoken to employees who are employed by foreign nationals in the local corner shops and petrol stations, they talk about the long hours, poor working conditions, poor pay and often delayed payment of their monthly salary.

Sometimes even, a culture of verbal abuse and on occasions alleged sexual harassment by some of the owners.

EMASWATI EMBRACE DIVERSITY

... it is so important for the stability of the country that all the different nationalities are able to live together in peace and harmony and not just exist within their own insular communities



It needs to be remembered that the law applies equally to foreign nationals and Emaswati too, to include the Employment Act 1980 and the Sexual Offences Domestic Violence Act 2018. The writer recently found it necessary to intervene because of the very aggressive and unacceptable manner in which a foreign national shopkeeper was talking to one of his female Swazi employees.

There has also been talk of money laundering in some communities in preference to using banks and tax avoidance too. It is always dangerous to believe a rumour but it is amazing how often a rumour is shown to be true.

To live in a cultural 'glass bubble' only alienates you from the local community and creates a climate of suspicion and distrust within the local indigenous population.

To the credit of the Asian communities of Taiwan and India, both were well represented diplomatically this year at the Incwala ceremony.

Regiment

The Republic of China (Taiwan) now even has its own regiment which participated in the celebrations. Led by Ambassador Jeremy Liang, the regiment comprises all shapes, sizes and ages but all the warriors have one thing in common.

A shared desire to embrace rather than distance themselves from Swazi culture. To the best of the writer's knowledge, the High Commissioner of another Asian country who is based in South Africa, was not represented.

On a recent visit to the ministry of home affairs, it was enlightening to listen to two civil servants expressing their obvious frustration that certain foreign nationals were abusing the 90 day tourist visa entry system applicable to their country and were also crossing the border at illegal

entry points. Only to 'disappear' into their own insular communities once they had entered the country.

In December, residents of the Lidlelantfongeni flats in Nhlanguano witnessed the murder of one of their own, with the two knife carrying co-accused being fellow countrymen.

Breaking the law is not the way to integrate into a different culture or to endear yourself to the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS).

Incidents

Other unwelcome incidents include an Asian national appearing in court in October, after offering an honest customs officer a bribe of E7 000 when he attempted to enter into the Kingdom with undeclared cellphones and accessories to the value of E47 885.

The representatives of both the Bangladeshi Awami League of Eswatini and the Bangladeshi Jubo League of Eswatini have been very quick to engage with the press and to condemn the murder of one of their own.

And to also forewarn of a group of their countrymen who they have labelled as the 'Bangladeshi Mafia'.

Apparently willing to use corrupt practices and sometimes weapons to get what they want to advance their illegitimate activities. So, my question is, why has it taken the murder of a Bangladeshi foreign national by his own people to provide this information to the REPS?

A life has been taken and the fact still remains that the law has been broken and justice must now be seen to be done, because no foreign national or Emaswati is above the law.

As mentioned recently by an individual when commenting on the recent violence on social media, the blue on the Swazi flag stands for peace and stability.

But, for the writer, the most enlightening and perhaps most telling press comment made by the representa-

tives from the local Bangladeshi community was that "We want Eswatini peaceful as it was so that future generations of our community can come to invest in this country".

The writer would respectfully suggest that, the end goal is not to invest to provide jobs for Emaswati, but to hand on the business to "future generations" from their own community.

The privilege for "future generations" of foreign nationals to live and work in the kingdom should not be assumed nor abused and must be done through the proper Home Affairs channels. That privilege can easily be taken away too in the event of the continuing civil unrest and violence within a community.

Invest

Being allowed to invest in a business in another country comes with it certain responsibilities. The writer would respectfully suggest that the unacceptable taking of a human life has now provided a watershed moment for certain communities, through which both their elders and the two Leagues of Eswatini, cannot only openly engage more with the country's law enforcing agencies but also look at other strategies, to engage more with Emaswati.

With the aim of changing mind sets on both sides in a positive way. Perhaps, it is now time to also reflect more on their present unhealthy relationship with the indigenous community and to explore ways, in which the recent tragic event can be used as a positive catalyst for gradual change, so that the tense relationship which presently exists can be improved.

With the indigenous Emaswati community being more willing to engage by being treated with more respect and properly rewarded for their labour, to the mutual benefit of "future generations" from both cultures.



● "I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."
— Marilyn Monroe

● "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."
— Oscar Wilde

● "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
— Albert Einstein

● "So many books, so little time."
— Frank Zappa

● "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."
— Bernard M. Baruch

● "A room without books is like a body without a soul."
— Marcus Tullius Cicero

● "You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth."
— William W. Purkey

● "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
— Dr. Seuss

● "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."
— Mae West

● "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."
— Mahatma Gandhi

● "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."
— Robert Frost

● "If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals."
— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

● "Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow. Don't walk behind me... I may not lead. Walk beside me... just be my friend"
— Albert Camus

● "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."
— Eleanor Roosevelt, *This is My Story*

● "Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another 'What! You too? I thought that no one but myself ...'"
— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

● "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."
— Mark Twain

● "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
— Maya Angelou

● "A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you."
— Elbert Hubbard

● "Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."
— Oscar Wilde

● "To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."
— Oscar Wilde

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	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FSRA BEGINS HUNT FOR NEW CEO

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) has started hunting for a new chief executive officer (CEO).

This follows the retirement of Sandile 'Chief' Dlamini who was officially bade farewell during a function held at the Royal Villas on December 17.

FSRA, through KPMG Auditors, has started advertising the vacant position.

The chief executive officer shall be accountable to the board of directors and be responsible for overseeing all the strategic, operational and financial performance of the authority through visionary leadership and effective management of the executive team.

According to the advert, the CEO's duties and responsibilities shall include providing strategic leadership to the authority to deliver on its mandate as stipulated in the FSRA Act and such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the



Former FSRA Chief Executive Officer Sandile Dlamini.

board, advise government on the national policy to ensure accessible and adequate non-bank financial services protection, and a stable non-bank financial services, organisational performance which will provide a general oversight

of all activities of the authority and manages the day-to-day operations for a smooth functioning and efficient organisation.

The new CEO will also be expected to put in place the necessary regulatory framework that would serve the industry's regulatory and supervisory needs through minimising systemic risk, enabling consumer protection or awareness and promoting a competitive and attractive financial services industry.

The CEO is expected to have, amongst qualifications, a Master's Degree in finance, business administration, economics, law, social sciences or any other related field while professional qualifications will be an added advantage.

Affiliation with a professional body will be an added advantage, a 10-year managerial experience in the financial sector of which five years should be at executive management level as well as a solid knowledge of financial services regulation sector in Eswatini and the region are also some of the requirements for the position.

SRA voluntary disclosure programme ends today

BY BAHLE GAMA

THE Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) Voluntary Disclosure Programme comes to an end today.

This is according to a notice published by the SRA Commissioner General (CG) Dumisani Masilele.

As per the SRA practice note on voluntary disclosure, this was aimed at promoting voluntary compliance of taxpayers by encouraging them to come forward on their own volition to adhere to their statutory obligations required by the Income Tax Order. This means that at that point, all taxpayers who may have not utilised this opportunity can no longer apply to disclose voluntarily in exchange for a waiver of penalties.

Accordingly, upon lapse of the programme today, penalties and additional taxes will be imposed as envisaged by the law and criminal prosecution may be pursued for failure to disclose.

"The circumstances under which a penalty for

WHAT IS VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE PROGRAMME?

- A programme that aims at providing non-compliant taxpayers an opportunity to voluntarily declare such to the SRA in a bid to rectify said non-compliance(s).
- Why should one make a voluntary disclosure?
■ Penalties and interest will be waived for qualifying taxpayers.

- You'll receive expert SRA assistance towards getting your tax affairs back on track.
- How does one make a voluntary disclosure?
■ Complete the voluntary disclosure programme form.
- Attach all supporting and relevant information.

concealment of income gets payable will vary depending on the personal circumstances of the taxpayer. The imposition of a penalty is usually as a result of not submitting a return, omission of amounts which should have been included in the return and making incorrect statements in a return.

The imposition of the penalty will depend on the personal circumstances of the taxpayer and could be different for each case," reads the practice note. It further states that to ensure that a voluntary disclosure application is valid, the dis-

closure must be voluntary, involve a default which has not previously been disclosed to the SRA by the applicant or representative of the person, be full and complete in all materials, involve the potential imposition of an understatement penalty in respect of the default, not result in a refund due by SRA and be made in the prescribed form and manner.

"The commissioner general reserves the right to revoke voluntary disclosure directive if he finds that taxpayer didn't fully disclose information," the practice note reads.

Business is booming...

FIREWORKS CORNER: With only a few hours left before the crossover, shoppers were captured buying fireworks around the city's streets yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 30 DEC 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.1915	14.2415
British Pound/SZL	13.9706	14.0206
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.7850	7.8121
Swiss France/SZL	14.3641	14.4111
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3090	1.3277
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.7612	9.7990
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.6825	10.7199
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.6379	15.6939
Gold	1,513.1477	
Oil	70.65	

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



Standard Bank

Matsapha 2020/21 Budget Estimates now out

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Matsapha Municipality has passed the Budget Estimates for the year 2020/21.

This is in line with the dictates of Section 91(2) of the Urban Government

Act No.8 of 1969.

According to a notice released by the council, the estimates are now open for the Public to inspect free of charge between 8.30am to 4.30pm.

The viewing of the estimates can be done during working hours at Matsapha Town Council offices situated at the

corner of Police College and Matsapha Airport roads.

The viewing of the estates started yesterday and is expected to end January 8, 2020.

"Written submission on the budget estimates can be forwarded to the Town Clerk at the Matsapha Town Council

or emailed to info@matsapha.co.sz.

"Your valuable input submitted during the formation of the budget was very helpful and helped inform the budget.

"We remain grateful for that," reads the statement.

The council joins the Ngwenya

Town Board which has also announced the passing of their 2020/21 budget estimates.

The board's estimates are also now open for the public to inspect them free of charge between 8.30am to 4.30pm at the Ngwenya Town Board offices.

MTC WARNS ON RATES PAYMENT SCAM

BY BAHLE GAMA

THE Matsapha Town Council (MTC) has issued a warning to its stakeholders over the illicit communication on rates payment.

Interviewed yesterday, Acting Town Treasurer Nokulunga Magagula disclosed that they had received complaints from their stakeholders reporting of bogus callers claiming to be from the council.

"On Friday some of our stakeholders came to our offices to report that they

had received calls from people alleging to be from the town council saying their stop orders had bounced," she explained. She further stated that their stakeholders were further told that the town's bank account used to pay their rates was wrong and were given another account to pay by the scammers.

"We are grateful to our stakeholders who came forward and reported this incident which has led to us being able to quickly curb these scammers," she said.

Magagula further disclosed that they suspected the scammers might have seen their notice that they had limited

services hence the opportunity to embark on this scam.

"It doesn't make sense why the council would make such calls when we have issued a notice about having limited services, hence we ask our stakeholders to be vigilant to these scammers," she added.

She also advised the public that, should they receive any suspicious calls, to urgently call council or visit their offices to confirm credibility of the call.

"If you have already received the calls kindly assist by reporting the matter to the Royal Eswatini Police (REPS)," she said.



New year to kick off with drop in petrol prices

JOHANNESBURG - Good news for consumers is that the price of petrol will decrease tomorrow.

The Central Energy Fund announced that 95 octane petrol will decrease by 14 cents a litre and 93 octane by 4c/l.

The price of diesel however will increase by 9c/l. and that of illuminating paraffin by 5c/l.

The CEF said the average international product prices for petrol had decreased during the period under review while those for diesel and illuminating diesel had increased.

The rand appreciated against the US dollar during the period under review, on average, when compared to the previous period. The average rand/US dollar exchange rate for the period November 29 to December 26 was R14.4784 compared R14.8037 during the previous period.

"This led to a lower contribution to the Basic Fuel Prices on petrol, diesel and illuminating paraffin by 15.70 c/l, 16.78 c/l and 16.64 c/l respectively," the CEF said.

Times Live

Rand touches five-month high

JOHANNESBURG - The rand touched a five-month high yesterday, as demand for emerging market currencies was aided by easing trade tensions between China and the United States and investors looking for high yields.

By 0620 GMT, the rand was 0.32 per cent firmer at R13.9950 per dollar, compared with Friday's close of R14.0400 in New York. The currency was at its strongest level since July 31.

China's commerce ministry said on Sunday it has "proactively dealt with" trade frictions with the United States this year and that it is in close touch with the US on signing the trade deal.

The rand has gained about five

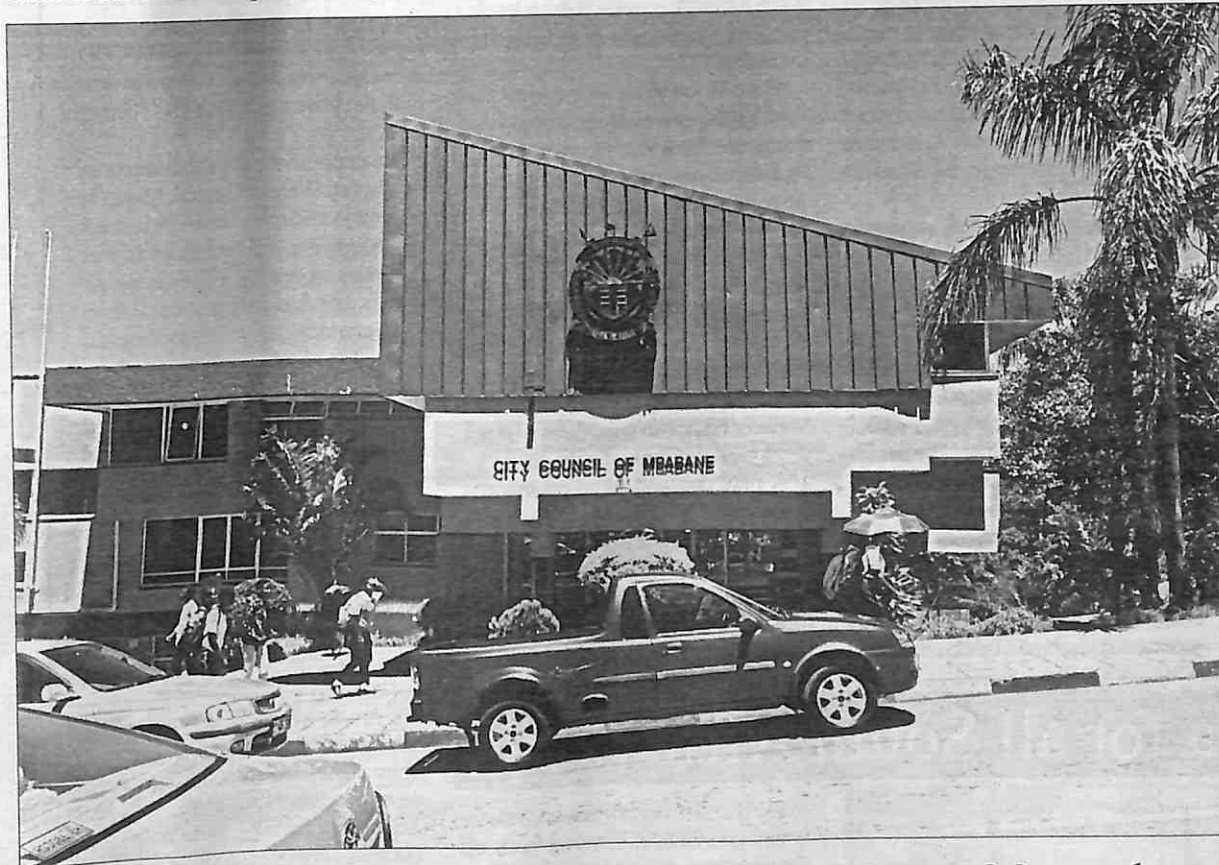
per cent since mid-December, despite a raft of data releases showing a weak economy and nationwide blackouts by state power firm Eskom, with investors willing to overlook the negatives and pocket the high yield.

Rally

The rally has seen the unit hurdle key technical resistance points, first at R14.40 and then R14.20, spurring demand to the R14 psychological level that could trigger even more gains as investors look to close position and lock-in gains.

Bonds were flat, with the yield on the benchmark 2026 government issue up 0.5 basis points to 8.17 per cent.

EWN



Municipal Council of Mbabane lists over 20 tenders

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

The Municipal Council of Mbabane has listed over 20 tender contracts for the year 2020/21.

The tenders are all listed in the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ESPPRA).

Some of these contracts include the supply and delivery of asphalt overlay, hiring of according to information sourced from the ESPPRA Website, the invitation to tender is now open with most of the tender dates ending on January 24, 2020 at noon.

Some of the contracts listed include heavy plant equipment and trucks, design,

printing, supply and delivery of council documents, catering services and the supply and delivery of food items, supply and delivery of food items, service, supply and delivery of firefighting equipment and jet pressure pipe cleaning, amongst others.

Some of the tenders

- » Supply and Delivery of Asphalt Overlay
- » Hiring of Heavy Plant Equipment and Trucks
- » Jet Pressure Pipe Cleaning
- » Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceutical Agents and First Aid Equipment
- » Supply and Delivery of Street Lights Reticulation

- » Supply and Delivery of Corporate Branding Materials
- » Supply and Delivery of Symbolic Safety Signs
- » Service, Supply and Delivery of Fire Fighting Equipment
- » Design, Printing, Supply and Delivery of Council Documents
- » Supply and Delivery of Tyres and Tubes
- » Supply & Delivery of Petrol and Diesel (Fuel)
- » Supply and Delivery of Oils and Grease
- » Catering Services
- » Supply and Delivery of Food Items



5 WAYS MBOWENI TRIED TO TRIM THE FAT IN 2019

THE country has been spending more than we earn.

That was the gist of Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's speech before Parliament in October, when he tabled his medium-term budget policy statement.

While the minister announced plans to take a hardline against bailouts for state-owned enterprises in his national budget speech in February – efforts to contain the state's growing debt came to naught by the time October arrived.

According to Treasury's latest estimate, South Africa's national debt stands at R3trn. Treasury has warned it could grow to R4.5trn by 2022/23, or 71.3 per cent of GDP, Fin24 previously reported.

Following his medium-term budget policy statement, Mboweni told members of Parliament that the country was in dangerous territory with debt galloping towards 80 per cent of GDP, which will burden future generations. The debt burden is also a key concern for rating agencies.

With the country tiptoeing against a projected budget shortfall of R52bn for the current fiscal year, Fin24 looks at how some of the measures the finance minister announced to trim the fat, and how things ultimately panned out.

1. Slashing the public sector wage bill, from the top

Mboweni, in his February budget, announced measures to reduce the public sector wage bill by R27bn over three years by incentivising early retirement, reducing performance bonuses and freezing come salaries. But by October, at the time of the medium-term budget policy statement, these plans did not work out.

In the mid-term budget Mboweni introduced new guidelines for salary packages for Cabinet and provincial executives – such as capping the value of cars at R700 000 – inclusive of VAT, restricting domestic flights to economy class and a wage freeze – with salaries likely to be adjusted downwards.

"After adjusting for inflation, the average government wage has risen by 66

per cent in the last 10 years," Mboweni said at the time. The cuts are expected to save the fiscus R150bn in three years.

2. Strict terms and conditions for extra funding

Mboweni was adamant that state-owned enterprises facing financial challenges would not get bailouts. Any funding provided to them would require that strict conditions are met.

For example, while the SABC had sought a R3.2bn lifeline from government, Mboweni stressed that Treasury would not budge unless it was certain steps were being taken to improve the organisation's financial health.

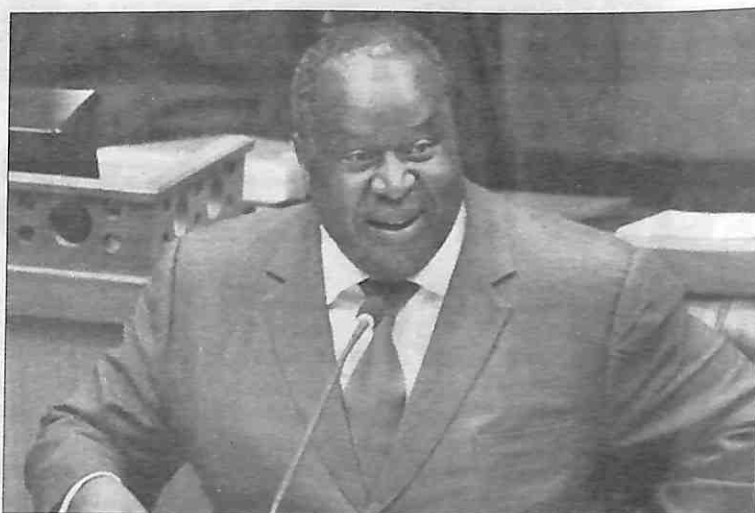
While the SABC reported a R483m loss for 2018/19, the board previously told Parliament it managed to stay afloat through the successes of its turnaround plan. However, the organisation remained technically insolvent and required a capital injection from government to bolster the efforts of its turnaround plan, Fin24 previously reported.

By October, government had agreed to give the national broadcaster R2.1bn, as part of the R3.2bn it requested – as the organisation only met five of Treasury's eight preconditions for funding. The remaining R1.1bn will be channelled to SABC once it has met the remaining three conditions.

In August this year government also extended a R1.8bn lifeline to state arms manufacturer, Denel to aid its turnaround plan. Denel had sought a lifeline of R2.8bn. The remaining R1bn will be considered in the 2020/21 budgetary process, Denel said at the time.

The state-owned arms manufacturer also faced liquidity challenges during the year, warning it would no be able to pay its staff their July salaries this year. However, it received bridging finance to do so.

But even the best-laid plans don't always work out – apart from the R5.5bn Treasury allocated to South African Airways (SAA), later in the year government also agreed to take on its R9.2bn legacy debt – to paid off over the next



TRIED: Finance Minister Tito Mboweni presents his medium-term budget policy statement in Parliament on October 30.

three years. In early December the airline was placed in business rescue; following an eight-day strike by unions which resulted in losses of R50m per day. Government has committed to provide it R2bn in funding to keep it operational.

3. SA Express should be closed

Mboweni is not keen on keeping SA Express open. In a briefing to members of Parliament, following the medium term budget policy statement, Mboweni said that it made more sense to close SA Express or fold it into another airline in which SAA has an interest – Airlink.

"We are quite convinced we should close SA Express," the finance minister said. SAA owns a three per cent share in Airlink, a direct competitor of SA Express. "There is no logic whatsoever in having SA Express and Airlink competing with one another, while SAA owns three per cent of Airlink," Mboweni said at the time. The minister of public service and administration is dealing with this matter.

SA Express reported a net loss of R590m for the financial year ended March 2019 and has a net liability position of R374m, as Fin24 previously reported. It received a disclaimed audit

opinion from the Auditor General of South Africa. AG Kimi Makwetu said there was insufficient evidence in the airline's financial statements to conclude it can continue as a going concern.

4. User-pay principle must apply

Mboweni did not mince his words when it came to e-tolls, it even landed him in a Twitter war with Gauteng's legislature.

While Mboweni is of the view that the user-pay principle must apply and that government needs to yield a return on its investment in the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project (GFIP), Cabinet has not yet reached a consensus on how to address the funding of the project. At a post Cabinet meeting media briefing in December, Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu said that the final report with recommendations on the issue was submitted by Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula. Cabinet is not yet done deliberating on the matter.

"A final decision on recommendation on GFIP, as contained in the report, will be made in the new year by Cabinet," Mthembu said. Cabinet is likely to reach finality on the matter" in its next meeting, next year. In a separate matter – Mboweni has also joined the cho-

rus of government officials urging the public to pay for services rendered by municipalities – given the outstanding debt owed to waterboards and Eskom. Culprits also include government departments who have failed to pay relevant service providers. In late November the power utility warned it would cut off daytime power to three Free State municipalities, including Bloemfontein, unless they settled their power bills. Later in the month the two sides reached a payment agreement.

5. Eskom's restructure

The biggest drain on the fiscus is debt-ridden power utility Eskom. Mboweni announced an all-important restructure of the power utility which will see it broken up into three entities – generation, transmission and distribution.

Government has allocated R230bn to Eskom over 10 years. While Treasury initially allocated Eskom R69bn over the next three years – additional funding had to be brought forward to help Eskom maintain its going concern status.

The president has signed a Special Appropriation Bill which would see Eskom receive an additional R59bn over the next two years.

It was expected that Mboweni would also make announcements on debt relief for Eskom – but the minister held firm, barring any debt relief until the power utility can demonstrate some improvements. The Chief Reorganisation Officer, Freeman Nomvalo, who was appointed as part of the conditions placed by Treasury to help manage Eskom's reconfiguration, is expected to submit his report by the end of the year. The CRO is considering options on how to deal with the power producer's R450bn of debt.

The department of public enterprises' Deputy Director General, Makgola Makololo told members of Parliament that Mboweni will then make further decisions on dealing with Eskom debt if he is satisfied with the way Eskom has been dealing with fundamental issues, Fin24 previously reported.

Eskom hit an operational low earlier in December when it introduced stage 6 load shedding due to technical failures at Medupi power station, and other issues such as the lack of maintenance at ageing fleets. Government is working on finding ways to bolster Eskom's capacity with an additional 5 000 MW which can potentially be provided by Independent Power Producers.

News24

The market is not a panacea for all South Africa's ills

WHILE we celebrated our 25th year of democracy and sixth democratic elections, the economic gains a decade after the global financial crisis remains sluggish.

In fact, the economic situation has overshadowed these celebrations.

According to the website Trading Economics, South Africa's growth rate this past year was less than one per cent – far from the five per cent to 10 per cent growth rate envisaged by the National Development Plan. The contraction in the economy can be attributed to the contractions in our key industries such as mining, manufacturing, transport, storage and communication.

Transport, storage and communication fell by more than five per cent in the past 12 months. These are key industries in a tertiary sector economy. We should be developing more of these instead of less and they play an even



more vital role in the African economy.

In view of this, one can arguably understand the frustration of Mondli Makhanya when he writes about the Emerging Advisers Group's report, "South Africa is dead. What next?"

Yet, our biggest frustration as poli-

cymakers is not so much the abyss we face, but that leading South Africans such as Makhanya think that it is only the government or Parliament's duty to get us out of this economic morass.

Yet, Makhanya can also be forgiven because it is primarily an economic policy morass that we are in. What the

markets and investors need is certainty and confidence. The one feeds off the other and, with a loss of certainty in whether we will implement the 2017 NASREC resolutions of the ANC, this more than anything else dents the confidence investors have in South Africa's economic future.

As a result, where one can agree with Mcebisi Jonas in his article, "It's time for a clear and unifying national agenda", is that we need to be united as South Africans in the action that we take to restructure our economy.

Like Makhanya, every single South African must sacrifice, must serve and must ensure that we change the very characteristics of our economy in order to bring about prosperity and a decent life for all.

The sad reality is that some have suffered and are still suffering, while others who have not suffered in the past

still refuse to sacrifice. South Africa belongs to all who live in it. The challenge is that the economic challenges are unfortunately felt more by those at the bottom than by those at the top. There is simply no collective ownership of the outcomes of this economic stagnation. Yet, what is the way out of this economic morass? What must be done?

Jonas is partially correct when he points to the importance of our state-owned entities (SOEs) in our economy. They are central to economic restructuring and re-energising, for it is the duty of every government to facilitate the creation of an inclusive economy and thereby create an environment for the private sector to create jobs.

Our SOEs are under threat from more than just corruption and maladministration.

If we are to solve the challenges at our SOEs we must realise, united, that a myopic understanding of these challenges will not lead to lasting solutions.

101

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

MOROCCO RAMPS UP PREPARATIONS FOR 24 UNWTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MOROCCO - Following their highly celebrated election at the 23rd General Assembly to host the subsequent edition, Morocco has begun earnest preparations to deliver a great event in Africa.

A delegation from the Ministry of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy has held a preliminary meeting with the leadership of UNWTO at the Organisation's headquarters in Madrid Spain.

Upon meeting with the delegation, the Secretary General, Zurab Pololikashvili reiterated his congratulations to Morocco for their being selected to host tourism's biggest event in 2021.

He assured them of UNWTO's support and commitment to ensure



the delivery of a great event in Marrakech.

Africa will once again be graced with the opportunity of hosting another General Assembly for the

third time after the successful hosting of past editions in Senegal and Zambia-Zimbabwe.

Morocco successfully won the bid over the Philippines and Kenya

during the 23rd General Assembly in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in September for them to host the event in 2021.

IOL

Greece 'wants a say' in Libya peace process - PM

LIBYA - Greece wants to be included in UN-sponsored talks in January on the Libya conflict, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Sunday, as tensions escalate with neighbours Turkey over the issue.

Libya has become another diplomatic front for Greece and Turkey as the traditional rivals jostle over Mediterranean maritime rights and the competing camps in the North African country's conflict.

"We do not want a source of instability in our neighbourhood.

Therefore we want a say in developments in Libya," Mitsotakis told To Vima weekly in an interview.

"We want to be part of the solution in Libya, as it concerns us too," he said.

The UN has said an international conference will be held next month in Berlin to pave the way for a political solution to Libya's ongoing conflict.

Beset

Libya has been beset by chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with rival administrations in the east and the west vying for power.

"I have requested, and will do so again with greater insistence, that we participate in the Berlin process," Mitsotakis said.

In November, Ankara signed a contentious maritime and military deal with the embattled UN-recognised government in Tripoli.

Greece immediately rejected it as baseless, arguing that Turkey and Libya share no maritime border.

"(Libya) is our natural maritime neighbour, not Turkey's," Mitsotakis said on Sunday.

The Turkish deal lays claim to much of the Mediterranean for energy exploration, conflicting with rival claims by Greece and Cyprus.

At the same time, Turkey is stepping up military aid to Tripoli, which is battling the forces of military strongman Khalifa Haftar for control of the capital.

Mitsotakis on Sunday also addressed recent statements by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that called into question sovereignty treaties with Greece.

AFP

UN chief condemns deadly Mogadishu attack

MOGADISHU - The United Nations has strongly condemned what it has described as a "horrendous" car bomb attack in the Somali capital, Mogadishu on Saturday that left at least 78 people dead, including many students.

In a statement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres extended his deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the blast. "He stressed that the perpetrators of this horrendous crime must be brought to justice," a statement by his spokesperson said.

Saturday's blast was the worst attack in Mogadishu since the devastating 2017 bombing that killed hundreds.

Police officer Mohamed Hussein said the blast targeted a tax collection centre during the morning rush hour. The explosion ripped through rush hour as Somalia returned to work after

the weekend. At least 125 people were wounded, Aamin Ambulance Service Director Abdiqadir Abdulrahman said. Hundreds of Mogadishu residents donated blood in response to desperate appeals.

"The explosion was very large," an eyewitness said. "It was close to where the 2017 bombing happened."

"I saw many bodies lying on the ground. In my eyes, some of the dead were police officers, but also students were killed." President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo condemned the attack as a "heinous act of terror" and blamed the al-Shabaab armed group.

"Saturday's tragedy has become a lesson learned since the country is in a state of war, we need to be vigilant against the terror attacks, since the primary goal of terrorists is to cause maximum damage to everybody," he said.

ALJAZEERA

60 years on, Africa still seeks right model for growth

JOHANNESBURG - As 1960 dawned, sub-Saharan Africa braced for historic change: that year, 17 of its countries were destined to gain independence from European colonial powers.

But six decades on, the continent is mired in many problems. It is struggling to build an economic model that encourages enduring growth, addresses poverty and provides a future for its youth.

Youth 'explosion'

Africa's population grew from 227 million in 1960 to more than one billion in 2018. More than 60 per cent are aged under 25, according to the Brookings Institution, a US think tank. "The most striking change for me is the increasing reality of disaffected youth... a younger population that is ready to explode at any moment," Cameroonian sociologist Francis Nyamnjoh told AFP. "They are hungry for political freedoms,

they are hungry for economic opportunities and they are hungry for social fulfilment." Joblessness is a major peril. Unemployed youths are an easy prey for armed groups, particularly jihadist movements in the Sahel, or may be tempted to risk clandestine emigration, often at the cost of their lives. The continent's population is expected to double by 2050, led by Nigeria, Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Poverty and inequality

The proportion of Africa's population living below the poverty line — less than \$1.90 (1.7 Euros) per day — fell from 54.7 per cent in 1990 to 41.4 per cent in 2015, according to the World Bank. But this average masks enormous differences from one country to another, exemplified by Gabon (3.4 per cent of the population in 2017) and Madagascar (77.6 per cent in 2012). **AFP**

BRIEFS

Kenyan shares beat the JSE by a massive margin

NAIROBI - Among sub-Saharan African stock markets, Kenya's proved the best performer over the past decade, joined only by South Africa in producing dollar-based gains since 2010 as currency depreciation ravaged returns for investors. Nairobi's benchmark gauge climbed 74 per cent since the decade opened, with Johannesburg's benchmark up just short of nine per cent. The Zambian and Nigerian stock markets have retreated almost 50 per cent. MSCI's gauge of developing country stocks has gained 13 per cent, while its frontier-markets index has advanced 12 per cent. **Bloomberg**

Survivors tell of France's 'dirty war'

CAMEROON - It was a "dirty war" waged by French colonial troops but it never made headlines and even today goes untold in school history books. The brutal conflict unfolded in Cameroon, which on January 1 marks its 60th anniversary of independence, the first of 17 African countries that became free from their colonial masters in 1960. Many decades on, those who witnessed the violence recall events that shaped countless lives in the central African country yet remain unchronicled today. "My life was overturned," Odile Mbouma, 72, said in the southwestern town of Ekite.

AFP

Ex-security chief speaks on release from Jail

NIGERIA - Former National Security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki, said with his release from the custody of the Department of State Services, he was ready to appear in court to defend himself. Dasuki who was arrested in December 2015 for alleged corruption during his tenure as national security adviser to former President Goodluck Jonathan, was granted bail several times by courts but DSS refused to release him. He consequently vowed not to attend court trial until the bail orders were complied with. **ALLAFRICA**

Algeria's army chief died of a heart attack

ALGERIA - Algeria's powerful army chief has died unexpectedly of a heart attack aged 79, just days after ushering in a new president on an anti-corruption ticket and amid ongoing street protests - throwing the country into political turmoil. General Ahmed Gaid Salah was instrumental in pushing out the long-serving president Abdelaziz Bouteflika amid pro-democracy demonstrations earlier this year. The military chief then championed an unprecedented push against corruption - including by people in Bouteflika's inner circle - and pushed for new presidential elections.

Daily Mail

Focus on

SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Public Protector faces new House rules

JOHANNESBURG - The interactions between the office of Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane and Parliament showed who has the last laugh when it comes to instances of confrontation.

While she was firm in asserting herself and the authority of her office, it proved to be her undoing, especially over the fact that ANC MPs at times did not see eye to eye over matters that concerned her office.

The beginning and end of the year were marked by talks on the removal from office of Mkhwebane.

The calls first surfaced last year after failed attempts by the DA which were at the time thwarted by the governing party.

Then the signs that Parliament would forge ahead with proceedings against her were made certain this month when Assembly Speaker Thandi Modise said the national legislature would consider the DA's latest request and draft a substantive motion for the removal of Mkhwebane.

This after the National Assembly adopted rules for the removal of the head of Chapter 9 institutions, such as the public protector.

The drafting of these rules came about as the portfolio committee on justice and correctional services considered the request by now DA leader John Steenhuisen (Natasha Mazzone's predecessor as chief whip) to remove Mkhwebane.

He had on previous occasions during the last term of Parliament unsuccessfully attempted to have the committee institute removal proceedings against Mkhwebane.



NEWS RULES: Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane.

But, the ANC-dominated justice portfolio committee decided in December last year to hold off on investigating Mkhwebane pending the official opposition's application to set aside her report on the Vrede Dairy Farm.

This was ratified by the National Assembly earlier this year.

However, fresh calls for her removal emerged in May this year when the DA again asked Modise for the removal process of Mkhwebane to be resumed after Mkhwebane lost her court case in the Vrede Dairy saga.

When Parliament was reconstituted, Modise told Steenhuisen, then the DA chief whip, that she was seeking advice on the best way to deal with the matter as parliamentary committees were

yet to be established.

She later referred the matter to the justice and correctional services portfolio committee.

This did not sit well with Mkhwebane who in July wrote to Modise to complain that there were no rules to remove her and threatened court action.

It was in August when Modise took aim, telling justice committee Chairperson Bulelani Magwanishe to fast-track the process to set up an inquiry into Mkhwebane's fitness to hold office.

Speaking at the National Assembly's programme committee, Modise said Parliament would "not be stopped" from going ahead with preparations for a probe into Mkhwebane's fitness to hold office. **Political Bureau**

SEVEN TIMES

JOHANNESBURG - From her court battles with the DA to weighing in on Mmusi Maimane's dismissal from the party, Good party Founder and Public Works Minister Patricia de Lille is just one politician who made news headlines this year.

De Lille is known for speaking up for herself and against what she believes is wrong, and has built herself a reputation as the queen of clap backs and spice.

From calling the DA "blue liars," to shading Maimane after his dismissal as party leader, here are seven quotes that prove De Lille is the queen of all things spicy and shady.

'I told you so, Mmusi'

"I hate to say I told you so, but I am going to say it anyway. I am not claiming to be a *sangoma*, but I warned Mmusi Maimane that if he didn't stand on principle, his

party's 'laptop boys' would swallow him up and spit him out. He saw the 'blue train' coming, but didn't know how to get out of the way."

The DA is self-destructing, we'll unite for Good

"The DA is well on its way on the path of destruction, and it's best we don't disturb them. South Africans who care about all our people must continue to come together for common Good."

After Maimane's resignation

"What goes around, comes around. You are working with them to get me out, you are the spokesperson of this cabal. One day the cabal will turn on you and it is exactly what has happened."

DA woes and NPA dismissal of her prosecution

Manhunt after woman allegedly shot dead by ex-boyfriend

JOHANNESBURG - Mpumalanga police have launched a manhunt for a 35-year-old man after he allegedly murdered his ex-girlfriend in Elukwatini last Thursday.

According to police, 25-year-old Laurencia Zinhle Mathebula was walking with her cousin when they were approached by her ex-boyfriend.

Mathebula's cousin left the two alone to have a private conversation, but moments later heard multiple gunshots. "He (the cousin) went to investigate and found she had been

shot multiple times and immediately alerted the police, but the suspect was found to have left the scene in his white bakkie," Police Spokesperson Brigadier Leonard Hlathi said in a statement. Mathebula was declared dead on the scene.

"Police immediately commenced with their investigation and a manhunt against the suspect ensued." Mpumalanga Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Mondli Zuma condemned the incident.

NEWS24

'MY FAMILY FEARED I WOULD DIE'

JOHANNESBURG - Durban - It was a "stinking" Christmas for some Westville residents who had to bear the effects of a raw sewage "waterfall" that gushed from a burst underground pipe.

Relief eventually came on Saturday, when the eThekweni Municipality deployed workmen to fix the problem.

But the lingering odour from sewage deposits continues to "hurt their nostrils", the residents complained. A sewer mainline runs through Robert Baker's home on Aberfeldy Road, in Ward 92.

Began

Two weeks ago sewage began to gush out of the line, near the top end of Baker's property.

It poured constantly for a week, until municipal workmen, after an anaemic response from the council, attended to the problem.

Baker and others in his neighbourhood thought the worst was over but things got "horrible", two days before Christmas. Raw sewage

began to cascade from another point, with Baker and his family, which includes children aged three, five and eight, being most affected by the inordinate flow.

"It has been very frustrating time for me and other residents and I had to bear the brunt of the problem," said Baker.

When the first leakage happened, Baker thought it was water from a burst pipe and he began to dig up the ground to find the leak. He only realised that he had handled raw sewage when he got seriously ill two days later.

"I had severe diarrhoea and my kidneys were failing. My family feared I would die. But I'm recovering now."

Baker said it had been a horrible time for him and his family.

"The children were forced to remain indoors and I had planned to have family at my home for Christmas, but I had to cancel that arrangement."

Sunday Tribune

Election of Hlabisa as new leader changes IFP's fortunes

DURBAN - The IFP had a fairly good year as it clawed back some of its past losses and continued to solidify itself within the country's political landscape.

The party marked a milestone when it elected a new leader for the first time in its history, when Velenkosi Hlabisa took over from founding leader Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Shadow

But the shadow of Buthelezi, who had led the party since its inception in 1975, will continue to loom large.

Hlabisa, has, since taking the reins, visited Limpopo and Mpumalanga in pre-election campaigning for the 2021 municipal poll and 2024 general elections.

The IFP's fortunes turned for the better in the May elections as it continued to reclaim its support base, which had dwindled since a decade ago.

It also managed to eject the DA as official opposition in KwaZulu-Natal, a status it lost in the 2014 elections.

In the National Assembly, the party was offered the chairperson post for the standing committee on public



CHANGES: Velenkosi Hlabisa.

accounts, as the ANC preferred to continue its tradition of giving that role to smaller parties rather than to the official opposition.

As the IFP accepted the powerful position, it assigned the task to the youthful Mkhuleko Hlangwa.

He replaced African People's Convention leader Themba Godi, who failed to secure his parliamentary seat.

The IFP continued to play its part in the coalition politics that has engulfed the City of Joburg in recent months.

As one of the kingmakers, the IFP angered the DA when it voted for an ANC candidate to be mayor instead of the DA nominee.

The IFP had helped the DA install Herman Mashaba in August 2016.

Political Bureau



Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

DE LILLE GAVE US THE SPICE

"The blue liars are being exposed again. They have gone to a very great extent to smear my name. [The DA's Federal Executive Chairperson] James Selfe, [Cape Town's MMC for safety and security] JP Smith and [the DA's shadow ministers for justice and correctional services] Glynnis Breytenbach - those were the people behind these false charges."

No more DA

"No, no. No blue lights. I'm staying away, far away from anything that's blue." **On public works 'corruption' complaint**

"I am not interested in it or the characters who wrote it. Those who wrote it would have had to have come from within the department, but who they are I cannot say. I am here to work, not fight factional battles, and will not tolerate fight backs."

I was not fired, the DA are 'blue liars'



MAKE NEWS HEAD: Good party founder and public works minister Patricia de Lille.

"The court has to determine the urgency. That's a technicality. It does not change the fact that the DA are a bunch of blue liars. They have lied that they have fired me. In fact, they have no evidence what-

soever that I have gone through a disciplinary procedure, that I was found guilty and that I was fired, so [the DA] continues to be a bunch of liars."

Timeslive

POLICE INVESTIGATE AFTER TWO BODIES FOUND NEXT TO ROADSIDE

JOHANNESBURG - Eastern Cape police are investigating a double murder case after the bodies of two unidentified men with gunshot wounds were found lying on the roadside in Uitenhage on Sunday morning.

Uitenhage police received a call at about 8.30am from an anonymous person informing them of two people lying on the roadside about a kilometre from the Koedoeskloof waste disposal site.

"At the scene, police found the lifeless bodies of two unknown men with



several gunshot wounds in the upper body. The one victim was wearing a grey hooded tracksuit top, a blue golf shirt, greenish trousers and a pair of red

Bronx sneakers. The other victim was wearing a black tracksuit top, navy trousers and a pair of black and lime sneakers," police said. *Timeslive*



SHONAPHANSI DRILLING

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DOC20861

Parolee arrested for rape

NELSPRUIT - South African Police Service (SAPS) officers in Nelspruit have arrested a 35-year-old man in connection with the rape of a four-year-old girl and her 28-year-old mother, Mpumalanga police said on Sunday.

"The suspect, who is on parole for a murder case, was arrested on Friday, after being cornered by police at his hiding place at a township in Machadodorp and is expected to appear before court," SAPS Mpumalanga spokesman Brigadier Leonard Hlathi said in a statement on Sunday.

It was reported that the man went to visit the pair on Thursday this past week and was granted access to the house.

"Moments later he produced a knife, threatened the mother of the girl, directed her and her daughter to one of the rooms and allegedly raped both of them."

Police were later alerted about the incident by a neighbour who became suspicious after seeing the suspect "fleeing from the house. The police immediately rushed to the house and confirmed the details of the incident".

"Subsequent to police arrival, two cases of rape were opened. Detectives from family violence, child protection, and sexual offences unit (FCS) were immediately activated

and tasked to investigate the two cases," he said. Both victims were taken to hospital for medical assistance.

The suspect had since been arrested and would appear in the Belfast Magistrates' Court on Monday. "Police cannot rule out the possibility of this man's parole to be revoked," Hlathi said.

Mpumalanga Police Commissioner Lt-Gen Mondli Zuma applauded members of the public for the information that they provided which had led to the arrest of the suspect. He also thanked police for their sterling work and prompt arrest of the suspect.

Zuma also expressed his disappointment "at the actions of the suspect, who was given a second chance by being granted parole as an opportunity to correct his ways and do something good in his community".

"What this suspect did is so disappointing, especially at the time when we, as a country, are doing all that we can to curb gender-based violence."

"This suspect was supposed to be an ambassador of change, teaching other men out there that violence against women and children can no longer be tolerated. Instead he showed that he is not fit to be living among the community."

African News Agency

At least 84 murders in CT since mid-December, claims ACDP

CAPE TOWN - The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) said there have been at least 84 murders in the Cape Town metro since the middle of December.

In reaction to the fatal shooting of five-year-old Lavender Hill boy Valentino Grootetjie, the party called for extra scrutiny when it came to granting murder suspects bail.

Valentino Grootetjie's alleged killers are expected to apply for bail during their next court appearance next month.

The ACDP has called on the police and the courts to keep suspects detained when they've been arrested on murder charges.

ACDP Member of Parliament Marie Sukers: "Withholding bailing is one of the ways of keeping our communities safer and ensuring that our communities are not vulnerable to reprisal through speaking out."

On request for the SAPS to confirm the number of murders, officials said that due to a moratorium, crime statistics could not be confirmed or released. *EWN*

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205/40R17	E600.00
750R16	E1600.00
265/70R16	E1250.00
235/60R16	E800.00
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225/40R18	E750.00
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RIMS AVAILABLE
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DOC20861

Focus on World News

Global News

GIRL, 13, DIES GIVING BIRTH TO HER FATHER'S CHILD

JOHANNESBURG - A 13-year-old girl who was sexually abused by her father for four years died while giving birth to his child, police in Brazil have said.

Schoolgirl Luana Ketlen died on December 11 after she was admitted to hospital suffering severe abdominal pains, before medics discovered she was pregnant.

Doctors decided to induce labour and delivered a baby boy - who has survived - before rushing the girl to a specialist care unit. She died en route.

Police subsequently issued a warrant for 36-year-old father Tome Faba, saying they believe he began abusing his daughter when she was aged just nine.

Faba went on the run before being caught in the city of Coari a week later. He appeared in court for the first time on December 27 charged with child abuse and manslaughter.

Faba's family, who live on the outskirts of Coari, say they had no idea about the abuse.

The slightly-built teen was seven months pregnant when she was rushed to Coari regional hospital suffering from severe pains.

Doctors diagnosed her with acute anaemia and decided to induce labour.

She gave birth to a premature baby boy who miraculously survived.

...after suffering four years of sexual abuse in Brazil - but the baby survives



SUSPECT: Father Tome Faba, 36, went on the run but was arrested a week later and accused of abusing the girl starting when she was just nine years old. (Inset) Schoolgirl Luana Ketlen who was abused by her father.

But following delivery, the girl's health took a turn for the worse and test results found she was suffering from multiple complications including cirrhosis of the liver, water on the lungs and low blood pressure.

Luana died while being airlifted to a specialist hospital in Manaus, the Amazonas state capital, some 225 miles away (363km).

At a press conference, Coari police chief, José Barradas said: 'The teenager lived with her parents in a rural

area outside the city.

'She did not realise, until two months ago when she began to feel pains in her abdomen, that she was five months pregnant. "Luana claimed she was ordered to go fishing with her father and was allegedly raped by him while there.'

A relative, who did not want to be identified, described the teenager as innocent and immature, and said she was so traumatised by the abuse that she kept it secret. *Daily Mail*

Armed worshippers kill gunman who shot two during church service

TEXAS - Worshippers in the US state of Texas shot dead a gunman who opened fire during a Sunday service, ending an attack that killed one parishioner and wounded another, police said.

The latest US shooting at a house of worship took place in the suburban Fort Worth community of White Settlement on Sunday morning when the gunman entered West Freeway Church of Christ, officials said.

"A couple of members of the church returned fire, striking the suspect who died at the scene," White Settlement Police Chief J.P. Bevering told reporters.

He praised the "heroic actions of those parishioners" for ending the threat, although he said one of the suspect's victims died at a local hospital and a second has life-threatening injuries.

The FBI said it was working to find a motive for the attack.

"Places of worship are meant to be sacred, and I am grateful for the

church members who acted quickly to take down the shooter and help prevent further loss of life," Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a statement.

"Our hearts go out to the victims and families of those killed in the evil act of violence that occurred at the West Freeway Church of Christ," he added.

Guns kill about 36,000 people a year in the United States — one of the most heavily armed countries in the world — through suicides, homicides, police-involved shootings and accidents.

The country has lived through a sharp rise in mass shootings in recent years, alarming the public and triggering new debate on how to control this epidemic of violence.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said he will only bring a gun bill to the floor if it has presidential backing, but President Donald Trump has given no clear preference.

AFP

Trump faces firestorm after identifying alleged whistleblower

WASHINGTON - United States President Donald Trump faced calls from his own party to show more restraint on Twitter as the White House faced a storm of outrage Sunday over the president revealing the name of a man widely thought to be the whistleblower who triggered his impeachment.

Trump has faced growing criticism since retweeting an attack that included the name of the reported CIA staffer at the heart of the Ukraine scandal — an act that could violate the whistleblower's guaranteed anonymity under the law.

"If the president would tweet a little bit less, it wouldn't cause brain damage. But the president does not have to take my advice, nor do I expect him to," Republican Senator John Kennedy, a key

Trump ally, told "Fox News Sunday." Trump is ending 2019 as the third president in US history to be impeached after pressuring Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, a rival in his 2020 reelection bid. The historic rebuke by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives for abuse of office and obstruction of Congress is unlikely to pass the Republican-controlled Senate in a trial expected to begin in January.

But Trump has appeared increasingly frustrated that no date has been set for the trial amid a partisan standoff over its rules.

The president spent much of Friday amplifying pro-Trump and anti-Democrat tweets from suspicious-looking Twitter accounts at the start of what would become a weekend-long rant against the impeachment process. *AFP*

Driver, 87, who mistook accelerator for brakes, dies

LONDON - An elderly motorist sent to prison for killing a woman when he mistook the accelerator for the brake has died just nine days after starting his sentence.

William Heagren, 87, was jailed for more than two years after admitting causing death by dangerous driving.

He had reversed his Ford Fusion at a high speed as he tried to park in a Sainsbury's car park, smashing into Jeanette Newman, 64, and her friend Sarah Taylor, 53.

Miss Newman suffered serious head injuries and died the next day while Mrs Taylor was left with life-changing injuries. The crash came minutes after Heagren

had bumped his car on a bollard, which left him 'raging' with himself for 'being a bloody fool', a court was told.

Heagren, of Harrow, north-west London, who attended court using a walking frame, was sent to prison on December 5 but died on December 14. It is understood that he had a heart attack at Wormwood Scrubs Prison in west London.

Suspend

His barrister, David Wood, had asked a judge to suspend the pensioner's sentence, saying Heagren had a broken hip and was 'at a stage in his life when even a minor fall could kill him'.

He pointed to medical evidence from

a GP which said 'incarceration in a new environment could result in hospital admission for a life-threatening illness'. But Judge Lana Wood said he must go straight to prison. Miss Newman's partner, Andrew Roberts, 58, who has been fighting for a compulsory practical test for all drivers when they turn 70, said police had told him of Heagren's death.

He said yesterday: 'There are no winners in this situation. I said at the time he was jailed that he may not come out of prison, but I was still surprised by the news. I am a broken man since Jeanette was so violently taken away.'

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

'Mass stabbing' at US rabbi's house

NEW YORK - Multiple people were stabbed at a Jewish place of worship in upstate New York late on Saturday night, a public affairs group said.

At 9:50 this eve, a call came in about a mass stabbing. It's the house of a Hasidic Rabbi. Five patients with stab wounds, all Hasidic, were transported to local hospitals," the Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council (OJPAC) tweeted. Two people were reportedly in critical condition, OJPAC added.

AFP

White House warns North Korea

WASHINGTON - The White House said on Sunday it would consider "other tools" beyond personal diplomacy if North Korea went ahead with a threatened "Christmas gift" that could reignite global tensions over its nuclear programme. Experts have interpreted the message delivered earlier this month by Pyongyang as a warning that a long-range missile test was imminent if the US did not give ground by the end of the year in negotiations to denuclearise the Korean peninsula. Asked by ABC about possible consequences of such a test, White House National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said he did not want to speculate. *AFP*

Woman rescued after mouthing 'Help Me'

CALIFORNIA - The woman's boyfriend had threatened to kill her, police say. So as they drove to visit the boyfriend's family, she told him she needed to use a restroom at a McDonald's - then told an employee at the counter to call 911 and gave her the car's license plate number, officials said. The woman tried to place an order at the store in Lodi, California, according to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. But by that point the boyfriend was nearby and demanded she use the drive-through. "Help me," authorities say the woman mouthed to staff as the car went by the service window. The help arrived. *The Washington Post*

19 killed as US hits pro-Iran group

IRAQ - The US has carried out air strikes against a pro-Iran militant group in Iraq, killing 19 fighters, two days after a rocket attack that killed an American civilian contractor. The Pentagon said on Sunday it targeted weapons caches or command and control facilities linked to Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) in Western Iraq, as well as Eastern Syria, in response to a barrage of 30 or more rockets fired. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. "We will not stand for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take actions that put American men and women in jeopardy". Four US service members and Iraqi security forces were also wounded in Friday's attack at the K1 Iraqi military base in Kirkuk, an oil-rich region north of Baghdad. *AFP*

ESWATINI Observer ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

WOZA 2020!

Happy New Year....

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

IT'S the last day of the year and what else can we do but party into 2020.

With everything that has happened this year, there is something for everyone for the 2020 crossover.

Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu will be doing it again this year, same place, same time with more artists to usher you into the New Year.

If not, hit Esibayeni Lodge for the All White Crossover Party where Ntando Duma and her sister Lady Amar joined by Eswatini's finest artists will groove with you into 2020.

The Shutdown Concert is also another way to party into 2020, heard there to witness MiCasa and Semi Tee do their thing.

Solani's Shisanyama, Mega Lounge, Emfuleni Lifestyle and The X-Change Lounge will also be hosting local artists. Whichever event you decide to attend, make sure you are safe and arrive alive in 2020.

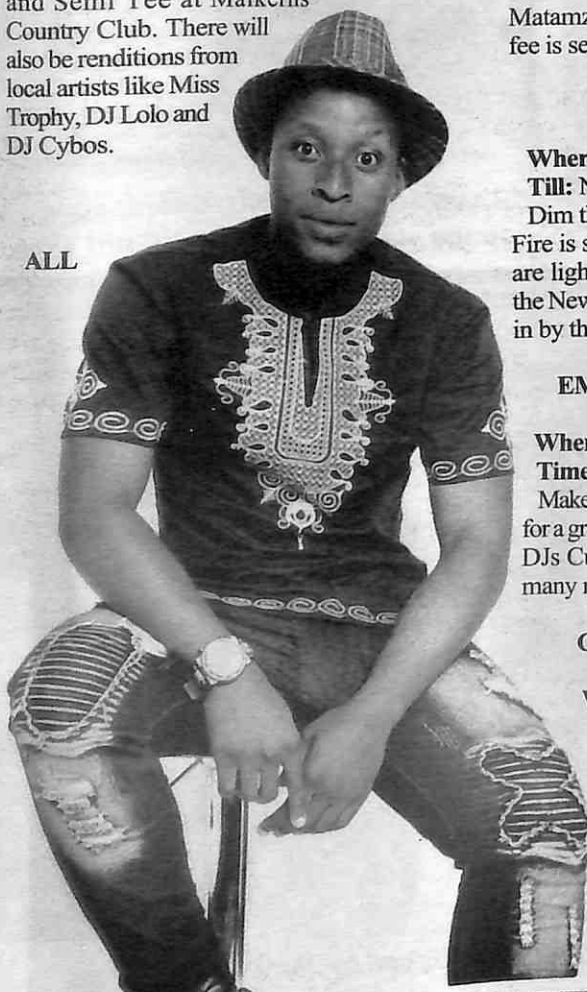
Till Next Year

LET'S PARTY TONIGHT

THE SHUTDOWN CROSSOVER

Where: Malkerns Country Club
Time: Noon till late
Come 'Jika' your way into 2020 with MiCasa and Semi Tee at Malkerns Country Club. There will also be renditions from local artists like Miss Trophy, DJ Lolo and DJ Cybos.

ALL



WHITE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Where: Esibayeni Lodge
Time: Noon till late
If you still lost on where to crossover, join SwaziBoy entertainment and So Fresh in their elegant all white NYE party. Witness performances from the likes of Nomalungelo, Ntando Duma and many more local artists.

MUSIC AND SPIN SHUTDOWN

Where: Tums Water World
Time: Noon till late
Team Tezza presents Music and Spin crossover, where cars will be spinning and deejays dishing out good music. You don't want to miss this one.

THE XCHANGE CROSSOVER

Where: The XChange Lounge
Time: Noon till late
Manzini's very own new spot is keeping it local on their first crossover event. Headlining with Eswatini artists Popzin, Illa Penboy, Lomasoul and many more.

THE CIROC AFRICAN WAVE CROSSOVER PARTY

Where: Solani's Shisanyama
Time: Noon till late
Cross over with Ciroc as Solani's will be doing it once again. Enjoy sounds from AyaCity, Culolami, Karly B and many more others.

MEGASOUND BEACH CROSSOVER

Where: Mega Lounge
Time: Noon till late
Come experience a different kind of crossover with the Mega Sound crew at the Mega Lounge. Music will be served by the likes of Zulu D, Matamza and Supa CDQ to name a few, entry fee is set at E100.

ONE TRIBE ONE PLANET CROSSOVER

Where: House on fire
Time: Noon till late
Dim the lights and cue the drums as House on Fire is summoning the tribe, come join as they are lighting the torch and carrying it over to the New Year. The New Year will be ushered in by the likes Shepard Brothers.

EMFULENI CROSSOVER PARTY

Where: Emfuleni Lifestyle
Time: Noon till late
Make your way to Emfuleni Lifestyle for a great crossover with your favourite DJs Cup, Wicked, SheeJay Zoe and many more.

CHILL N' GRILL NYE PARTY

Where: Ezulwini Gables
Time: Noon till late
Chill N'Grill coming back with a bang after the shutdown of Pub and Grill bringing you the NYE party with Greg XV, Lyrikal Busta, Seafood and more.



UMLILO CROSSOVER

Where: Mavuso Trade Centre
Time: Noon till late
Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu will be doing it again this year, same place, same time but more artists will be there to usher you into the New Year. Headlining with South African gospel artists Sipho Ngwenya, Andile Ka Majola and many more.

THE PLATINUM OLD SKOOL

Where: Sun Valley Blues
Time: Noon till late
The Sun Valley Blues presents the first ever Platinum old skool crossover hosted by DJ Mixmash and Zwile.

SAFA BUNANDZI CROSSOVER PARTY

Where: Mzimba view Shisanyama
Time: Noon till late
Come crossover with DJ Xtra Luv Da Legend at Mzimba View Shisanyama.

LUBOMBO REGIONAL CROSSOVER

Where: Mayaluka Stadium
Time: 6pm to 6am
Staged under the theme 'Vuka Ukhanye Bi-Bend', the crossover show will see the likes of South African maskandi artist hokozani 'Somnandi' Langa, gospel musicians Donny Ngwenyama as well as Pongola Gospel Wagon.

Hosted by Rev. Elias Shongwe, entrance fee is E50 per head with the show starting at 6pm till the next morning. From Eswatini will be Spirit Quest, Shiba and Travellers, Come to Jesus, Lavundlamanti Gospel Group, Ndawonye Christ Worshippers, Simangele Dlamini, Police Gospel Messengers, Maphatsindvuku Nazarene Choir, Make Simelane,

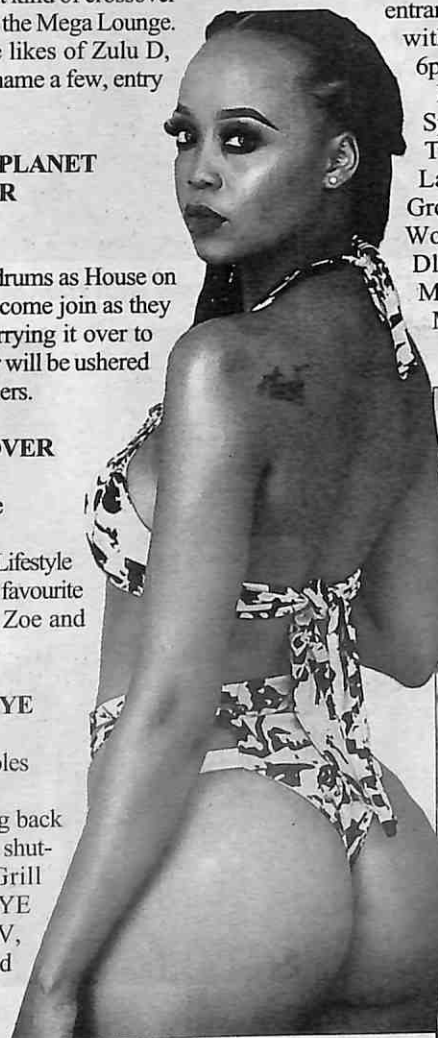
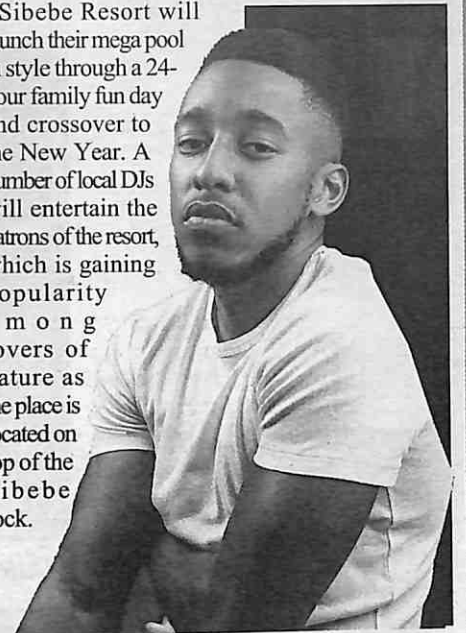
Christian Unity Crusade, Insali KaJehova, poet Gedlembane, etc.

MEGA CROSSOVER FOR SHISELWENI

Where: King Sobhuza 11 Stadium
Time: 6pm to 6am
Invasion Lifestyle presents the first ever Shiselweni crossover party featuring Sipho Makhabane, SA actor Masotja Msiza (popularly known as Nkunzi from SABC 1 soapie Uzalo, Nduduzo Matse, Shiba and Travellers, Phetsile Masilela, Bishop Gcina Masuku, Bishop Maculuve, Police Gospel Messengers, DJs Khwany, Yanda, Lady Zee, Matamza, etc. MCs are Nqaba, Magcolo Wesive and Inkonojja. Tickets cost E80 presale and E100 at the door while VIP costs E200.

POOL PARTY AND CROSSOVER AT SIBEBE RESORT

Where: Sibebe Resort
Time: 6am-6pm
Sibebe Resort will launch their mega pool in style through a 24-hour family fun day and crossover to the New Year. A number of local DJs will entertain the patrons of the resort, which is gaining popularity among lovers of nature as the place is located on top of the Sibebe rock.



VELEMSANI HEATS UP POP SUNDAY

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

... Rain fails to dampen festive spirit at the show

VELEMSANI braved the wet weather and gave her fans something to munch on with her electrifying performance.

This was during the fourth edition of the Pop Sunday which was held at the home of entertainment, The Albert Millin.

She performed alongside Tendaness as they did a beautiful cover of their song 'Love Me.'

She left what was made a stage of the day and joined the crowd on the dance floor.

Her performance received a resounding response from the crowd as they



pleaded for an echo and she delivered.

Music, food and good vibes were the order of the day. Heavy rains failed to dampen the fes-

tive spiriting at The Millin as patrons stayed the whole day and into the night for the show, not minding the wet weather.

It was a perfect day to say goodbye to December; the month of festivities.

Some came for the scrumptious

food and drinks served by the different stalls.

During the day, there were couple of activities namely; Five-Aside tournament where well-known personalities and artists gathered as their partners and friends were indulging on food and drinks by the soccer field.

Music from the different spinners on the turntables matched perfectly with the ambience and the day being a Sunday.

They dished out chilled music mostly urban hits and old skool RnB with hip hop.

Not only mouth watering food and drinks were the order of the day but fun fanatics came looking all sorts of flames in their stylish garbs in the wet weather.



ALSO THERE: Belinda Chester was also at the show.



HAIR AFFAIR: Gents had the time to do hair cuts with Hair Studio.



CHAMPAGNE DARLING: Champagne Lounge stall was the most sought after.



CHI: Summer Mavuso dressed up for the day. The crowd reacts to the music dished by Tendaness.





RIP: Founder of the all-male gospel music group Avante, Linda Gcwensa.

Avante's founder Linda Gcwensa dies

DURBAN - Founder of the all-male gospel music group Avante, Linda Gcwensa has died.

The 47-year-old singer-songwriter from KwaMashu, north of Durban, has been unwell for a number of years and was admitted to hospital last week.

Avante enjoyed great success after they were spotted in 1993 by Mbongeni Ngema.

Their debut album 'YekiJerusalem' reached gold status and their 2003 release 'Qina' went platinum.

Confirm

"He was sick. As I think you know he's been sick for years.

He has been in and out of the hospital and he was getting better, you know. He had a problem with his kidneys.

He died in hospital in the early hours of this (Sunday) morning around 1:30 am. Even though the family will still confirm they said they will bury him at their farm, that's a rural area at Mzembe that closer to Port Shepstone and then on Thursday there is a memorial service at the ECC, Ethekwini Community Church," says Avante Manager, Sindisiwe Cele.

The remaining members of the group, Lucky Cele and James Langa are taking the death of Gcwensa very badly. This comes after two other members of the group passed away a few years ago.

Depressed

Bongani Ngcobo and Sphiwe Khanyile passed away in 2004 and 2011, respectively.

"Oh they are not ok; they are depressed because you know they have lost another two members in the previous years, so now it's opening the wounds.

When we are talking about Linda Gcwensa and Avante, he has written most of the hits of the group.

He has been the songwriter and producer of Avante so basically he is the backbone of the group," says Cele.

Tributes for the late gospel music star began pouring in as soon as news of his death were heard yesterday morning and throughout the day.

SABC News

NICKY QUITTS MC DUTIES

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

SEASONED MC Nicky has bid farewell to the entertainment industry after serving for the past two years.

She revealed this yesterday to the Entertainment Desk stating that she wanted to take an extended break from the industry.

She also stated that women were not taken seriously in this industry yet they work hard to be the best in the game.

"My mental health is very important; this industry is ruthless, especially to women.

They do not show us the same respect as they demonstrate to men, most promoters do not even pay for our services.

You put in hard work all in the name of 'EXPOSURE'.

They do not support feminine talent.

They do not respect the fact that some of us have bills to pay and families to take care of," she said.

She stated that while trying to find her way to the top of the chain in the entertainment industry, she has met a number of people who left her depressed and losing herself in the process.

"I noticed that South African promoters respect my talent more than local promoters.

I will be venturing into property and I have started paving my way. I want to be my own boss," she said.

Furthermore, she advised aspiring MCs to be independent and work hard.

ENOUGH: MC Nicky.



COME TO JESUS SINGER NOW MAGISTRATE

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

COME To Jesus singer Thamsanqa Ndlovu has assumed a new role as a magistrate on acting basis at the Manzini Magistrate's Court.

He was appointed to the position last week Thursday but

assumed his position on Friday, alongside three other lawyers, namely Justice Mzizi, Innocent Mahlalela and Sicelo Lokotfwako. Their employment period is five months as they will occupy the positions until May.

Before the arrival of Ndlovu, Lokotfwako, Mahlalela and Mzizi, the Manzini 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, Magistrates

Simangele Mbatha, Sebenzile Ndlela, Nelisiwe Hlophe, Lucia Lukhele, Xolile Nxumalo and Philisiwe Simelane. Ndlovu is well-known for his role in the gospel music group called Come to Jesus.

The group is from the Assemblies of God Church and comprises six men.

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

END the year with a rhythmic bang at House On Fire's 'One Tribe, One Planet' tonight.

Come and flaunt fierce futuristic fashion with cultural elements that dare to test traditional style boundaries.

According to HOF Communications Officer Phiwokuhle Dhlamini, the aim of this crossover party is to keep it funky, fresh, futuristic and fun with chunky accessories, geometric patterns and dramatic hairstyles.

The 'One Tribe, One Planet' music line-up is packed with pulsating beats and eclectic rhythmic styles that will have you setting the dance floor ablaze.

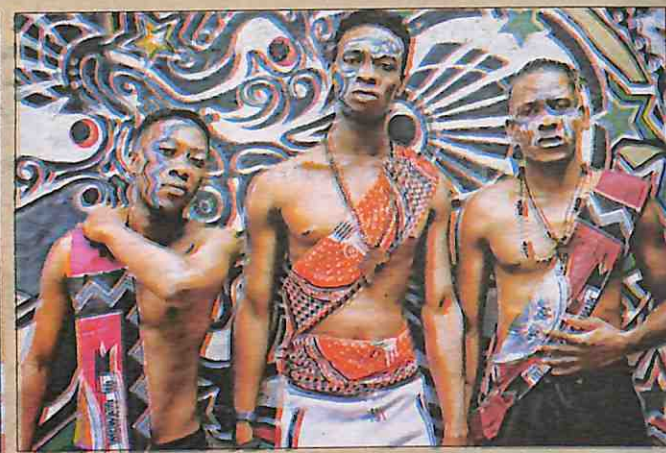
Afro-Brazilian band, Napalma, will amplify the tribal futuristic atmosphere with their stimulating brand of slick beats and growling vocals.

Napalma's trendy electro-percussion sounds, brassy and eclectic vocals guarantee a groovy explosion you just have to dance to!

Also uniting the Tribe in an electrifying and intoxicating musical experience will be the Shepard Bothers.

The trio, according to Dhlamini, will showcase a refreshing, soul-

It's on tonight at HOF, bring your Tribe



stirring and hype-inducing performance through their eclectic fusion of tribal dance music, live African percussion and a visually stimulating fire performance, making them a sheer marvel to watch.

Reinforce

"Our Tribal gathering would not be complete without an enchanting moment of oral storytelling to amplify the magic in our diversity and reinforce our spirit of oneness.

"Eswatini-born poet and entertainer, Mysh will take us on a mesmerising and memorable journey

through powerful wordplay. Presenting a compilation of original pieces using his medium of stand-up poetry, Mysh will share messages that resonate deeply with the spirit of unity echoed in our theme, 'One Tribe, One Planet'," Dhlamini added.

Eswatini's arts collective of deejays and producers, Motherland X, will keep spirits high and the atmosphere alive with their live DJ sets and sophisticated mixes. The stable's deejays; MKAY, Ophis, Muscle, Tap and Lu will be dish-ing out some good vibes and good

music, setting the tone for an epic 2020.

"All members of the Tribe will be invited to a percussive gathering at the Drum Circle, where we will showcase our individual beats and rhythmic styles.

This space will be pulsating with our collective energies and tribal flavour. Be sure to be part of this memorable and explosive celebration of diversity and unity," said Dhlamini.

Tickets at the door will be E300 for adults and E80 for children. Doors open at 7pm.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

HOLLYWOOD - Zac Efron has a message for his fans.

News recently broke that the 32-year-old actor was rushed to a hospital in Australia after suffering a medical emergency during the filming of his upcoming TV show, *Killing Zac Efron*. This apparently occurred right before the holidays.

According to Australia's Sunday Telegraph, who reported the news on Saturday, Efron allegedly contracted typhoid or other bacterial infection while filming on the island coun-



ZAC EFRON BREAKS HIS SILENCE

try of Papua New Guinea. The High School Musical alum was airlifted by emergency medical workers to an airport in Brisbane, Australia, and was then transported to a private hospital, according to the newspaper. E! News previously shared that we didn't confirm the 32-year-old star's illness nor heard back from his rep when we reached

out for comment. However, it was discovered that Efron was spotted looking healthy in the US over a week ago.

With so much chatter surrounding the Baywatch star, he decided to break his silence and give an update on his well-being. "Very thankful to everyone who has reached out. I did get sick in Papua New Guinea but I bounced back quick and finished an amazing three weeks in PNG," the actor shared in an Instagram post on

Sunday, alongside a photo of him smiling with children. "I'm home for the holidays with my friends and family," he continued. "Thanks for all the love and concern, see you in 2020!" It's good to see the beloved star is feeling better! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, typhoid can be found in contaminated food or water in Papua New Guinea. The CDC recommends people who come in contact with this get treated with a vaccine. (E! News)

Sarah Langa gets spicy about fake designer shoes

CAPE TOWN - Sarah Langa ruffled more than a few feathers when she showed off her Amina Muaddi designer heels and schooled followers about wearing fakes.

Sis posted the snap on Instagram to show her fans what "the real ones" look like.

Some applauded Sarah for educating those who shop at Small Street, but others dragged her for being unnecessary and said she was bragging.

Terry Pheto, Boity, Linda Mtoba, Tshepi Vundla and Bonang all commented on the post.

Even an account in socialite Buhle Mkhize's name weighed in, telling Sarah she shouldn't have posted something to "ridicule" others.

"Wow awulwi mntakamah but uyawwa. I've never and will never buy or wear anything fake but we shouldn't do this. A lot of our fellow South Africans wear these and some of them come from backgrounds that don't even allow the opportunity to know there's a real version."

She suggested Sarah be more humble.

"I'm fellow team rich husband before kuthiwe nginomona. Every girl who owns these shoes will likely feel ridiculed wearing them after today. Let's stay humble on top. I'd followed cause you are beautiful, stylish and love travel as much as I do. And yes I've written a whole novel at a risk of being barked at, anginendaba." (Times Live)



Sarah Langa.

BABES WODUMO HINTS AT JOINING AMAPIANO WAVE

PRETORIA - Queen of gqom Babes Wodumo has hinted at a musical comeback and is considering releasing an Amapiano track.

The Wololo hitmaker took to social media this week to share the news after hinting that she would love to make a song with the genre's current frontrunner Kabza De Small.

"They say Babes Wodumo is done. Wait until we get a (sic) Amapiano hit," she said. Babes' possible move to Amapiano comes after a heated debate online that gqom was "dead".

Many, including designer Thula Sindi, trashed gqom music, saying it was time for the country to move on from music that sounded like "a dustbin falling downstairs".

And if social media reac-



HINTS: Queen of gqom Babes Wodumo.

tions are anything to go by, Babes' fans would love to see the artist moving over to Amapiano. (Sowetan LIVE)

Sho Madjozi on her sister's death

PRETORIA - Sho Madjozi is heartbroken after the death of her little sister, Makhanani Maganye.

Makhanani died in a car accident on December 17 and was laid to rest on December 22.

Sho has been booked off from all her performances for the festive season to allow her time to grieve.

On Twitter on Sunday, the singer shared a lengthy thread about her pain.

"I've had the most incredible year. But I don't want to only share the wins and the successes with you guys, right now I'm experiencing the worst possible hurt." Sho said her sis-

ter lived with her and her cousin in Johannesburg, and had just completed a make-up course. The musician reflected on how she chose the name Nyeleti, which means "star", when Makhanani was born. After hearing about her death, Sho said she put everything on hold.

"When I heard the news I wanted to stop doing everything (and I did). So much of what I do is to give her and mama a better life. So I didn't see the point in carrying on."

The John Cena hitmaker said after the funeral she thought she would never come out of the hole she was in.

But the next day, when her

manager showed her that she was trending on Twitter and showed her pictures of girls she had inspired, she felt grateful.

"No-one will ever know how much that meant to me. Later I sat and went through all of the pictures by myself. Each one was like a star appearing on an impossibly dark night."

Sho said the love she received on social media made her realise how many young girls she inspired in SA.

"One girl posted herself with Sho Madjozi braids and her captions was, 'You've gained a little sister'. I ugly cried." (Times live)

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Catch up with S'khaleni's on Sibaya.



Samson outlines his grand plans for the new year. S'khaleni's New Year's plan have problem.

ISIDINGO

Lincoln's carelessness threatens his family's well being. Phindile's uncle and aunt adjust to the high life with ease. The miners reflect on a year of highs and lows.



Vho-Masindi learns the truth about her paternity. Gugu and Qhawe share their first kiss. KK's son Mudi has an encounter with bullies.

GENERATIONS THE LEGACY

A teenage girl realises one should be careful what you wish for... Lesedi is angry when her family don't take her side. First Tau saves the day for his woman, then he ruins it.



Zodwa declares war on the Khoza family. Lesterina's suspicions put her husband's life in danger.



Khathaza finds a way to keep MaNgobco from the police, Qhabanga's prayer works when Gabisile overhears it, and Fikile makes a huge decision regarding her relationship with Sbu.

SCANDAL

Another blast from the past returns, claiming she is back to take care of unfinished business. Yvonne tries to escape her memories but they keep calling out to her. Kgosi feels forced to continue down a dark road.

MEME OF THE DAY

On a serious note though, no jokes, have you guys paid rent for January?



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn Dec.ember 22 – January 19

Today you might realize that you need to make a certain purchase, Capricorn. Perhaps your home or car requires some important repairs, or maybe some new equipment is necessary for your work. This could prove rather disheartening, as it might involve spending money that you'd rather use for something more exciting.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Today you're likely to find your routine too boring for words, Cancer, and may have a sudden powerful urge to cut loose and play some serious hooky. Still, you may feel the pull of obligation. This conflicted feeling should pass. If it persists beyond today, however, you might need to reevaluate certain areas of your life.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

The weight of too many responsibilities, perhaps involving family, a job, or group affiliation, could be very much on your mind today, Aquarius. You may feel like Atlas, carrying the world on your shoulders! You're tired. Perhaps you need to reevaluate your commitments - your innate kindness may have caused you to make too many.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You could be feeling especially sensual and passionate today, Leo, and you'll want to get together with a love interest. However, other responsibilities could get in your way. This could provide you with the perfect excuse to sink into gloom, but don't fall into this trap. Get whatever business you're facing handled and out of the way. Or perhaps you can arrange to finish it tomorrow.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may have your ups and downs today, Pisces. You could get at least one phone call of the "good news, bad news" variety, and this could have your moods swinging back and forth like a pendulum. Try to stay centered. Take the good news as encouragement, and as for the bad news, try to consider it objectively and figure out ways to turn it to your advantage.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You may feel a bit of disappointment today, Virgo. You might tend to view whatever snags you've hit on the path to accomplishing your goals as personal failures, and if you let it, this idea could persist with you throughout the day. Try to remain objective, and don't lose sight of the big picture. You haven't even lost a battle - at worst, it's a minor conflict!



Aries March 21 – April 1

Normally you tend to be a very spiritually oriented person, Aries, but today you might find metaphysical concepts of all kinds rather baffling. Whether these are ideas you've embraced for a long time or new ones you've just discovered, you may find nagging little doubts creeping in, temporarily causing your faith to waver. This is a healthy development, however.



Libra September 23 – October 23

A rather disheartening phone call could come to you today, Libra. This might bring news of a setback in one of your projects that is only temporary but nonetheless frustrating. You'll probably have to deal with some trivial little details you'd rather not bother with, and this could take up too much valuable time.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Today you might learn something about a friend that could be rather disconcerting, Taurus. There could be a dark side to this person that you weren't previously aware of, and this could cause you to want to withdraw for a while and reevaluate your involvement with this individual.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

After the rush of energy over the past few days, Scorpio, today you may feel a powerful letdown. Not every day can be filled with adventure and excitement. For now, you just need to take care of the routine matters that are a byproduct of life on Earth. However, keep in mind that there are many weekends coming up, and with the right kind of planning you can get excitement back into your life.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Outside responsibilities might temporarily interfere with your love life, Gemini. You may feel a strong desire to get together with a love partner early in the evening, but circumstances may necessitate your working odd hours. This can be frustrating, as you've been looking forward to this for a long time, but you could meet your friend later in the evening.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Friends involved in the arts and sciences may want to get together today, perhaps to brainstorm a few ideas. You should be feeling innovative. Perhaps you have a lot to contribute. Group activities should prove satisfying, particularly those involving humanitarian pursuits.



BABY BLUES



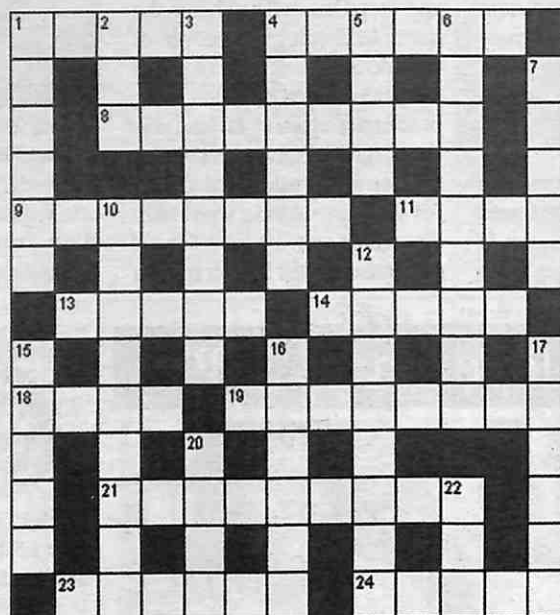
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CRYPTIC 23



DOWN

1. CANYON DERIVED FROM SOMETHING DISTANT BUT WITHIN SIGHT (6)
2. INSECT IN COFFEE BEAN TIN (3)
3. TRIM ROSE FOR UNSETTLED WILDER WEATHER (8)
4. ENDLESS TALK ABOUT AN ATHLETIC COMPETITION (6)
5. MUSICAL RING? (4)
6. CONTEST A MENTION OF CONCEALED EVIDENCE (9)
7. TRAVELS BY HORSE IN SAFARI DESERT (5)
10. MUSICAL GROUP OR CHEST RASH SPOTTED (9)
12. POKER STAKE, SLOW PACE, SOUNDS KIND OF DEAR (8)
15. GIBBON ESCAPES, SKELETON FOUND (5)
16. SCAM PUSHED IN UNIVERSITY GROUNDS (6)
17. STICK TO SOME SALAD HERE (6)
20. DISCOVERED IDEAL SOUND, IN ADDITION (4)
22. MINERAL REVEALS PERIOD OF GEOLOGICAL TIME (3)

ACROSS

1. REPLACE BLOOD GROUP OF FURRY ANIMALS WITH MALE CHROMOSOME FOR A PERIOD OF TIME (5)
4. YOUNG WOMAN MADE A MEAL OF THE DISCUSSION (6)
8. VARIOUS SUNHATS DO FOR MANY (9)
9. VERY LARGE CHICKEN OR MOUSE DISCOVERED (8)
11. PRODUCED A DRAMA DEMO INSIDE (4)
13. FOUND HOW CONTRACT EDITOR BEHAVED (5)
14. ANNOYANCE ARISING FROM MARTIAN GERM (5)
18. PORTENT UNCOVERED BY SOME NERD (4)
19. POSSESSING SKILL, DEALT TEN IN A WHIRL (8)
21. MAKE A CALL THEN ELOPE EXCITEDLY (9)
23. USED TO SEIZE RECITAL ONSTAGE, ESSENTIALLY (6)
24. WIPE OUT HIDDEN CAMERA SEQUENCE (5)



TWO BLONDES

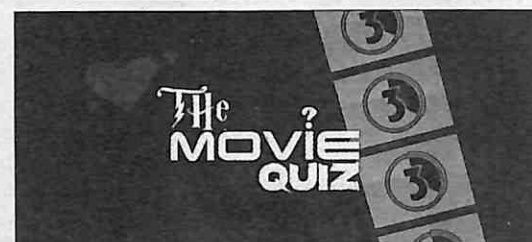
Two blondes were in a parking lot trying to unlock the door of their Mercedes with a coat hanger. They tried and tried to get the door open, but they couldn't.

The girl with the coat hanger stopped for a moment to catch her breath, and her friend said anxiously, "Hurry up! It's starting to rain and the top is down."

DID YOU KNOW

1. The first sales pitch for the Nerf ball was "Nerf: You can't hurt babies or old people!"
2. Russian cosmonauts used to pack a shotgun in case they landed in Siberia and had to fend off bears.
3. Ben & Jerry learned how to make ice cream by taking a \$5 correspondence course offered by Penn State
4. At the 1905 wedding of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, President Teddy Roosevelt gave away the bride.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

1. Directed by Guy Ritchie, who plays the Genie in the 2019 adaptation of Aladdin?

Answer:
A. Will Smith

TODAY'S MOVIE QUIZ

Never Say Never Again was the final James Bond appearance for which actor?

Answers:
A. Sean Connery
B. Bill Combs



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



THE KING OF ALL FINALES - IFALAKHE

BREATH TAKING. Spectacular. Absolute TV history!

For 13 weeks straight *Ifalake* had South Africa glued to its screens every Sunday night as we witnessed the drama of the Okuhle Kingdom unfold.

Ifalake fast rose to Hall of Fame status and firmly cemented itself as one of the most epic TV dramas of all time. From the set production, to the stellar acting and nail-biting drama, there's seldom a moment where the show didn't have us at the edge of our seats. So now as it draws to a close we look back at some of the most epic moments of the Season 1 finale that had Mzansi talking all night long.

The Mad King

It was almost impossible that Busani's treacherous rule could get any worse yet the illegitimate king still outdid himself and went absolutely insane! Firstly, he burnt Okuhle's entire food supply, plunging his people into untold hunger. Then he turned his back on his most loyal soldier, Takudwa and refused for him to give his sister a decent burial. But perhaps his ultimate low point was when he sacrificed the young Qedile, and all for nothing at that.

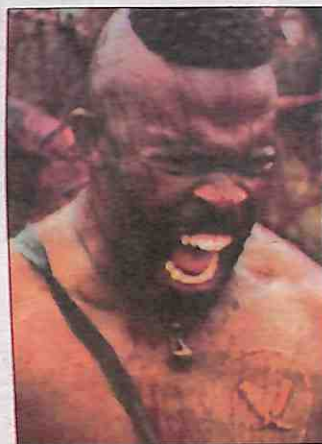
Love & War

With her people massacred and her heart broken, Phikiwe found herself on the edge of reason as she contemplated making a life

changing decision by murdering the love of her life in the hope that his death would lead to the end of Busani as well as the prophecy had declared. However, true-love prevailed as she eventually went with her better judgment and spared his life.

The Last Great Battle

After fleeing from his destiny, *Ifalake* finally stood up to fate and faced his evil brother in the name of freeing the people of Okuhle from their tormentor. But the price he had to pay to bring peace once again to the land was far too great. Perhaps this is why he was always destined to rule for only a true king would lay down their own life for their people. *Ifalake* will forever remain



one of the greatest stories ever told and it goes without saying that we'll be talking about this one for many moons to come. What was your favourite moment on the show?

Vuyiswa and Lawrence's love story – OPW

WHEN Lawrence saw Vuyiswa for the first time, it was her beauty that captivated him.

"It was 16th of December 2008 and I was bored at my place, sitting and doing nothing," says Lawrence Itumeleng Dipudi (33), originally from Rustenburg but staying in Randpark Ridge in Randburg. "I decided to visit my friend in Braamfischerville. And then I saw a very beautiful young lady dancing on the floor. I winked at her and asked her to step outside with me. I went outside, but she didn't follow me."

That beautiful lady was Vuyiswa Magayana (31), originally from the Eastern Cape who also lives in Randpark Ridge in Randburg. She says she noticed him long before he winked at her. "But obviously I was like, I got my pride, I am a woman, he had to make the first move."

"I was all alone outside and cold," he says.

"My heart said I should go, but I said no," she says.

"I went back inside and I was pret-



ty upset."

Vuyiswa says: "I could see that the expression on his face had changed. I looked at him and told him to go outside again. He said I should go out first, then I went out. I think I was outside for two minutes, and I was about to go back inside because I thought he wasn't coming out. Just as I was about to go back in, I met him at the door on his way out. I turned back when I saw him coming."

With a smile, Lawrence says: "Once bitten, twice shy." They agreed to meet the next day, and he got her cake and juice. But he was writing his board exam so he also dedicated time to his studies.

"What I loved about him is that he puts me first. Sometimes it hurts because I've never had that love before, for someone to love me more than they love themselves. The love he gave me was overwhelming. It was something I wasn't familiar with," she says.

Lawrence says: "What I love about her... is that she completes me. I see myself as a reserved person, and she is out there," hearing this, she smiles. He continues: "She always pushes me out of my boundaries. What irritates me is that she is very bossy. What we fight about most of the time is my work."

Vuyiswa says he doesn't like confrontation. "I believe in dealing with

issues immediately. I will not go to bed until I sort it out. I am a talker. When I don't like something, I want to talk about it"

Lawrence chides her: "You always talk. You always talk. Yoh!"

After she became pregnant with their firstborn, she opened up to him about being adopted. "As we were undergoing counselling, I realised that it was good she didn't tell me because at that time I was immature and I was going to run very far," he says with widening eyes.

The other challenge they face is that despite saving for the wedding for two years, the wedding planner attempted suicide before their big day and was in the hospital.

"He squandered a whole R350 000," she says.

"We had to run around the bank to ask for a loan. When Our Perfect Wedding got here and waited outside for two hours, we were at the bank. We were pleading with the bank for a loan because we can't postpone. I felt I wanted to share this great experience and everything I've been through to encourage others who might be afraid to say I was adopted and talk about their background."

Race to find Cure: Carte Blanche this Sunday

JOHN WEBB: "This was a difficult story to cover because detransitioning is used to entrench some people's prejudices against those with gender dysphoria. But, it's clearly under-researched and, sadly, discussion around its causes and prevalence is often shut down. Until that changes, detransitioners are likely to join the list of society's marginalised."

The Noble Fight for a Clean Environment

Forcibly removed by the apartheid regime to Durban South, surrounded by agro-chemical plants, paper mills and refineries, the young Desmond D'Sa believed he lost family members to cancer and respiratory illnesses caused by their toxic living conditions. This spurred him on to dedicate his life to environmental activism and even today he continues to fight against new threats posed to his hometown's cleanliness and safety. *Carte Blanche* traces the fight of this the eco-evangelist who managed to have three toxic waste dumps closed down and won global renown for his work as he keeps doing battle with big industry over their pollution output.

Illegal Street Racing [Best of 2019]

Despite scathing public criticism for what is seen as reckless behaviour in a sport that sees its regular share of death and injury, *Carte Blanche* visits the secretive world of illegal street racing with its unique subculture of men and women addicted to the adrenaline rush. These competitors have obsessive relationships with cars that they painstakingly modify for maximum speed and power. Without trophies or monetary reward, they use public roads for their secretly convened night-time races and the prize of bragging rights and honour.

HIV – The Uninvited Guest

It was known as the silent killer, the poorly understood and uninvited guest killing millions of people around the world. But after years of campaigning, activism and the development of ARV treatment, those living with HIV have the chance to live long and healthy lives. Now, scientists believe they're finally on the cusp of finding some answers. *Carte Blanche* dines with some of the leading experts in the field of HIV research.

A State of Detransition

It's a painful and lonely place when the medical gender reassignment and psycho-social transition process you've undertaken – hopeful to find your true identity – leaves you feeling more ill-suited to your body than when you started. 'Detransitioning' is vastly under-researched and a highly contentious proposition in a world of transgender people fighting for recognition and acceptance. *Carte Blanche* examines the journey through the eyes of one 'detransitioner' caught in limbo about how she came to this place.

Hitched

It started as two cousins chasing a childhood fantasy to see the jungles of the Congo and ended with a hitchhike around the world to the USA. With just US\$500 or approximately R7 500, they decided to hitchhike from South Africa to the war-torn country in just 100 days. And once the hitchhiking bug had bitten – and again with almost no money – they committed to a seven-month trip across Africa, Europe and into Los Angeles.

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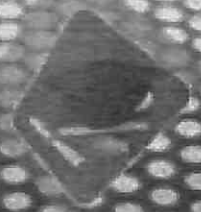
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PIRATES BRACED FOR EURO LORCH BID?

JOHANNESBURG - Club Brugge are set to launch a second bid for Orlando Pirates star Thembinkosi Lorch in the upcoming transfer window, according to reports in Belgium.

Lorch, 26, was targeted by the Belgian First Division A leaders in the off-season after winning the ABSA Premiership Player of the Season award and starring for Bafana Bafana at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

However, it's believed their offer of €1.88 million (R29.6m) was rejected by Pirates as they looked to keep hold of their most prized asset.

Now, with the transfer window set to

re-open this week, VoetbalNieuws, have reported that Philippe Clement's side will revisit their interest.

The report states Clement is seeking to off-load several fringe players in the next month after the over-inflated squad is believed to have caused disharmony in the squad with the current rotational policy. Senegal striker Mbaye Diagne is poised to end his loan spell with the club and return to Super Lig giants Galatasaray, while Nigeria international David Okereke has been linked with a loan move. Meanwhile, compatriot, Percy Tau, has also been linked with a mid-season move, but he appears

likely to remain at the UEFA Europa League participants for the rest of the 2019/20 campaign.

While the Blauw-Zwart holds a plethora of attacking options, Voetbal24, suggests an opening bid of €2m (R31.5m) will be launched to the Buccaneers as Clement looks to a new dimension to his talented squad.

Lorch has scored 22 goals and registered 14 assists in 87 games for the Soweto giants, since joining the club from Maluti FET College in July 2015.

Kick Off



Cristiano Ronaldo picks up Dubai Globe Soccer Award

DUBAI - Cristiano Ronaldo described winning Best Men's Player at the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards as 'emotional' on Sunday evening.

The 34-year-old Juventus star posted a heartwarming photo of himself with the trophy alongside his girlfriend and four children onto his Instagram page.

Alongside the picture of himself with partner Georgina Rodriguez and children Cristiano Jr, nine, Alana two, Eva two and Mateo, two, the caption read: "Honoured to received one more time @globesoccer Award!"

"A very emotional moment for me to share this award with my family. Grateful for all the hospitality, see you soon Dubai!" Ronaldo, who finished third in this year's Ballon d'Or behind Lionel Messi and Virgil van Dijk, thanked his family after winning the award for a sixth time at the weekend.

"I have to thank my family, my girlfriend, my boy there, Cristiano, my three children who are waiting for me in the hotel, my friends, my team-mates of Juventus and the national team, my agent, all the people here tonight who support this gala," he said.

"I have to say thank you to the Arabic community, which is always great with me. I have to thank Dubai as well - it's a marvellous place to be, I'm coming every year and I love this place.

"And finally to thank [everyone] who voted for me. It's a great honour to be here and receive this amazing award. I hope to be here next year to receive this award, of course. Thanks to everyone, and a Happy New Year."

Ronaldo has scored 12 goals in 21 appearances as Juventus sit second in Serie A on goal difference.

Daily Mail

'Financial issues' hamper Rakhale deal

JOHANNESBURG - Chippa United new signing Thabiso Lebitso has been touted as a good replacement for midfielder Thabo Rakhale, who looks to be on his way out of the club.

Lebitso recently joined Chippa on a three-year deal after being recruited from the Nedbank Ke Yona team, where he starred against TS Galaxy.

Meanwhile, Rakhale's contract with the Chilli Boys is set to expire in June and he will be free to sign a pre-contract with the club of his choice within the next 48 hours.

According to sources close to the Chilli Boys, the club has given up on holding onto the former Orlando Pirates attacker, who is reluctant

to sign a new deal due to outstanding financial issues.

"Rakhale has not signed or renewed his contract with Chippa yet. He is still waiting for the club because there are financial issues still outstanding from his previous contract," said the source.

"The club are not panicking because they see Thabiso Lebitso as an adequate replacement, after he was signed from the Ke Yona team."

'Jomo', as Rakhale is known in football circles, has been linked with Kaizer Chiefs, who are said to be lining the 29-year-old winger up as a possible replacement for Khama Billiat, should he leave the club soon.

Kick Off

Messi tops Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes

DURBAN - Lionel Messi is the Highest Paid Athlete this year according to Forbes list of The World's Highest-Paid Athletes that was released earlier this year.

The American business magazine tracked the leading earners in sports for three decades and only seven have held the top the number one spot since 1990 with Tiger Woods holding the record with 12 appearances at the top spot. Lionel Messi, the highest earner for 2019, puts him name in the top spot for the eighth time this year.

The ranking spans 100 sports and athletes from 25 different countries. For this year, the combined earnings from the athletes prize money, salaries and endorsements between June and July stands at \$4 billion. That number is up five per cent in comparison to 2018 when Floyd Mayweather held the number one spot.

Here's a look at the top five athletes that appeared on the Forbes The World's Highest-Paid Athletes list:

1. Lionel Messi



Lionel Messi.

Earnings: \$127 million
Source of wealth: Soccer
Salary/Winings: \$92 million
Endorsements: \$35 million
Citizenship: Argentina
2. Cristiano Ronaldo
Earnings: \$109 million
Source of wealth: Soccer
Salary/Winings: \$65 million
Endorsements: \$44 million
Citizenship: Portugal
3. Neymar
Earnings: \$105 million
Source of wealth: Soccer



Neymar.

Salary/Winings: \$75 million
Endorsements: \$30 million
Citizenship: Brazil
4. Canelo Alvarez
Earnings: \$94 million
Source of wealth: Boxing
Salary/Winings: \$94 million
Citizenship: Mexico
5. Roger Federer
Earnings: \$93.4 million
Source of wealth: Tennis
Salary/Winings: \$7.4 million
Endorsements: \$86 million
Citizenship: Switzerland

Nicholas Dlamini undergoes surgery after Table Mountain 'attack'

DURBAN - Top South African cyclist Nicholas Dlamini has said his surgery went well and that he was still coming to terms with what happened.

Dlamini's arm was broken during his arrest by Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) rangers last week for failing to pay the conservation fee and for not producing proof of activity permits when requested. The cyclist, who was in training for the Tour de France and the 2020 Summer Olympics, posted an update on Facebook following his surgery on Saturday.

"My first step was to undergo surgery and I am told that this went well, but the surgeon is unable to make a prognosis at this early stage," said Dlamini.

He said he was unable to indicate when he would be back on a bike.

"My surgeon and the care team will be liaising with the NTT team doctor to establish this. For now, I need to receive expert care and physio at the hospital or rest at home until I'm well enough to leave and make a statement to the police.

"I am not sure yet when this will be, but for now, things are a little uncomfortable and I am still coming to terms with what happened," said Dlamini. The 24-year-old said he would be represented by international law firm Norton Rose Fulbright who currently dealing with Caster Semenya's case against World Athletics formerly known as the International Association of Athletics Federations. **Kick Off**



'JUNIOR HOILETT YOUR HEAD IS MADE OF CONCRETE'

SHEFFIELD - Joe Bennett revealed the gruesome head injury he sustained following an accidental collision with Cardiff City team-mate Junior Hoilett on Sunday.

The Bluebirds full-back took to social media to update supporters on his condition after Neil Harris' men edged past Sheffield last Wednesday at Hillsborough.

Bennett had been taken off on a stretcher after the sickening clash of heads, although goal scorer Hoilett

was able to carry on.

Bennett posted a photo of his head online, which was heavily bandaged following the incident, alongside the caption: "Junior Hoilett your head is made of concrete... all good though, no fracture. Great result from the boys."

The two Cardiff stars were left stricken on the turf after challenging for the same aerial ball in the first half, before a lengthy stoppage ensued to allow both players to receive treatment.

Both teams' medical staffs were quick

to race on to the field of play and examine the crocked duo on the 35 minute mark. Last Wednesday had been condemned to their first defeat at home in the league since Garry Monk was named as manager in early September.

Robert Glatzel and Hoilett were on target for the visitors, and despite Tom Lees reducing the arrears Cardiff held firm to secure all three points.

Cardiff boss Harris later said: "I'm very pleased."

On the back of a very strong per-

formance against Millwall, but without the end product in the final third, I thought today we had that end product in the first 15-20 minutes.

"The goals we scored were after some excellent play, the second one in particular was top level football and it was really good."

"We then had to deal with the adversity of two players coming off. We put Sol (Bamba) on, changed our shape and looked a lot more solid. I thought we deserved to see the game out as



STRONG: Joe Bennett revealed his nasty head injury after colliding with Cardiff team-mate Junior Hoilett.

comfortably as we did in the end." *Daily Mail*

'Armpits again is it?'

LONDON - He had just been to the referee's room at Anfield in search of answers, but Wolves captain Conor Coady felt no happier for what he had heard.

Liverpool-born Coady was still fuming about the two decisions that went against Wolves in the defeat to his boyhood club, and what he saw as the injustice of VAR. Liverpool's winning goal by Sadio Mane in the 42nd minute was allowed to stand following a two-minute review after referee Anthony Taylor had initially disallowed it for handball against Adam Lallana. It was the correct decision because Lallana controlled Virgil van Dijk's pass with his shoulder, but Wolves also claimed that the ball had brushed van Dijk's arm in the build-up.

They were still smarting from that decision when Pedro Neto equalised in time added on for the first VAR decision, only for the goal to be chalked off for another of those marginal offside calls before Jonny crossed for Neto. "What is it, an armpit or a toe?" said Coady, who also saw two VAR decisions go against Wolves in Friday's win over Manchester City. "I spoke to [referee] Anthony Taylor during the game, he's a great fella to speak to but you ask questions and don't really get an answer. We thought van Dijk handballed it as well in the lead up to the goal. Then he tells me van

...Wolves captain Conor Coady in rant against VAR



Dijk's too far away, I can't get my head around it. "Van Dijk plays the pass for the goal. Brilliant player, unbelievable pass, but by the sounds of it he handballs it."

"It's horrible for me and so tough to take. It has happened twice to us in the last two games against probably the best two sides in the world. "We feel massively hard done by."

I can't get my head around it. It's ridiculous. "For me it is not working. Some people are saying it gets the right decision, but we're the players on the pitch and it doesn't feel right to me."

Coady went to see the referee with a member of the Wolves coaching

staff afterwards but didn't get what he wanted. "VAR is affecting the game," he added. "It is still confusing. I can't get my head around it, and you don't get answers on the pitch. "They tell us "we're checking for a penalty, we're checking for handball, we're checking for offside."

Okay so he's offside, wow far offside? Don't know, we don't get told. "Armpits again is it? Armpits are becoming quite the rage in the Premier League at the moment." Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo was booked for protesting to fourth official Mike Dean over the first decision, and afterwards called for VAR to stop interfering.

Daily Mail

'We have to fight with all we have'

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp admits what his side have done at the midpoint of their season could not be matched by many teams but he expects a real fight for the next 19 matches.

A 1-0 win over Wolves thanks to Sadio Mane's 14th goal of the campaign just before half-time made it 18 wins and a draw so far as they re-established their 13-point lead at the top. "If it would be easy to win the amount of games we have done then more teams would have done it. It's not easy," he said.

"We have to fight with all we have. I couldn't be more proud of what they did to get that result over the line. It was just impressive. I'm really happy about that."

"But there is a long way to go for all of us. Everybody asks me what it was like in 2019 - my 2019 team was brilliant but that's not important, we count seasons, not years. "The 2019-20 season is not over. We are halfway there."

There are 19 games to play. That's a lot and probably 19 of them will be like this

tonight, for different reasons.

"We will be facing teams who will be fighting for the league with all they have, and the fight for the Champions League and Europa League has opened up again."

"We have to be ready. Who cares about points in December? We have just created a basis we can work with from now on."

VAR dominated the post-match discussion as Mane's goal was originally ruled out for handball by Adam Lallana by referee Anthony Taylor only him to overturn that after a referral. Moments later Wolves scored through Pedro Neto only for the equaliser to be chalked off as Jonny's foot was deemed to be marginally offside.

"I think Nuno wasn't happy with the VAR procedure. What can we say about the decision? For me, I was surprised when the whistle came for the handball," added Klopp.

Daily Mail



TOUGH: Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero.

TILL THE END: Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp.

Catching Liverpool "too hard" now - Aguero

MANCHESTER - Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero believes the 14-point gap between the defending champions and Premier League leaders Liverpool is "too hard" to overturn and says that City need to now concentrate purely on earning a top-four finish.

"Now, Liverpool is too hard. We have to focus just on winning because we need to play Champions League next season. We have to play the same way and see what happens," said the Argentine, City's all-time top scorer.

City beat Sheffield United 2-0 at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday but remain far adrift of Liverpool, who have an extra game in hand. Jurgen Klopp's

unbeaten side had earlier beaten Wolverhampton Wanderers 1-0 at Anfield.

Pep Guardiola, City's Manager, declined to declare the title race was over but repeated his view that it was pointless to even discuss the issue. "It's unrealistic to think about it. When a team has the numbers that Liverpool has, why should we think about it, when we are 14 or 17 behind?" he said.

"(We have to) prepare, play good, better, be as close as possible, play the knockout (cup competitions) and prepare for next season. Next season will be here and, hopefully, we can do better." Asked whether it was now tough after two title-winning years to moti-

vate his team for the more modest goal of qualifying for the Champions League, Guardiola said: "The best motivation is to try to play good, win games, that's the best."

The Spaniard could not resist taking aim at the Premier League fixture list, which saw his team play at Wolves on Friday before being in action 48 hours later.

City are next in action on New Year's Day when they host Carlo Ancelotti's Everton at the Etihad.

"Now, I must say thank you to the Premier League for giving us three days for the next game. We appreciate it," he said. *Reuters*



Pirates set for another Chippa swap

JOHANNESBURG - KickOff.com has learnt that Orlando Pirates could once again engage in business with Chippa United as they look to make a swap deal.

Pirates are believed to have turned their attention to Burundian defender Frederic Nsabyumva to solve their defensive frailties during the January transfer window.

The Buccaneers are headed for their worst defensive record in their PSL history after conceding 21 goals in their 14 games so far this season, which is worse than bottom side Polokwane City, who have conceded 20 goals.

According to sources close to both clubs, Nsabyumva could join the Soweto giants as part of swap deal involving striker Zakhele Lepasa, who has managed minimal game-time since returning from loan at TS Galaxy at the start of the season.

"There is another swap deal on the cards between Pirates and Chippa. Nsabyumva could go to Pirates and Zakhele Lepasa go the other way," revealed a source.

This website reported earlier this month that Kaizer Chiefs defender Lorenzo Gordinho could also be added to Josef Zinnbauer's squad, with the former Pirates development player left with six months on his contract at Naturena.

Celtic defender Pfumbidzai gets married

JOHANNESBURG - Bloemfontein Celtic and Warriors defender Ronald Pfumbidzai will tie the knot with his girlfriend.

Graduate, who is the sister of former CAPS United teammate Tafadzwa Rusike. The couple postponed their wedding for two years to allow Pfumbidzai to join Siwelele for trails and settle in South Africa.

The former CAP United man is the second Zimbabwean international to get married this year after SuperSport United winger Kudakwashe Mahachi tie the knot during the pre-season break in Harare.

"There is something good coming up and I am looking forward to the big day," Pfumbidzai told the Herald. *Citizen*



KERR MAKES PSL RETURN

JOHANNESBURG - Former Black Leopards coach Dylan Kerr has returned for his second coaching stint in the PSL.

Following the resignation of Wedson Nyirenda from Baroka FC, Kerr is set to take over the Limpopo based club.

A SunSport source in the Baroka camp confirmed

that the coach has agreed to join the club for the second half of the 2019/2020 season.

Kerr help Leopards survive relegation last season before he resigned. Baroka bosses will hope Kerr brings his magic touch to their side to get them out of the relegation zone.

"Our new coach is Dylan

Kerr," a source told SunSport.

"He has not arrived in the country yet. He will join the team next week and start preparing for the first match of the second round.

"Kerr will be returning to Mzansi for a second spell after impressing while coaching Leopards last season.

Citizen

Pitso sounds a word of warning

JOHANNESBURG - Mosimane was not taking anything for granted, after Hlompho Kekana's second half strike had sealed Sundowns second win of the group stages.

Pitso Mosimane is still cautious about Mamelodi Sundowns' chances of making the last eight of the CAF Champions League, even though a brilliant 1-0 win at USM Alger on

Saturday kept them two

points clear at the top of Group C.

Victory at home to USM on January 11 may well now be enough to take the Brazilians through, with the top two in the group making the quarterfinals.

However, Mosimane was not taking anything for granted, after Hlompho Kekana's second half strike had sealed Sundowns second win of the group stages. At the halfway stage, they top the group with seven points while Wydad Casablanca have five points, USM sir on two points and Petro de Luanda have one point. "I don't think we can say we are in the quarters," said Mosimane.

"No team has gone to the quarters with seven points, we still have nine points to play for, but we are going to fight for them. Of course, we are happy we won the match, I am so happy we got through the first 10 minutes, we had too much pressure (on us) in the first 10 minutes, but we settled after that."

Citizen



WARNS: Mamelodi Sundowns head coach Pitso Mosimane.

Parker's future beyond Amakhosi

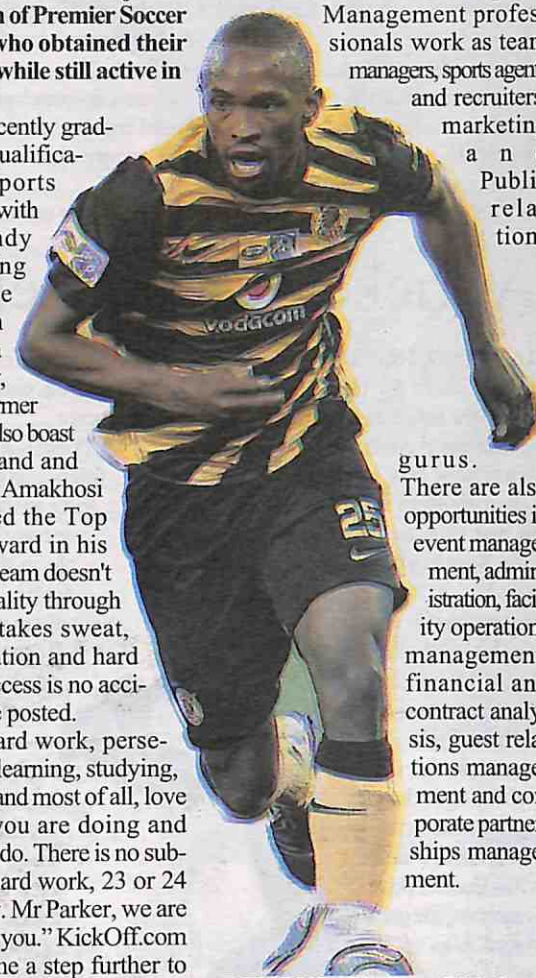
JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs striker Bernard Parker has joined the bandwagon of Premier Soccer League stars who obtained their qualifications while still active in the game.

'Die Hond' recently graduated with a qualification in Sports Management, with his wife Wendy Parker having announced the good news on social media recently. Wendy, who is also a former reality TV star, also boast that her husband and long-serving Amakhosi star scooped the Top Student Award in his class. "A dream doesn't become reality through music, it takes sweat, determination and hard work. Success is no accident," she posted.

"It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing and learning to do. There is no substitute for hard work, 23 or 24 hours a day. Mr Parker, we are so proud of you." KickOff.com has since gone a step further to determine what sort of career the 33-year-old versatile attacker could

pursue once he decides to hang up his boots. Sports Management professionals work as team managers, sports agents and recruiters, marketing and public relations

gurus. There are also opportunities in event management, administration, facility operations management, financial and contract analysis, guest relations management and corporate partnerships management.



BEYOND: Kaizer Chiefs striker Bernard Parker.

Ex-Chiefs star scores golden goal

JOHANNESBURG - Despite being out of action for more than six months, former Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder George Lebesse has scored a golden goal.

Lebesse, who has since joined American second tier team Colorado Springs Switchbacks, used the festive holidays to wed his partner Melba Nkosi in a beautiful traditional wedding in Pretoria this past weekend.

The wedding was attended by close friends, among whom are some football A-listers including

George Maluleke, Itumeleng Khune, Lehlohonolo Majoro and Lebogang Manyama. Having now settled down in his personal life, it could be a great opportunity for Lebesse to fully focus on his career that took a nosedive as he failed to make the grade at Sundowns after leaving Chiefs.

The Mamelodi-born midfielder joined SuperSport United on loan in January for the second half of last season, but Matsatsantsa opted against retaining his services before he was eventually handed his clearance by The Brazilians in September.



GOLDEN: The stars descended on Saturday to witness former Mamelodi Sundowns star George Lebesse wed his stunning partner Melba Nkosi in a glamorous traditional wedding.

DECISION - NO GOAL
OFFSIDE

VAR

DECISION - NO GOAL
OFFSIDE

'VAR IS A BIG MESS'

MANCHESTER - Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola declared the VAR video review system a "big mess" on Sunday after a weekend which saw a series of controversial decisions from the system.

VAR was introduced in the Premier League for the first time this season and there is no sign of the controversies dying down nor of fans warming to the use of the technology.

"Every weekend is a big mess. In other games, it was a big mess. Hopefully next season, it can do better," said Guardiola after City's 2-0 win over Sheffield United on Sunday.

It was one of several games which saw a goal overruled for the most marginal of offside calls, after VAR's geometrical lines had been used to deliver a time-consuming verdict. The Yorkshire side looked to have

grabbed the lead through Lys Mouset in the 28th minute but the goal was ruled out after a VAR review found the slimmest of margins for offside.

Decision

Moments after the incident, both sets of supporters expressed their opposition to VAR in a loud, united chant, while United fans also adopted the "It's not football any more" anthem that has become a familiar refrain at various games.

United Manager Chris Wilder noted Norwich City forward Teemu Pukki had a similar goal ruled out for a fractional offside decision in their 2-2 draw with Tottenham on Saturday and said there had been "eight or nine" incidents over the weekend.

"There's no conclusive evidence, blurred lines and angles. There needs to be a more clear way of defining it," he said.

Asked about the City fans join-

ing in with the visitors in expressing strong opposition to VAR, Wilder said he was not surprised.

"Up and down the country, all the people at Norwich, a four-letter word about VAR, these are proper football people," he said.

Asked whether the system needed to be reformed or fully scrapped, Wilder said: "It's not my decision, it has to improve. Yet again, it's the first question, eight or nine goals knocked off."

"Where there's so much debate on every goal, it will be analysed yet again. I just don't think it's been refined enough to make a difference."

He was also upset about City's first goal where referee Chris Kavanagh appeared to obstruct United defenders before Kevin De Bruyne found Sergio Aguero for the opener.

"I've been to see the referee and

he has been honest about it. We make mistakes and I believe he made one too," said Wilder.

"We talk about the new rule where if the referee touches the ball then he has to blow up. So surely if he is in the way and hinders us, then he makes a sensible decision."

"If he made the sensible decision then I don't think anyone in the ground would have said anything about it."

Reuters



Ronaldo addresses retirement talk

TURIN - Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo has addressed the talk of retirement as he approaches the age of 35.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner turns 35 in February next year, but remains a constant source of goals for Juventus and Portugal.

Ronaldo claims he will only hang up his boots once his body can no longer perform the way he wants it to.

"I have never had a bad season in my life, since I am always ready to face challenges," said CR7 at the Dubai Sports Conference.

"I always play with the intention of winning. The moment my body no longer responds in the right way on the pitch, then it will be time for me to stop."

"Many years ago the ideal age to retire was 30 or 32, now you still see players aged 40."

He added: "When I quit football I would like to resume my studies. I focus a lot on studying, on learning, because unfortunately the studies I have done can't give answer all the questions I have in mind."

"One thing that fascinates me is to want to try acting in a film."

AFP



GETTING OLD: Cristiano Ronaldo.

SA cricket starts hopeful new era with confidence

JOHANNESBURG - The Proteas' winning start in the Mark Boucher era was a reflection of the increased confidence the team now has in the new management structures put in place by Cricket South Africa. Captain Faf du Plessis said this on Sunday after his team had dispatched the English by 107 runs in the first Test at SuperSport Park.

The match was the first with legendary wicketkeeper-batsman Boucher as coach, as well as Enoch Nkwe as his assistant, the great Jacques Kallis as the batting consultant, the highly respected Charl Langeveldt as the bowling coach and Graeme Smith as the acting director of cricket. The winds of change have started affecting the boardroom as well with Jacques

Paul the new Chief Executive, although also only in an acting capacity.

"There is a lot more confidence in the structures, there are better plans and we have the right people in the right positions. Leadership always has to come from the top and it needs to filter down."

That leadership has to be in place and that has now started for us. We knew we had to put in a good performance, I felt we did that, and it showed that we trust the system a bit more and we can just focus on playing cricket now," Du Plessis said after South Africa's first win in six Tests.

The Proteas were disappointed to find another overcast day in Centurion on Sunday

because they were hoping bright sunshine would open up more cracks on the pitch and cause more inconsistent bounce, but a superb all-round bowling performance must have made England's batsmen feel like they were playing in an oven.

England began the fourth day on 121 for one, in search of 376 for victory, but South Africa produced an excellent first session in which they only conceded 50 runs in 25 overs and took two wickets. Overall, South Africa bowled 52 overs on Sunday, conceded 142 runs and took nine wickets.

"Days three and four were good for batting so it was good to get wickets today, we controlled the run-rate and then the new ball brought it through for us."

The skill we showed today was remarkable and consistent and the bowling unit was exceptional, they all put their hands up. There was not much sun and the pitch wasn't dry, if it had been warm and dry, then the wicket would have been much more up-and-down."

"KG and Vern are our superstars, but you take a lot more from a win when everyone contributes. Anrich's control impressed me, he was very good and has really put his hand up with a few spots opening up, he bowled so well to Jofra Archer as well. With the proper all-rounder it's also so much easier to control things in the field, it's very important in South Africa to have someone who can bowl 10-15 overs and score runs, and Dwaine was brilliant this game, going for 1.5-2 per over which is exactly what we need."

"And we have a lot of confidence in Keshav, we felt he would get Stokes out in the second innings, it was a gut feeling and a massive wicket because he has proven he can win a game on his own," Du Plessis said after the Proteas began a new era in tremendous fashion.

Citizen

POGBA TO RETURN FOR MAN UTD'S TRIP TO ARSENAL

MANCHESTER - Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba is set to return for their Premier League visit to Arsenal on New Year's Day after sitting out Saturday's 2-0 win over Burnley as a precaution, Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

The France international returned from a long layoff injury in United's 2-0 defeat by Watford on December

22 and played 45 minutes in their 4-1 win over Newcastle United on Boxing Day.

Pogba felt pain in his ankle after the Newcastle game but Solskjaer said the 26-year-old would be ready for United's next match.

"He's been out for a long while and he didn't feel right," Solskjaer told reporters. "When you've been out for such a while it's always

going to take time until you're 100 per cent."

"He wasn't ready (to face Burnley) because he's not really done too many games and he's had two in a few days and he just needed another day's recovery."

United midfielder Scott McTominay damaged knee ligaments in the win over Newcastle and Solskjaer said the 23-year-old

could be out of action for about a month.

"I wouldn't expect him to be back within a few weeks," the Norwegian added. "I don't know if it's three or four weeks... We've just got to find a way through it."

United's win over Burnley lifted them to fifth in the table, while Arsenal dropped to 12th after losing to Chelsea on Sunday. Reuters

'SCOUTING, MENTAL SUPPORT, DIVERSITY'

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs made many changes at the start of the 2019/20 season after a disappointing previous campaign, and Bobby Motaung has outlined some of those changes.

The Glamour Boys are flying high under coach Ernst Middendorp this time around. The team is seven points clear at the top of the ABSA Premiership table and enjoying their best start to a season since the 2014/15 title-winning campaign during Stuart Baxter's tenure. Chiefs' change in fortunes has not come by accident though, and Motaung says that they have worked hard on 'soft elements' within the club that have led to better performances, while also praising the amount of success that they're seeing with regards to youth development at Naturena. Speaking to the club's official website, Amakhosi's football manager said, "We intensified other soft elements pertaining to the technical team... The scouting, mental support and diversity training among other technical aspects of the game. We continue to work hard to fuse the Kaizer Chiefs Development Academy and the first team. We are making progress and have seen steady progress and promotion of the youngsters to the first team. Notably, this season we saw the rising star in Njabulo Blom in the first team."

Soccer Laduma

It will be 1 162 days since McGregor last won against Cerrone

LONDON - Conor McGregor's highly-anticipated return to the cage is now less than a month away at UFC 246.

He's had a more than a year to reflect on the devastating defeat by Khabib Nurmagomedov and January 18 will tell us if the 'Notorious' is back with a vengeance or now just a shadow of the fighter who changed the sport.

With McGregor uncharacteristically radio silent, MailOnline

Sport has taken a look at the key questions ahead of the fight.

What's McGregor been waiting for?

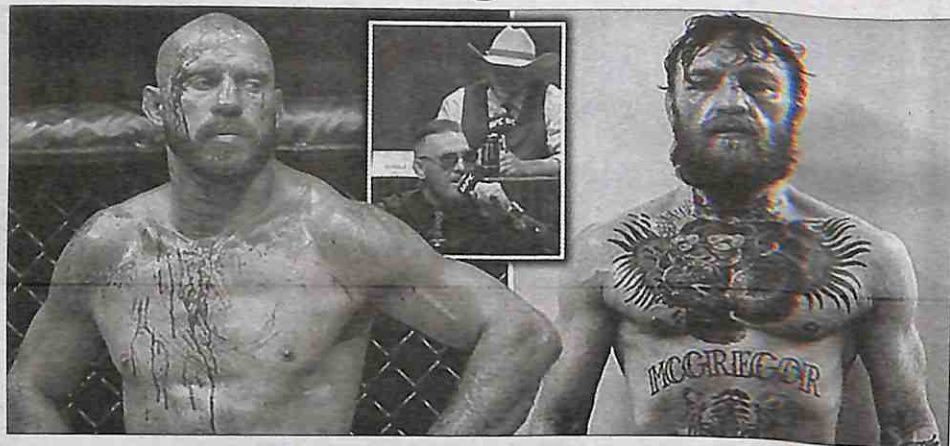
It's some testament to Conor McGregor's pulling power that despite not winning a fight for more than three years, he's still the biggest draw in the sport.

Suffering such a one-sided defeat by Khabib Nurmagomedov in October last year was a devastating blow to the former two-weight champion but it wasn't

the result that stopped him jumping back on the horse straight away.

The shocking brawl sparked by Khabib after the fight involved team-mates of both men and McGregor was dealt a backdated six-month ban for his part in the melee.

That meant he had to sit out until April, whilst Khabib served a longer nine-month suspension for triggering the unsavoury scenes. *Daily Mail*



'GUTTED' MURRAY OUT OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

LONDON - Andy Murray said he was "gutted" to be missing next month's Australian Open after being ruled out of the first Grand Slam of 2020 with a pelvic injury.

The 32-year-old Scot suffered the injury playing for Britain in the Davis Cup last month and will also miss the inaugural ATP Cup team event across three Australian cities in early January.

"I've worked so hard to get myself into a situation where I can play at the top level and I'm gutted I'm not going to be able to play in Australia in January," Murray said on Saturday.

"After the AO (Australian Open) this year, when I wasn't sure whether I'd be able to play again, I was excited about coming back to Australia and giving my best, and that makes this even more disappointing for me.

"Unfortunately I've had a setback recently and as a precaution, need to work through that before I get back on court competing."

Murray had hoped to make his return to Grand Slam action in Melbourne following a hip operation in January.

But concerns over the fitness of the five-time losing Australian Open finalist were raised when he cancelled a scheduled block of training in Miami.

As a result he won't be back at Melbourne Park, the scene of an emo-



tional press conference this year where he suggested he might retire as a result of his hip injury. Despite being less than fully fit Murray played a gruelling five-set loss to Roberto Bautista Agut.

A fortnight later the double Olympic gold medallist, twice a Wimbledon champion and the winner of the 2012 US Open singles, had hip resurfacing surgery and started his return to action at the Queen's Club grass-court event in London in June.

October saw Murray win the European Open in Antwerp, a victory that suggested he could still contend for major honours. But the latest announcement means he will not play again until February at the earliest.

"I know how excited Andy was about coming back to compete in Australia in January, and how disappointed he is not to make it for 2020," said Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley, who praised his "determination and iron will". *AFP*

Henry 'emerges as surprise candidate to become next Barcelona manager'

BARCELONA - Thierry Henry has reportedly emerged as a surprise candidate to become the next Barcelona manager if Ernesto Valverde leaves the club.

The former Barcelona forward took charge of MLS side Montreal Impact on an initial two-year deal in November.

But Henry has now been linked to becoming boss at the Nou Camp if current Manager Valverde departs, according to Spanish outlet Sport.

Valverde's contract at the Catalan giants is set to expire in June, although there is the option to renew it for another year.

Henry's coaching career began just three years ago as Roberto Martinez's assistant at the Belgium national team and he lasted just 104 days in his first managerial role at Monaco.

However his lack of experience does not reportedly concern Barcelona as he knows 'the Barca way' having played for them for three years.

Henry is also good friends with his former Barcelona and France team-mate Eric

Abidal, who is Barcelona's director of football.

Barcelona are currently at the summit of LaLiga, two points ahead of rivals Real Madrid. *Daily Mail*



A CANDIDATE: Thierry Henry.

Nishikori out of Australian Open and ATP Cup

PERTH - Japanese star Kei Nishikori pulled out of the Australian Open and the inaugural ATP Cup yesterday as he continues to struggle with an elbow injury that has kept him out since the US Open.

The former world number four, who has slipped to 13, said he was disappointed not to be able to begin his season as hoped for in January.

"Unfortunately I have to pull out of the ATP Cup and the Aussie Open," he said in statement. "Today, together with my team, we have made this decision as I am still not 100 per cent ready or healthy to compete at the highest level.

"This decision was not taken lightly as Australia is one of my favourite

places to compete," he added.

Nishikori's elbow needed surgery in October and he has not played since. Yoshihito Nishioka will replace him as the top-ranked player in Japan's ATP Cup team in Perth. Yasutaka Uchiyama also withdrew from the event earlier this week, with Toshihide Matsui called up instead. Nishikori's absence follows Britain's Andy Murray also pulling out of both tournaments over the weekend with a pelvic injury. The innovative ATP Cup, from January 3-12, offers \$15 million in prize money and a maximum of 750 singles and 250 doubles ATP rankings points in the new men's warm-up tournament for the opening Grand Slam of the year. *AFP*

Signs of progress (maybe) for Bafana in 2019

JOHANNESBURG - This year was yet another "maybe" year for Bafana Bafana, who once again threatened, but ultimately failed, to ignite.

Maybe their quarterfinal placing under Stuart Baxter at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt, dramatically shocking the hosts and then-tournament favourites in the last-16, will be a building block to better performances going forward at the continental showpiece.

Finishing among the top eight in Africa, but then being relatively convincingly muscled aside by nemesis Nigeria in the quarters, suggests that as Bafana seek qualification for the 2022 World Cup to realise the SA Football Association's (Safa) Vision 2022, more will still be needed. It is too early to tell if one spectacular night in Cairo, felling Mohamed Salah, Trezeguet and co, will serve as a confidence-booster even in the 2021



Nations Cup qualifiers, where new coach Molefi Ntseki has begun with a nervy start. Bafana ended the year with an underwhelming 2-0 defeat against Ghana in Cape Coast in November, then came home and edged Sudan 1-0 at Orlando Stadium for their Cameroon 2021 ambitions to be finely balanced early on.

But what happened at Egypt 2019 - while elsewhere later the Springboks were setting 2019 alight with World Cup glory in a comeback year for SA sport - should give Bafana hope for greater solidity than they have shown in the international stage for the last 15 years.

Times Live

Msunduzu Rocks, Solani's Shisanyama one-day tournament



CHAMPS: Corporation football team players celebrate their win against Sandla during the Msunduzu Rocks, Solani's Shisanyama one-day tournament at the Msunduzu Sports Ground over the weekend. Corporation won 2-0 to be crowned champions. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



ACTION: Players in action during the Msunduzu Rocks and Solani's Shisanyama games on Sunday.



THE BEST: EFA Executive Samora Simelane presents the joint top goal scorers trophy to Dvumaetiveni 'Bhuveni' Nkambule and Muzi Tsabedze. On the right is Nkhosinathi Khanyile from Solani's Shisanyama.



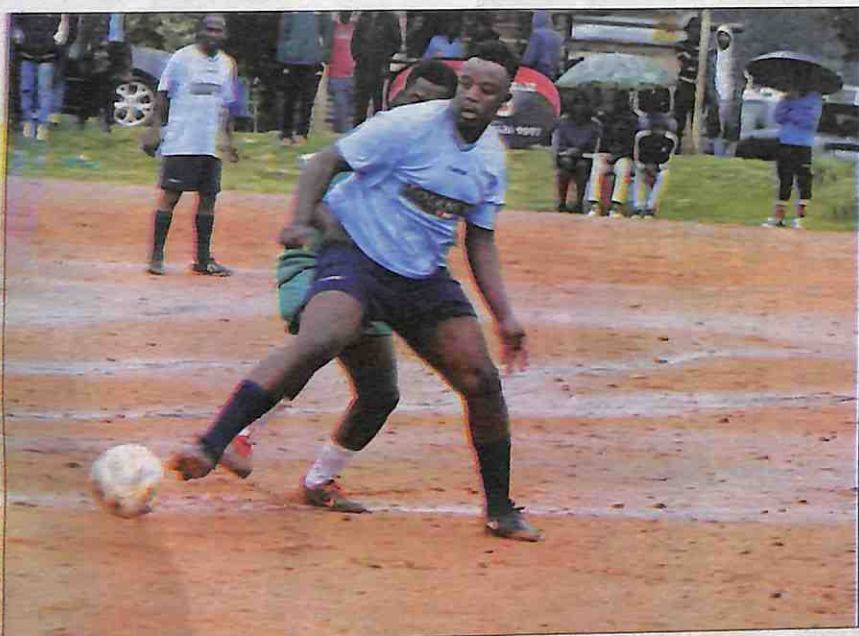
MEDALS: Sandla players receive their medals.



SILVER WEAR: Corporation players being awarded after the one-day tournament.



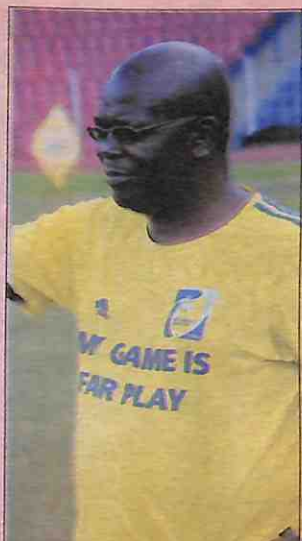
PASSES: Sandla players show-off their skills during the finals.



CONTROL: A Sandla player shields the ball away from his opponent.



MANAGEMENT: The management team watches the games.



AVAILABLE: Dumsani 'DU' Makhanya, Alou Barada, Musa Mamba, Nsindiso Gama, Velekhaya Mthethwa and Sipho Dube.

11 COACHES AVAILABLE ON MARKET

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER- TODAY the Eswatini Observer Sports Desk closely scrutinises the coaches who are in the market before the start of the MTN Premier League second round this weekend.

ZENZELE 'ACE' DLAMINI

After leading capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders to the EPTC Charity Cup in August, the towering mentor relinquished his position and was replaced by Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

Dlamini believes in young players. This was evident during his short stint with the black and white side whereby he recruited five youngsters.

His predecessor has also kept the youngsters under the current Highlanders set-up.

Dlamini's work speaks for itself. He is a great motivator and can bring the best out of players. It came as no surprise when Mbabane Highlanders recalled him last week to motivate the players ahead of the derby against Mbabane Swallows.

ZWELI 'BOTSOTSO' KHOZA

After parting ways with South Africa side, Barberton City, Khoza is back in the country and is available to coach any team. Khoza's move to Sivutsa FC seemingly did not bear the desired fruits.

Khoza's squad is renowned for playing 'sexy' football. He is a good coach who can fit in any team.

HAPPY SIMFUKWE

The Zambian born mentor is still searching for a job after he parted ways with National First Division side Mbabane Citizens at the beginning of the season.

"The Messiah," as he is affectionately known in the football circles, has vast experience in local football. He has coached big teams in the country such as Mbabane Highlanders, Moneni Pirates and Green Mamba, to mention but only a few.

ALOU BADARA

The well-travelled Mali born coach is also waiting on the wings after he parted ways with Pigg's Peak Black Swallows midway through the first round of the MTN League.

He is armed with experience gained in teams such as Mbabane Swallows, Mbabane Highlanders and Tambuti FC, to mention but only a few.

Badara is a clever coach who also believes in power play.

VELEKHAYA MTHETHWA

He was an assistant to outgoing Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papis for close to a year. The former Manzini Wanderers coach is available to coach any team as from today. This is due to the fact that his contract with Sihlangu comes to an end on December 31 (today).

With the experience he acquired from Sihlangu, Mthethwa can coach any team and bring positive results. He is also a young coach who enjoys working with junior players.

SIPHO 'SHILTON' DUBE

The former Mbabane Highlanders shot-stopper also saw his contract with the national team come to an end. He is well versed about his job and has an eye for talent.

He has groomed young blood in Royal Leopard goal keeper and Sihlangu third choice Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Makhanya.

MUSA MAMBA

Mamba is also one of the highly qualified coaches in the country. He is currently unattached to any team after he parted ways with Nation-

al First Division side, Vovovo FC.

ERNEST MAVUSO

The former Denver Sundowns and National Under-20 coach is ready to take charge of any team, should a chance avails itself.

Mavuso is also a good coach who can withstand the pressure after previously coaching Mbabane Highlanders during the 2014/15 season where he had an impressive run with the capital city giants.

NSINDISO GAMA

The former Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati's assistant at Manzini Wanderers is a trusted servant of the game. He can work with any coach given the opportunity.

DUMISANI 'DU' MAKHANYA

The seasoned former Green Mamba mentor was cast into the coaching

wilderness following his last stint with the now defunct Matsapha United two seasons ago.

Makhanya remains one of the experienced coaches in the land due to his rich CV.

PENUEL MALINGA

The 'Special One,' as he is affectionately known within with the local football circles, is currently idle after parting ways with his childhood club Manzini Sundowns, now known as Denver Sundowns.

He is well-known for his passion to groom youngsters, especially during his days at Sundowns where he moulded the likes of Justice Figuareido and Lwethu Simelane, who are both playing their trade beyond the country's borders.

He is currently running the Manzini School of Excellence an academy based at Manzini Club.

Malinga is also one of the highly qualified coaches in the country.



CALL ME: Zweli 'Botsotso' Khoza.

SEARCHING: Ernest Mavuso.

TACTICIAN: Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini.



● Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta hopes Granit Xhaka, 27, does not leave in January despite the Switzerland midfielder being linked with a move to German side Hertha Berlin. *(Football.London)*

● Manchester United made the biggest contract offer to Erling Braut Haaland but the Norway striker, 19, chose to sign with Borussia Dortmund to continue his development. *(Independent)*

● Former Manchester City and Swansea striker Wilfried Bony, 31, says he wants to return to a Championship club. *(Telegraph)*

● Chelsea boss Frank Lampard says the club are in talks with right-back Tariq Lamptey, 19, about a new deal, with his current contract expiring at the end of the season. *(Goal)*

● Arsenal must make a significant offer to convince Atletico Madrid to sell France midfielder Thomas Lemar, 24, in January. *(AS, via Mirror)*

● Barcelona will only consider re-signing Brazil forward Neymar, 27, as a replacement for Lionel Messi, 32, when the Argentine striker eventually decides to leave the club. *(Sport)*

● Swansea have approached Liverpool in the hope of signing striker Rhian Brewster, 19, on loan for the rest of the season. *(Athletic)*

● Arsenal and Tottenham are prepared to pay £50m to sign French RB Leipzig centre-back Dayot Upamecano, 21, but could face competition from Manchester City. *(Daily Star)*

● Newcastle are working on a contract extension for midfielder Jonjo Shelvey, 27, whose current deal runs until 2021. *(Chronicle)*

● Manchester United are tracking Birmingham City's 16-year-old English midfielder Jude Bellingham. *(Sun)*

● Everton boss Carlo Ancelotti says he tracked Toffees forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin at previous clubs but was never able to sign the 22-year-old. *(Liverpool Echo)*

● Fiorentina could end 27-year-old Leicester and Algeria winger Rachid Ghezzal's season-long loan early, with fellow Italian side Atalanta interested in taking over the move. *(La Gazzetta dello Sport, via Leicester Mercury)*

● Newcastle boss Steve Bruce says he will not make January signings just to cover his side's mounting injury problems. *(Mail)*

ESWATINI CYCLING SET FOR AFRICAN ROAD CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN

BY JONGILE XUBA

CYCLING—THE Eswatini cycling national team is set to make a return in the international scene during the 2020 African Road Championships slated for Mauritius in March.

The local side is expected to attend the continental road race for the second time in two year's after missing out in this year's edition which was staged in Ethiopia due to administrative issues.

The national side last competed in the 2018 edition which was held in Kigali, Rwanda.

Eswatini Cycling Association President Sihlangu Nhlabatsi said they were intending to send a team to the upcoming continental road championships when contacted yesterday.

"We want to send a four member



SWAZI PRIDE: The 2018 Eswatini Cycling national team members Gcina Banda, Mduduzi Zwane and Muzi Shabangu posing during the 2018 African Road Championships which were held in Rwanda.

team to the next African championships and we will select the squad in February. We will name the tentative squad first before making the final selection of the four rid-

ers. We are yet to announce the entire programme for the national team in due course," he said.

The local cycling mother body recently received a E50 000 spon-

sorship from Eswatini Air Link.

The last members of the national team who competed internationally were Muzi Shabangu, Gcina Banda and Mduduzi Zwane.

Eswatini Wheelchair Tennis Association off to Kenya

BY COLISILE SACOLO

TENNIS—ESWATINI Wheelchair Tennis Association has been invited to attend an international workshop in Kenya.

The workshop will take place between 16-19 February at Nairobi and it would be attended by several African countries.

This was revealed by Eswatini Wheelchair Tennis Association executive member Masiza Ntshangase, who said the aim of the workshop is to train officials on wheelchair basketball.

"We need about E22 000 to send two officials to the workshop in myself and Thulani Gina. Each ticket costs E11 220 and we appeal for assistance from the local business fraternity and the nation at large. We have to attend the workshop in order to avoid paying a penalty from workshop organisers as a country," Ntshangase further said they were



also hoping to send the junior national squad to an international competition in Namibia.

"We hope to raise enough funds so that we can be able compete in international competitions and this would help to improve the standard of the sport in the country. We would like to thank Cheshire Homes for their efforts and commitment towards the development of wheelchair basketball in the country," he said.

Eswatini for 2020 Karate World Cup

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

OYAMA—THE Eswatini Oyama national team is expected to take part in the 2020 Karate World Cup scheduled for September in Indonesia.

This was revealed by the Eswatini Oyama Karate President Mfanafuthi Vilakati who said they were looking forward to compete in the international competition. "We are looking at taking part in the next world cup and we will announce the logistics of the upcoming tournament in due course," he said. Vilakati further stated that they were happy with the progress of the sport in 2019. "We managed to work well as an executive through the unity

that prevailed within the committee. We were able deliver the main objectives of the association.

The sport has grown, especially in the juniors category where we have seen a tremendous improvement after we managed to rope in more youngsters," he said. Vilakati further said they would be focusing on grooming more juniors next year and they have special programmes lined up through their partnership with various local schools around the country.

"We also partnered with local gyms to see how our athletes can be guided from tender age until they reach their potential. The classes work well on weekends as most of them are scholars," Vilakati further said.

ETF NEEDS E63 000 for Olympic Qualifiers

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

TAEKWANDO—The Eswatini Taekwondo Federation needs over E63 000 to send the national squad to the 2020 Olympic Qualifiers billed for February 23-24 in Morocco.

A return ticket to Morocco costs E9 000 and the local mother body is expected to send four players and three officials to the continental qualifiers.

Eswatini Taekwondo Federation Vice-President Sizwe Mabuza confirmed the figures and appealed for support from companies.

"This is an expensive assignment and we are appealing for support from companies as we will be representing the country," he said.

Mabuza further said they were expecting the technical committee to announce the national squad next week.

Mabuza added that Next Generation was busy preparing their players for the national team selection.

"We are keeping our players fit in case they receive a national team call-up, they are ready," he said

Some of the well-known athletes that are part of the squad for North Africa are Thandukhanya Dlamini Wandile Maziya and Saneliso Masuku and Carlotta Munave.

Team Eswatini will be out to maintain their good run in the international scene following their triumph in the 2019 COSA-TA Championships.



HOW HIGH: Next Generation athletics captured in a training session.

KATSANDE TO RETIRE AT CHIEFS?

JOHANNESBURG—Willard Katsande's future with Kaizer Chiefs is certainly up for discussion at present, and a new contract with Amakhosi would probably see him retire at the club.

The Siya crew reported recently that the midfielder, who will turn 34 next month, could be set for a new two-year deal following his return to form this season, espe-

cially given the fact that the club are yet to lose a game in which he's been available in 2019/20. Katsande's contract with the Glamour Boys will expire at the end of the current campaign, and while there is thought to be a one-year option attached to it, there is now talk of a potential new two-year deal being put on the table for the Zimbabwean in the new year. *Soccer Laduma*

'BIRDS' RAKE OVER E120 000 IN DERBY

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - THEY may have lost the first-round carrot to Young Buffaloes, capital city giants Mbabane Swallows raked in over E120 000 in their last weekend MTN Premier League match against sworn rivals Mbabane Highlanders.

The two giants played to a goalless draw at Somhlolo National Stadium.

That was the only match played at the country soccer mecca.

Information gathered is that around 4 000 tickets were sold for the Y'ello Sunday.

Each ticket was sold at E30 at the usual retailing outlets.

Premier League of Eswatini Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati said.

"I can only confirm that over E120 000 was collected last week Sunday at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Mbabane Swallows Marketing and communications officer Mancoba



Premier League Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati.

Mabuza could not be reached for comment on the matter.

Meanwhile, the red and white

glamour side will again face Tambuti on Saturday at King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium.

Football feast in MP Mabhanisi tournament

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - MATSAPHA football lovers will be treated to entertaining football in the MP Sibusiso 'Mabhanisi' Dlamini festive tournament semi-finals.

The Kwaluseni Inkhundla semi-finals are scheduled for tomorrow at TB Centre Sports Ground.

The tournament started with 20 teams and it is sponsored at a tune of E20 000 by the member of Parliament.

The champions will walk away with E7 000 whilst the runner-up stands to pocket E5 000. The first semifinal will see Red Army take on Tilwane, while defending champions Lushikishi will take on Mafiri.

Tournament organiser, Moya Simelane said they were happy about the progress of the games as there were no scenes of violence.

"The games are going well and we are all looking forward to the final. We have also noted that all the teams have good players who can even fit in the Premier League. Therefore, elite league coaches

can come and identify players who they can sign when the registration opens next week. We are expecting a vibe tomorrow," he said.

PRIZES BREAKDOWN FOR THE TOURNAMENT

Champions	E7000
Runners up	E5000
Third Prize	E3700
Fourth Prize	E2700
Individual Awards	
Player of the Tournament	E450
Top Goal Scorer	E450
Disciplined Team	E350
Golden Glove	E350

"We are all looking forward to another good final. We have also noted that all the teams have good players who can even fit in the Premier League."

TAMBANKULU CALLIES CONTINUE PROMOTION CHASE THIS WEEKEND

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - TAMBANKULU Callies will continue their search for promotion from the MTN First Division League when they face off against Rangers on Sunday at the King Sobhuza II Stadium.

The fixtures were confirmed by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati recently.

Madlenya will also be hoping to start off the New Year on a high when they face Hlathikhulu Tycoons

at Mayaluka Stadium on Saturday.

Prince of Wales Ground will host a double header with Umbelebele hosting Seven Dreams at 2pm followed by Vovovo against Illovo at 4pm.

The last match of the day will feature Ludzeludze Killers against Young Movers at 3pm at Manzini Club.

Another exciting clash of the weekend will be between Mbabane Citizens and promotion candidates Tinyosi at the King Sobhuza II Stadium on Sunday.

Wanderers U-17 win Noah's Ark Hardware tournament

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - MANZINI Wanderers Under-17 team emerged victorious during the Noah's Ark Tournament held on Christmas day at Duze High School sports ground.

The games were sponsored by Noah's Ark Hardware to the tune of E2 000 for youngsters mainly from the Lubombo region.

Manzini Wanderers FC thrashed Bombers FC 5-2 in the finals.

This was revealed by Manzini Wanderers Under-17 Development Manager Sihle

Mamba, who congratulated the junior 'Weslians' for their achievement.

"We would like to thank Noah's Ark for inviting us to be part of the tournament, this means a lot to us as a team. We are very happy and we thank our supporters for coming through," he said.

Wanderers coach Spoko Shongwe

said winning the tournament boosted the boy's confidence when also reached for comment.

"I would like to thank the Duze community and the sponsor for inviting us. This helped us a lot as a team regards maintaining our fitness," he added.

Meanwhile Noah's Ark Hardware Manager Sandile Gwebu said he was happy with the progress of the tournament and further promised to continue supporting the initiative in the upcoming years.



SITSEBE SET TO START 2020 AFCON PREPS

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - SITSEBE Samhlekezi coach Anthony Mdluli said they will start their 2020 AFCON qualifiers preparations in February.

Eswatini will face Malawi in a two legged match in April 2020 and the host country is still to be announced by the Confederation of African football (CAF).

This follows the withdrawal the Democratic Republic of Congo as host of the biennial competition.

"Our wish is to start the preparations on the second week of February but we are still waiting for the Football Association to release the programme.

"I am confident that we will do well in the qualifiers as we intend to qualify for the finals of the competition so that we gauge ourselves against the



Sitsebe Samhlekezi coach Anthony Mdluli.

best countries," he said.

Sitsebe Samhlekezi recently had a good run in the 2019 COSAFA women's

champions where they narrowly missed out in the semi-finals of the annual regional championships.

MTN FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE

Saturday at Mayaluka Stadium			
Madlenya FC	vs	Hlathikhulu Tycoons FC	3pm
Prince of Wales Ground			
Umbelebele	vs	Seven Dreams FC	2pm
Vovovo FC	vs	Illovo FC	4pm

Manzini Club			
Ludzeludze Killers FC	vs	Young Movers FC	3pm
Sunday at King Sobhuza II stadium			
Rangers FC	vs	Tambankulu Callies	1:30pm
Mbabane Citizens FC	vs	Tinyosi FC	3:30pm

MTN FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE LOG TABLE

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Callies	12	10	1	1	25	7	18	31
Madlenya	12	8	1	3	16	8	8	25
Tinyosi	12	7	4	1	19	6	13	25
Illovo	12	6	4	2	13	7	6	22
Tycoons	12	6	2	4	21	20	1	20
Seven Dreams	12	5	3	4	23	20	3	18
Citizens	12	4	3	5	17	12	5	15
Vovovo	12	4	3	5	12	16	-4	15
Killers	12	3	3	6	10	15	-5	12



Liverpool as hungry as ever - Van Dijk

LONDON - Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk admits 2019 was an important breakthrough year for the players but insists they are not allowing themselves to look ahead to what could prove to be even more memorable 2020.

The Reds closed out a 12 months in which they won the Champions League, the European Super Cup and the Club World Cup with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Wolves which re-established their 13-point lead at the top of the Premier League table.

They also have a match in hand - to be played against West Ham at the end of next month - over second-placed Leicester and Manchester City, in third, and look nailed on to end a 30-year wait

for the title in May.

"Yeah, 100 per cent it, the year we feel very positive about it," he said.

"If you are able to play for trophies when you are in finals then you want to win them so we have been doing that since the Champions League so it is a nice habit.

"I think the most important thing was the Champions League. That is something incredible and we all enjoyed that - but we all enjoyed the ride we had in the Premier League last year (finishing one point behind City).

"We came very close, unfortunately City were just a little bit better but that spurred us on to try even harder this year and so we have been

winning games, grinding games out and playing good football at times.

"We enjoy the hard work too so that is very good. Hopefully, we can just keep going doing that and just be hungry for that as well.

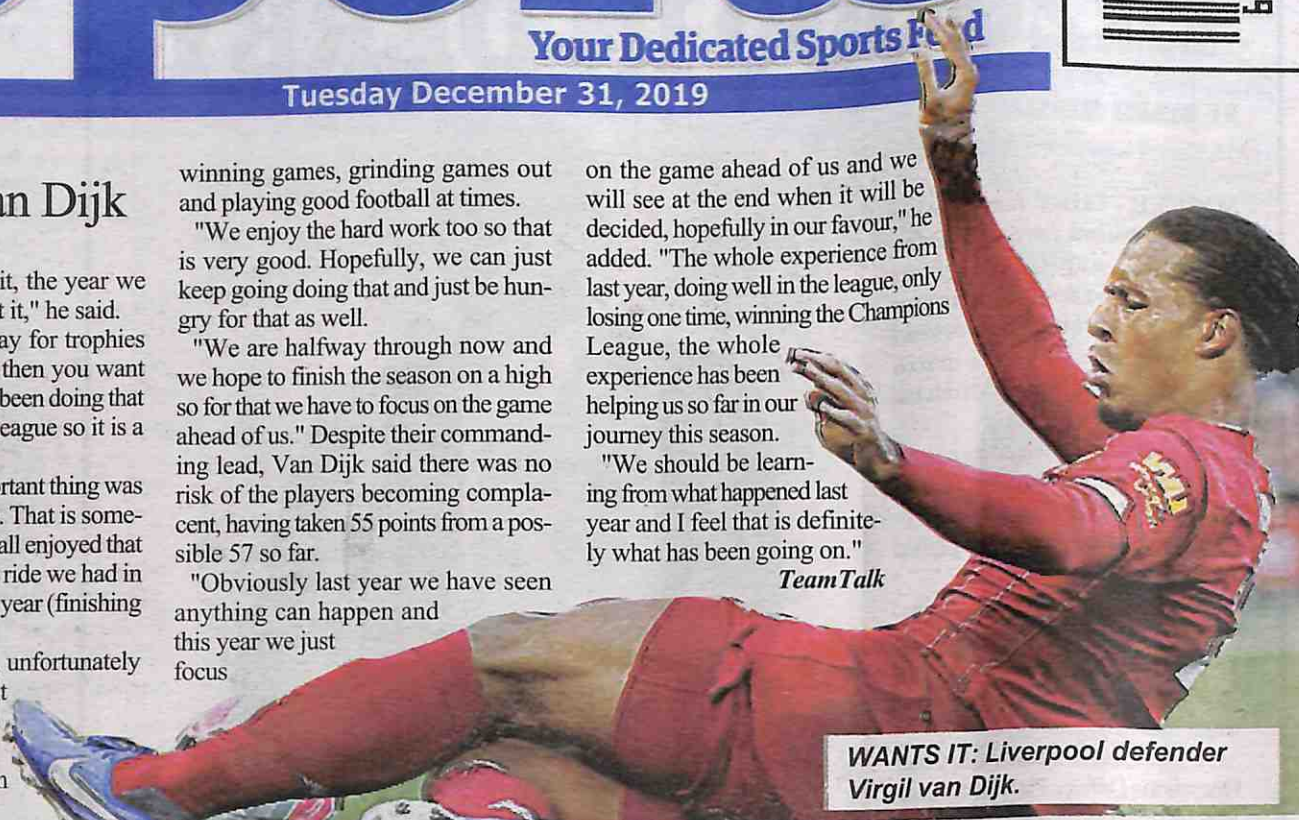
"We are halfway through now and we hope to finish the season on a high so for that we have to focus on the game ahead of us." Despite their commanding lead, Van Dijk said there was no risk of the players becoming complacent, having taken 55 points from a possible 57 so far.

"Obviously last year we have seen anything can happen and this year we just focus

on the game ahead of us and we will see at the end when it will be decided, hopefully in our favour," he added. "The whole experience from last year, doing well in the league, only losing one time, winning the Champions League, the whole experience has been helping us so far in our journey this season.

"We should be learning from what happened last year and I feel that is definitely what has been going on."

TeamTalk



WANTS IT: Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk.

Big opportunity for locals as Europe based African legends for....

ESWATINI OPEN TRIALS

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - GOOD things comes to those who wait.

The famous adage will soon become a reality for local players as the ambitious Professional Soccer Management (PSM) will be bringing the European based African soccer legends in the country to scout for talent.

This was revealed by PSM Director Emmanuel Emenogu during a press conference at Sigwaca House yesterday.

He said the legends would be in Eswatini during the Eswatini Open Football trials next month between the 20th and 30th of January at a venue still to be confirmed.

"We are expecting our partners from various Europe based clubs like Turkey, Belgium and France here during the open trials.

I am also happy to announce legends like former Arsenal defender Emmanuel Eboe, who is currently the African scout for Galatasaray, a Turkish based team in Europe. We are also expecting former Manchester City striker Benjani Mwaruwari who works with Anderlecht in Belgium, managed by Vincent Kompany to be here as well. This means that all the participants stand a good chance of securing a possible European move," he said.

He said the main of the trials is to help

● Emmanuel Eboe, Benjani Mwaruwari, DR Congo born

Vincent Kompany to grace event

● To have scouts from Arsenal, Anderlecht, Ajax Amsterdam

● Event to be held between 20-30 January at four regions of the country

take local players to the pinnacle of the game by playing in the best leagues in the world, found in Europe.

According to the director, the trials will be divided into different age categories and will be held in the four regions of the country.

"We are planning on visiting each region not just the main stadiums. Participants will be grouped by age which include 10-15, 16-18 as well as 19 and older. We want to give everyone a chance whether you are around the main stadiums or not," he said. Apart from national team players, they will have players from various Premier League clubs being assessed. "We are hoping to set aside a day or two for Premier League players to come and try out as we would like them to get a chance as well. We are currently in discussions with the PLE on when and how we will organise the trials," he said.

Those looking to register for the trials

will be expected to pay for the forms with different joining fees for the various age groups. Those between 10-15 years will pay E200, 16-18 years E150 with those 19 and above paying E100 for the forms. The forms will be available at various Eswatini Football Association (EFA) offices around the country.

Emenogu further revealed that the trials schedule would be released in due course.

OPPORTUNITY: Professional Soccer Management (PSM) Director Emmanuel Emenogu making his remarks during a press conference at Sigwaca House yesterday. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)



Punch, Lekata set to join Ally Tigers

BY MELUSI MLOTSHA

SOCCER - CAPITAL city side Mbabane Highlanders are set to release the duo of left back Punch Masenemela and Josef Lekata to ABC Motsepe outfit Ally Tigers.

The Pretoria based team is owned by businessman Ally Kgomongwe, the Mbabane Highlanders boss.

Lekata and Masenemela joined the Mbabane based outfit during the beginning of the 2019/20 season.

Both players played a crucial role in the team during the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup in August under the guidance of Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini to end a seven-year trophy drought.

With the January transfer window commencing next week Monday, information gathered is to the effect that the duo may join the 'Black Bull' sister team.

Assessment

Both Lekata and Masenemela are believed to have signed three-year contracts with the black and white outfit.

"The team's authorities felt that the players must be released to Ally Tigers rather than off-loading them," said the source.

Kgomongwe neither confirmed nor denied the news yesterday.

He said the technical bench is still doing an overall assessment on the performance of the players during the first round.

"Let's wait for next week to see what will transpire," he said.

Meanwhile, it was gathered that Ally Tigers might release two strikers to join Mbabane Highlanders during the transfer window.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati-led charges are also on the verge of signing Mhlume Peacemakers' highly rated striker Sidumo Dlamini.