

O **SUNDAY** Observer

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The Right Sunday

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**GOVT NEEDS
E141 MILLION
FOR PHONE
BILLS**

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FOR SALE:**

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CHALLENGES
BISHOP
MASILELA**

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RENAC board members led by Mndeni Mazibuko posing with Simon D'oyly who is Commercial Director at Royal Jet during the launch of the Royal Jet operation at King Mswati III Airport yesterday. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

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CLARIFICATION

3% SALARY INCREASE FOR PARASTATALS

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI

Workers of Category A public enterprises might be happy to hear that government has agreed to increase their salaries by three percent.

Wages, salaries, terms and conditions of service for Category A parastatals' workers will be increased by the above mentioned percentage. Category A parastatals are wholly owned by the government. They are different to Category B parastatals, which are partly owned by the government.

Category

This follows a decision taken by the Standing Committee on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) after it met on February 11. Such information is contained in the Public Enterprise Unit (PEU) Circular No. 1 of 2020, which was signed by PEU Director Busangani Mkhalihi. The Circular was directed to all the chief executive officers of Category A parastatals.

The first paragraph of the circular advised all Category A public enterprises of SCOPE's annual definition of the rate

of increase for salaries, wages, conditions of service, fees, rates, prices, tariffs, and other charges that is used to define 'major' as contained in in Section 10 of the Public Enterprises (Control and Monitoring) Act of 1989.

"SCOPE met on 11th February 2020 and decided that all proposed increases, except wages and salaries and terms and conditions that exceed 1.6 per cent must be approved in writing by the responsible minister, after having received SCOPE's approval," reads part of the circular.

The circular went on to ask for cooperation from the parastatals' chief executives.

Requirement

"Chief executives are asked to bring to the attention of their respective boards and kindly observe this requirement until further notice," said the circular.

However, the circular was not clear on the date on which the workers would start getting their improved salaries and Mkhalihi could not give an answer to this question.

When it was put to her that there was a circu-

lar concerning Category A parastatals that was circulating, she quickly stated that she did not know anything about it. She said she would go through the circular since she was not aware of it.

Ministry of Finance Principal Secretary (PS) Sizakele Dlamini said the increment would be effected from April 1. Dlamini clarified that the three per cent was actually not a salary increment. "It is not three percent salary increase, but three per cent 'Major'. This means that any increase below three per cent can be implemented without SCOPE's approval," Dlamini said.

This comes after about three years of endless proposals for salaries of workers in the Category A parastatals to be increased. The efforts had not yielded the desired fruit, as at one point, the workers threatened to take to the streets following that their salaries had not been increased since 2017.

In 2018, government issued a PEU Circular No.1/2018 and last year, PEU Circular No. 2/2019, where SCOPE directed that 'Major' will be zero per cent for wages, salaries, tariffs, prices, rates, fees, charges as well as terms and conditions of service.

However, there was hope towards the end of last year as Parliament was informed that the ministry of finance was working around the clock for the workers' salaries to be increased, as it was reported by this publication.



Let parastatals handle the issues – TUCOSWA

The Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) is of the view that parastatals should handle salary increment negotiations with its employees.

TUCOSWA Secretary General Mduduzi Gina made this comment following the latest development regarding the salary increment of the workers in Category A public enterprises.

Gina said they were not aware of the latest development but nonetheless they were grateful. However, as a federation, they would like the parastatals to be given a mandate to negotiate salary increment with their employees. Such should not be done by government.

Gina further stated that they acknowledged

the fact that government was a shareholder in state-owned enterprises, but was not the employer.

To clarify on his point, he made an example of Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC).

He said EEC was the employer for all its workers.

Therefore, it was EEC management that was supposed to negotiate salary increments with its employees, not government, which was a shareholder. Gina said as TUCOSWA, they believed that public enterprises had the capacity of making profits on their own. Because of that, they also had the capacity of deciding, without being influenced, how they would improve salaries

and other benefits meant for their employees. TUCOSWA is a federation of trade unions that are affiliated to it. Some of these unions are representatives of workers who work for some public enterprises.

Examples of such unions include the Swaziland Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (SUFIAW).

Some employees of EswatiniBank are members of this union.

EswatiniBank is a Category A parastatal under the ministry of finance. The same thing applies to Swaziland Electricity Supply Maintenance and Allied Workers Union (SESMAWU), whose members work for EEC.

E141M FOR PHONE BILLS...

Health, foreign affairs, tinkhundla, and police take lead

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Government's communication costs are going through the roof. To cover these costs, government now needs a supplementary budget where the over 30 government departments have requested a total of E2.1 billion.

The E2.1 billion will be used for different purposes, with a staggering E141 719 616 of the requested amount earmarked for communication arrears which have not been paid in years. The Sunday Observer understands that there are several reasons for the arrears in the communication costs of government ministries, which include inadequate budgets and delayed payment due to unavailability of funds resulting from releasing of a portion of the allocated budgets. Director of Health Services Dr Vusi

Magagula referred questions to the ministry of finance, saying it was best placed to respond as it was responsible for disbursing of funds.

Ministry of Finance PS Sizakele Dlamini when contacted yesterday said there were various reasons for the arrears which may include the inadequate budget, hence she would need to consult with the ministries to establish the exact causes before responding. The companies that these ministries are seeking to pay for their communication bills which include telephone and internet are MTN Eswatini, Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporation and Real Image. The ministry of health has the highest bill of over E27 million followed by the ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation, tinkhundla administration and development with a bill of E23 million and the police with a bill of E21 million, yet it had an

allocation of E4.4 million.

The ministry of ICT has requested E8.9 million for communication arrears with EPTC and MTN from the previous years while the private and Cabinet office requested E5 million to cater for the telephone bills from three service providers. The office was initially allocated a budget of E56 317, which means the total communication cost will be E5 056 317. Other ministries that have requested supplementary budgets for the communications arrears are natural resources, as well as education and training with a request of E3.2 million each. The Fire and Emergency Services, on the other hand, requested the least amount for communication of E2 500 which is additional to the original communication cost of E330 810, which means the total communication cost will be at E333 310.

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ROYAL JET SETTLES IN AT KMIII

STORIES BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

It's a done deal! Eswatini now has its first major airline to operate from the King Mswati III International Airport, in what represents a major coup for the country.

The arrival of the Royal Jet airline in the country was launched in a fanfare event yesterday at Sikhuphe, with high-ranking government officials and the executive management of the Royal Eswatini National Airways Corporation and a distinguished delegation delighted to welcome the luxury flight service provider home.

They took turns exploring the aircraft and took pictures before a press conference was called to officially unveil the aircraft.

This deal represents a milestone for the kingdom, and is an outcome of His Majesty King Mswati III's proposal to the chairman of the Royal Jet to set up in the country.

His Majesty's dream has now come through with the agreement that Royal Jet operates from the KMIII a chartered flight that will boost not just the tourism industry but the image of the airport.

Four years ago during one of his visits at the United Arab Emirates, His Majesty challenged the award winning international luxury flight service provider based in Abu Dhabi to set up shop in the kingdom.

At exactly 11:43am, Royal Jet landed at the airport to signal the beginning of a whole new era for the aviation industry and that of the KMIII airport.

According to Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Eswatini National Airways Corporation



Ministers Moses Vilakati, Chief Ndlehlhla and MP Mabulala Maseko with Royal Jet crew inside the aircraft after touring the Boeing Business Jet which was launched at KMIII International Airport yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

(RENAC) President Dhlamini, Royal Jet will have one of its chartered planes stationed at KMIII International Airport for a year.

He said this partnership between RENAC and Royal Jet would see them sharing customers for the year.

"We have a mandate from His Majesty the King to revive the aviation industry. I must say this is a great opportunity for Eswatini, especially the tourism industry. The team from Royal Jet will bring along their engineers who will impart knowledge and skills to local engineers. In that way the country would benefit as we would end up having our own engineers servicing our flights," explained the CEO.

He further disclosed that pilots for the jet

would be based in the country accommodated in one of the hotels. When asked to unpack what the country stands to benefit from the whole business deal in the next 12 months, Dhlamini said ESWACAA would benefit from all landing and parking fees, which means fees of landing and parking at the airport will be forwarded to ESWACAA.

He added that fuel for the jet would be sourced in the country and ground handling would be done at a fee.

Representative from Royal Jet Simon D'oyly in his address constantly praised the country's rich culture, overwhelming friendliness of the people to visitors and the stunning scenery of mountains and valleys, plus the wildlife reserves.

He thanked His Majesty the King for showing trust and confidence in Royal Jet, saying they would provide job opportunities to Eswatini and also empower them with skills.

He said this would result in some aircraft brought in the country for maintenance.

He said Royal Jet was amongst the world's largest independent business jet operators, and their fleets ensure that every travel requirement is impeccably catered for.

In recognition of its unparalleled levels of service, Royal Jet was voted the World's Leading Private Jet Service by the World Travel Awards for eight consecutive years.

It transpired that Royal Jet's main business activities were luxury air charter services, fixed base operations, aviation consultancy services, aircraft management and aircraft maintenance services.

”

This deal represents a milestone for the kingdom, and is an outcome of His Majesty King Mswati III's proposal to the chairman of the Royal Jet to set up in the country

Prime minister applauds Royal Jet

Prim Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini has promised that government will monitor the partnership between Royal Jet and the RENAC to ensure that the country benefits from the deal as promised by the partners.

The premier was speaking through Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Ndlehlhla at Ndzwandwe.

Dlamini expressed his excitement at having an aircraft that will not only benefit Eswatini but the whole of Africa.

"It is indeed a beautiful day for the kingdom as we have just witnessed the arrival of an aircraft that will service the whole of

ing to base their aircraft in our beautiful kingdom," said the premier.

He said Royal Jet coming here will stimulate activity at the KMIII International Airport. He excitedly disclosed that it was a first of its kind

in the kingdom and a major milestone towards attracting the necessary air traffic.

"His Majesty's government pledges its support for the partnership and will provide all the necessary support to ensure that it is sustained for the mutual benefit of the parties. We encourage the partners to continuously look for innovative ways to maximise the benefits that can flow from the partnership," stated the prime minister.

The premier then wished the Royal Jet members a warm stay in the country. He urged them to explore the country and enjoy the beautiful scenery on their non-flying days.



Public Works and Transport Minister Chief Ndlehlhla who represented the prime minister making his remarks.



Minister Thuli Dladla introducing MP Mabulala Maseko to the country's Ambassador to UAE Prince Gcina.

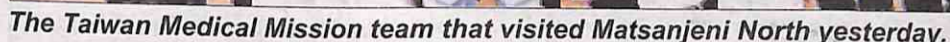
Ambassadors' home for roadmap conference

Envoys representing the country abroad will engage in a consultative conference starting from tomorrow up until Friday.

This was disclosed by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Thuli Dladla yesterday at the KMIII Airport.

The minister stated that a majority of the envoys have already arrived. Some were seen at the KMIII. Ambassador at the United Arab Emirates Prince Gcina and envoys based in Mozambique are all expected to partake in the conference. The minister stated that they would

analyse the Strategic Roadmap, national budget and also look at government procurement procedures for missions abroad. She said there would also be audit inspection of embassies and finally evaluate the role, importance and functions of the PAC. She hinted that ambassadors would also share ideas on how they can attract investors to come and do business in the country. She said it was very important for ambassadors to market the country well in their different work stations so that investors can come and start businesses in the country.

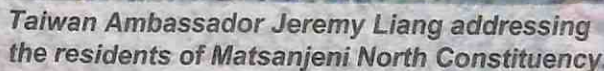
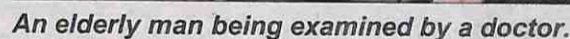
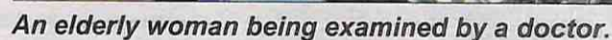


BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI

Shih disclosed that most of the patients

"From now I will be making it my normal routine to attend to outreach programmes as I am actually not an office person. I like working with the people on the field," said the ambassador. Liang noted that people in rural areas faced challenges in accessing medical help. For this reason, Liang said his office remained committed to provid-

The constituency has three clinics situated at Mambane, Tikhuba and Maphungwane.





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Vacancies

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Department : Advanced School of Information Technology
Position: Hardware and Networking Lecturer (1 position)

Closing Date: 6 March 2020

Qualifications and Experience:

- MSc in Computer Science/Information Technology or Equivalent
- CCNA or CCNP qualification will be added advantage
- At least 2 years working with IT security systems
- At least 3 years teaching or lecturing students

Duties:

1. To teach Computer Science courses such as but not limited to;
 - Fundamentals of Computer Hardware and Networking
 - Windows Server Administration
 - Design and Implement Advanced Windows-Based Server Infrastructure
 - Routing Technology
 - Cloud Computing
 - Remote Access Solutions
2. Undertake learning, teaching and assessment on ASIT Hardware and Networking programmes of study. This includes, the provision of high quality teaching, assessment and support for students' learning on designated modules at all levels.
3. Review and ensure course deliverables are relevant and reflect best practice and current technology.
4. Ensure the delivery of modules through lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and conducting of simulations and practicals on networking scenario's.
5. Participate in departmental and organisational committees including task teams.
6. Participate in community engagement and outreach programmes; and
7. Undertake any other functions and duties as delegated by the Royal Science and Technology Park.

Department : Advanced School of Information Technology
Position : Software Engineering Lecturer (1 position)

Closing Date : 6 March 2020

Qualifications and Experience:

- MSc in Software Engineering/Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- At least 2 years of programming experience
- At least 3 years teaching or lecturing students

Duties:

1. To teach Software Engineering/Programming

courses such as but not limited to;

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 - Website Development
 - Java or .Net Programming
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 3. Review and ensure course deliverables are relevant and reflect best practice and current technology.
 4. Ensure the delivery of modules through lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and conducting of simulations and practicals on programming scenario's.
 5. Participate in departmental and organisational committees including task teams.
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Department : Advanced School of Information Technology
Section : Arena Animation Academy
Position : Multimedia Lecturer (1 position)

Closing Date: 6 March 2020

Qualifications and Experience:

- BA in Multimedia/BSc in Computer Science/Information Technology
- MSc in Computer Science/Information Technology/MA in Multimedia or equivalent
- Diploma or Certificate in 3D Animation as an additional qualification to the above
- At least 2 years of multimedia experience in 3D Animation
- At least 3 years teaching or lecturing students

Duties:

1. To teach Multimedia courses such as but not limited to;
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3. Review and ensure course deliverables are relevant and reflect best practice and current

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4. Ensure the delivery of modules through lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and conducting of simulations and practicals on modelling and animation scenario's.
5. Participate in departmental and organisational committees including task teams.
6. Participate in community engagement and outreach programmes; and
7. Undertake any other functions and duties as delegated by the Royal Science and Technology Park.

Department : Advanced School of Information Technology
Position : Information Security and Ethical Hacking Lecturer (1 position)

Closing Date: 6 March 2020

Qualifications and Experience:

- MSc in Information Security/Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- At least 2 years working with IT security systems
- At least 3 years teaching or lecturing students

Duties:

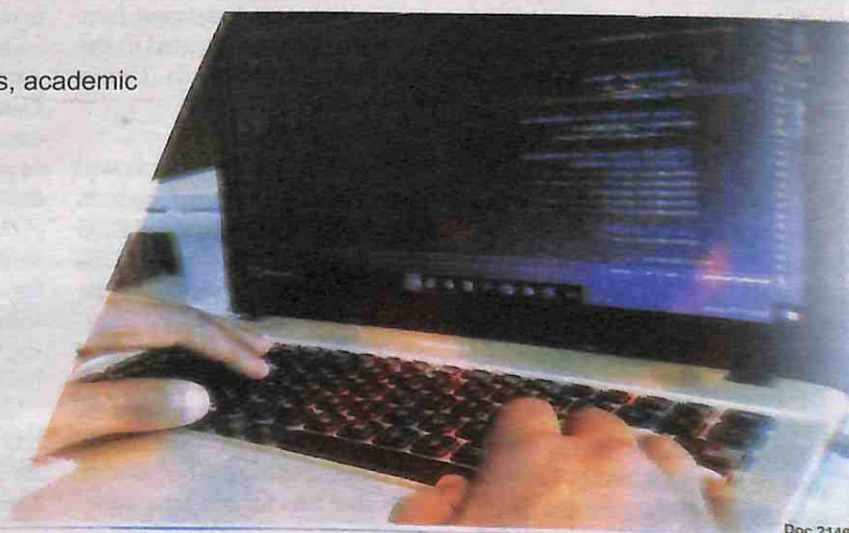
1. To teach Computer Science courses such as but not limited to;
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 - Information Security and Organizational Structure
 - Cyber Security and Network Forensics
 - Hardware and Networking
 - Mobile and Cloud Computing
 - Security Architecture and Hacking
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5. Participate in departmental and organisational committees including task teams.
6. Participate in community engagement and outreach programmes; and
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Royal Science & Technology Park
P.O. Box 2316
Matsapha
Swaziland

Email: recruitment@rstp.org.sz



PRAYERS FOR SALE: I HAVE EVIDENCE — MP LUTFO

BY MBONO MDLULI

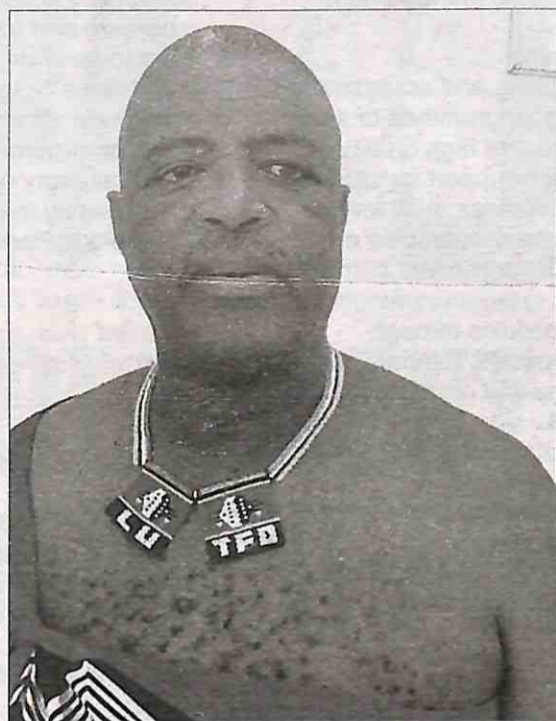
It looks like the “prayers for sale” debate is far from over, as Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini has evidence to that effect.

The Ndzingeni legislator was responding to a comment by Eswatini Conference of Churches President Bishop Stephen Masilela on our sister newspaper, the Saturday Observer. Masilela stated that Members of Parliament (MPs) must provide evidence on their claims rather than blanket statements.

Masilela advised the MPs to refrain from accusing churches of being engaged in criminal activities without evidence. On Wednesday this week, the nation woke up to screaming headlines wherein Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe was ordered to stop ‘miracle’ selling churches.

This was reported by our sister newspaper, Eswatini Observer. Masilela said he was not about harbouring any criminal activities in some churches — if so proven, as that would help in locking up the thieves and clearing the name of esteemed men of God in truthful mission.

Speaking to the Saturday Observer, Masilela said what was happening at the moment was doing nothing but tarnishing the image of the house of God. “Parliament must assist the police with evidence of the alleged corruption so that the criminals can be thrown into jail. It will also help us as church mother bodies in taking action and rooting out clean all such ills. But as



Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini.

is, the entire Christian fraternity is being tainted,” he said.

Bishop Masilela said Parliament should seriously look into the matter and not lose focus.

“We have many young men and boys, emerging from nowhere to preach in crusades and you wonder where does this young man come from and who preached and fathered the Gospel to him,” the man of the cloth was quoted as having said.

He said the next thing they would make the alter call and with those people

who raise hands saying they repent, those become their first members.

“Churches should be looked into and this is a serious concern because next you see them feeding people rats and grass.”

The parliamentarians accused these churches of taking advantage of vulnerable citizens, promising them promotions and employment breakthroughs. They also accused the churches of being frauds and involved in money laundering.

However, the Ndzingeni lawmaker wished to convey a message to Bishop



Eswatini Conference of Churches President Bishop Stephen Masilela.

Masilela. MP Lutfo said he had evidence of what he was talking about in the House of Assembly on Tuesday. MP Lutfo was one of the MPs that were vocal about churches being probed during the debate.

The legislator said he would love to engage in a public debate with the man of the cloth on the issue at any time. “We will also bring the child of a pastor who came to preach prosperity in my village and left a congregant pregnant and is now failing to maintain the child,” MP Lutfo said.

The MP said that pastor was now

preaching at another village and that was just one example of what wayward pastors could do. He had more wayward pastors who went around telling people that they should make offerings. “I have more of those who ask people to pay offerings to get employment, among other things,” he said.

However, other MPs contacted by this publication did not have evidence concerning this issue. Matsanjeni South MP Bomber Mamba said he did not have concrete evidence on the matter. However, he would hear about such matters from time to time at certain places. Lobamba MP Alan Stewart also did not have any evidence on the issue.

However, other men of the cloth applauded Parliament for what they said was a bold move. They said it showed that Parliament had the interest of the nation at heart, adding it was time government scrutinised the activities taking place in houses of worship.

Bishop Samson Hlatshwayo of the Eswatini League of Churches Eswatini, in an interview with the Saturday Observer, said it was a good thing if people find prosperity, riches, and other blessings in worshipping God.

“But that is not what Jesus gave us as the mandate or something to preach. Jesus assigned His followers to preach the Gospel, not riches and wealth,” Hlatshwayo was quoted as saying.

He was echoing the words of another man of the cloth, Pastor Siyabonga Mkhalihi of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mkhalihi, in an interview with the Saturday Observer, said many senior preachers seemingly did not know what the Gospel was.

“As a church, we have long missed the plot and strayed to the woods. It is for that reason that when you visit these churches of nowadays you will find prosperity, riches, money and even marriage being preached,” Pastor Mkhalihi said.

ESWATINI IMPORTS E1.9M PRODUCTS FROM CHINA

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI

The country imported products valued at around E1 967 940 (USD 131 196) last year.

The products imported from China were mainly by companies most of whom are of foreign origin, according to a study conducted by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

There are 20 Eswatini-based companies that imported products from China in 2019, according to the study.

This is contained in a statement sent to this publication by the Taiwan Embassy, which is situated in Mbabane.

According to the statement, Eswatini, in 2019 imported products valued at USD 131 196 (around E1 967 940).

The study conducted by the Taiwanese Embassy found that the companies that imported products from China did not actually originate from Eswatini.

They were not affected by the current visa ban effected by China on Eswatini. The statement further

said two of the top five companies that imported products from China to Eswatini were of Taiwanese origin. They are textile manufacturers Zheng Yong and FTM Garments.

These companies, according to the statement, were the first and third largest importers of products from China.

An amount of USD 52 074 (about E781 110) worth of products were imported by these two Taiwanese textile manufacturers last year.

That accounted for 40 per cent of total import of products from China.

Another company cited in the statement is Coca-Cola (Conco Limited).

Showed

The study by the Taiwanese showed that Coca-Cola imported products valued at USD 17 699 (about E265 485) million from China. This accounted for 13.49 per cent of the products imported into the country. On top of that, the statement said there were five other textile manufacturers that accounted for 11 per cent of total import value.

“This explains why no business operator asks for our assistance,”

said the statement.

The statement concluded by saying there were five other chain stores from South Africa that operated in the country.

They were among the top 20 companies that imported products from China into the country.

The companies accounted for 11.2 per cent of the total import value.

About three weeks ago, Taiwan had offered to help business people in the country who experienced problems with importing products from China.

This was said by Taiwan Ambassador to Eswatini Jeremy Liang. He said as Taiwan, they were aware that China was on a mission to make life difficult for countries that recognised Taiwan as their allies.

He said China would do anything to ensure that Eswatini suffered for recognising Taiwan.

Restricting Eswatini from accessing China was one of the ways to bully them from ditching Taiwan.

Liang said they were also aware that business people from this country bought many products from China to run their businesses.

Over E6m imported in three years

Products worth around E6 273 600 have been imported from China to Eswatini in a space of three years.

According to information sourced from Eswatini Revenue Authority by the Embassy of Taiwan, the over E6 million (USD 418 240) was imported from 2016 to 2019.

Zheng Yong, during the three years, is the company that imported most products from China.

The textile company from Taiwan imported products worth USD 132 452 (about E1 986 780) over the

three-year period. Conco Limited imported USD 53 681 (about E805 215) and was followed by FTM Garments, another Taiwanese company by USD 37 973 (about E569 595).

Products

The country's 2019 top 20 traders imported products worth USD 114 969 (about E1 724 535) and they accounted for 87.6 per cent of last year's imports from China.

Textile factories and clothing stores imported USD 79 442 (about E1 191 630).



WORKERS WELFARE AT RFM PATHETIC - STAFF

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital employees have decried the working conditions at the institution.

Some have labelled it as pathetic. The turmoil at the institution is now boiling down to employees not seeing eye to eye as some are allegedly treated fairly than others.

One employee hinted that the issue of trust and transparency was derailing progress at the institution.

Sources within the hospital have shared that there is a policy currently circulating within the institution's management whereby they are planning on eliminating overtime on support staff. This is aimed at reducing the escalating costs in the operations of the institution.

"There is a policy that is being put together aimed at addressing the confusion said to be caused by the overtime by employees, especially the support staff.

"Some employees have complained that they have not being treated fairly, as they were not paid for their overtime allowances while some were paid," said one employee.

Chairperson of a tripartite, which includes the Swaziland Health Institutions and Allied Workers Union (SHIAWU) Gcina Tsela, first thanked the institution's management for processing the workers' salaries after an outcry on the delay.

Tsela stated that it would take time for the institution to overcome the challenges it is facing. He said the problem is that most of the time the employer does not act in good faith.

He made an example of a situation whereby they got to know after 11 months that the employer was not

remitting money to the Pension Fund yet it was deducted from their salaries. "The employer is too proud to admit even when they have committed an error.

"There is no way there can be progress in that kind of working relationship. However, after we got to know of the truth, the employer assured us that as from January 2020, they would be faithful in as far as remitting our monies to the Pension Fund is concerned," said Tsela.

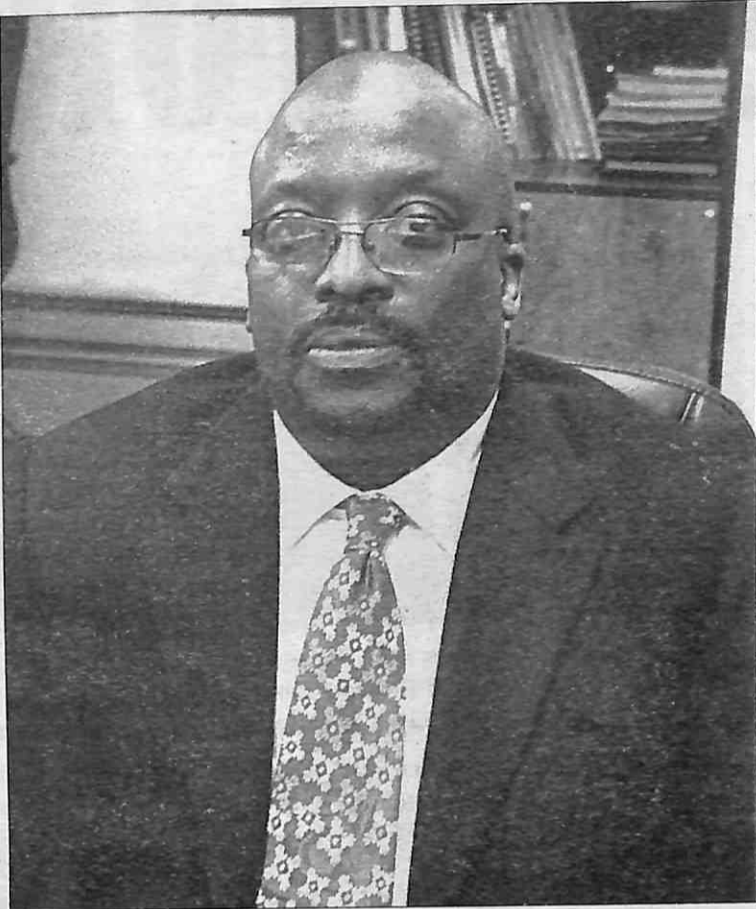
When asked what could be the solution to the institution's problems as it was reported that it was drowning in debts Tsela stated that firstly the institution should try and ascertain the root cause of the problems and rectify them. However, he stated that the subvention granted to the institution by government is meager. He said he expected a slight increase as the institution was currently drowning in debts.

Enraged

In the past week, employees of the institution were enraged after a delay in the release of their salaries. Normally they are paid on the 23rd of every month; however, this month they only got their salaries on the 25th.

Some complained that nobody bothered to inform them that there would be a delay in salaries. Some employees stated that they were hit hard by stop-orders. This matter is not new to the health institution as it has happened in the past, when employees were paid way after payday.

This was attributed to the numerous problems faced by the hospital. Management has been accused of constantly issuing out memorandums summoning all heads of department to meetings to address the matter, with no solution.



Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula.

It has emerged that the institutions accounts had been frozen due to debts.

Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula was quoted by our sister newspaper, the Eswatini Observer, stating that they were aware of the problems at RFM: "The problem is that the subvention that the institution receives from government is not enough to sustain all its problems," he stated.

In another note, this publication recently reported that the institution has an over E53 million deficit. The actual amount of the deficit is E53

130 077. This is contained in an audited statement of comprehensive income by Kobla Quashie and Associates Chartered Accountants (Eswatini) on Eswatini Nazarene Health Institutions (ENHI)'s annual financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019.

The report indicated that the deficit was a slight increase when compared to that the year ended in March, 2018, which was at E53 109 688.

In December 2019, again this publication revealed how ENHI owed E27 million in respect of unpaid pen-

sion. Another publication reported that the health facility also owed E236 million in respect of unpaid taxes.

Through the assistance of government, ENHI recently paid E10.3 million for pension as per the court ruling on December 9, 2015. The actual figure ordered by the court was E20 339 159.

"The institution incurred a net loss of E53 130 077 for the year ended March 31, 2019 and E53 109 688 for the year ended March 31, 2018," reads the report.

It added that this condition along with other matters indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which might cast doubt on the institution's ability to continue as a going concern.

Financial

Kobla Quashie and Associates also noted that the institution owed E205 011 030 in unremitted statutory employee tax (PAYE) to the Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA). The present financial standing of the institution revealed that it would experience difficulties in settling this liability.

"Making enquires as to remitting PAYE to the Eswatini Revenue Authority (ESRA). Requested board minutes held between ENHI Board of Trustee and the ESRA Commissioner regarding settlement of the debt," expanded the report.

The audit report picked that ENHI owes E4 121 008 in unremitted employee pension for the period from January 2019 to March, 2019. The institution owed employee pension benefits of E10 843 770 as per the court ruling of December 9, 2015.

The total liability to the institution relating to employee pension stands at E20 339 159.

Rank	Traders	Industry	Import of 2019	% of total imports	Import of 2016 to 2019
1	Zheng Yong (Taiwan)	Textile	USD 40 976	31.23	USD 132 452
2	Conco Limited (CocaCola)	Beverage	USD 17 699	13.49	USD 53 681
3	FTM Garments (Taiwan)	Textile	USD 11 098	8.45	USD 37 973
4	Fashion International	Textile	USD 5 715	4.35	USD 25 250
5	Clockwork Giant Clothing	Textile	USD 4 927	3.75	USD 22 357
6	Swazi MTN	Telecomms	USD 4 346	3.31	USD 16 039
7	Swazi Mobile	Telecomms	USD 1 198	0.91	USD 10 554
8	Palfridge	Frigo	USD 3 200	2.43	USD 10 332
9	OK Bazaars (SA Chain Store)	Furniture	USD 2 052	1.56	USD 7 970
10	Mr. Price Group (SA Chain Store)	Clothing	USD 1 884	1.43	USD 7 939
11	PEP Stores (SA Chain Store)	Clothing	USD 5 750	4.38	USD 7 811
12	Edgars Stores (SA Chain Store)	Clothing	USD 3 398	2.59	USD 5 109
13	MVTEL (Proprietary)	Telecomms	USD 707	0.53	USD 4 975
14	Afritool (Multi Co.)	Agri Equip	USD 1 842	1.4	USD 4 197
15	Eswatini Electricity Company	Gov	USD 4 188	3.19	USD 4 193
16	Ho's Enterprises (Taiwan)	Textile	USD 756	0.57	USD 3 869
17	TQM Textiles (Taiwan)	Textile	USD 1 281	0.97	USD 3 276
18	The King's Office Projects	Gov	USD 315	0.24	USD 2887
19	Truworths (SA Chain Store)	Clothing	USD 1 666	1.26	USD 2 848
20	Sigma Clothing	Textile	USD 1 971	1.5	USD 2 759
Note 1	The imports and % of top 20 traders		USD 114 969	87.6	
Note 2	The imports and % of textile factories and clothing stores		USD 79 442	60.5	
Note 3	The imports and % of Taiwan local investors		USD 54 111	41.2	
There are only 23 traders that imported more than USD 1 million from China in 2019					
Total Imports	The imports and % of top 20 traders		USD 131 196		USD 418 240

Steenhuisen challenges Ramaphosa to fight for LGBT+ rights in Africa as AU chair

CAPE TOWN - DA interim leader John Steenhuisen has challenged President Cyril Ramaphosa to utilise his position as African Union (AU) chair to fight for the rights of the LGBT+ community throughout the African continent.

Steenhuisen spoke at the 2020 Cape Town Pride festival on Saturday and said it was fitting that it was called "Pride". He added that a quarter of a century ago the gathering would have been illegal.

"There is every reason to be proud because what we see here today is the culmination of a generation's selfless struggle for equality and dignity. We have come so far over the past two decades," Steenhuisen said. He said although the country had come a long way in fighting discrimination against members of the LGBTIQ community, a lot more needed to be done to educate other African countries with repressive laws against same-sex relationships.

Steenhuisen said Ramaphosa owes it to fellow Africans to stand up and defend their freedom on the continent's biggest stage, the AU. "Make it clear that an attack on a member of the LGBTIQ community in Kampala

or Dar es Salaam or Mogadishu is as unacceptable as an attack here at home. Make your term as chair of the AU count, and push hard for the rights of all Africans to be whoever they want to be, and to love whoever they want.

"If you want to make your mark as the head of the AU this year, President Ramaphosa, fighting for the equality and dignity of all Africans would be a source of great pride," Steenhuisen said.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu received a Lifetime Achievement Award for services to the LGBTIQ community from Outreach Africa, the organisers of Cape Town Pride 2020.

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde accepted the award on Tutu's behalf. "The Archbishop sends his love and blessings to all associated with Cape Town Pride 2020. He said I should thank you for honouring 'a decrepit', and apologised for being unable to be with you in person today."

In a statement, the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation said Tutu does not just hate prejudice philosophically, but has also dedicated his life to practically supporting those who are discriminated



DA leader John Steenhuisen.

against, victimised and marginalised. "He has the courage to say things in ways that others might not. There are no holy grails. Thus, with crystal clarity, we know that he would not worship a homophobic God and that if there is homophobia in heaven, he'd rather go to hell," the foundation said. News24

'WE AIM FOR LONGER

STORIES BY BONGUMUSA
SIMELANE

Royal Eswatini National Airways Corporation (RENAC) Board Chairman Mndeni Mazibuko said they would do all in their power to make the Royal Jet partnership longer than the initial agreement of a year.

Mazibuko was speaking during a press conference during the launch of the partnership between Royal Jet and the National Airways yesterday at KMI International Airport.

Mazibuko said that it was very hard to secure an airline to place their flights in a country as there are laws and regulations that need to be followed before such happens.



Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Nduluhlaza Ndwandwe and his colleague from Foreign Affairs Thuli Dladla joined by RENAC Board members, Royal Jet officials and other stakeholders during the launch of the Royal Jet operation at King Mswati III International Airport yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

"I can say that we are happy with the partnership we have with Royal

Jet. And we are going to work hard as RENAC, government and other

stakeholders to make sure that Royal Jet stays with us," he said.

He added that for a plane to be based in a country, there needed to



Public Works and Transport Minister Chief Nduluhlaza who represented the Prime Minister making his remarks.



Royal Jet Commercial Director Simon D'olyly and RENAC Chairman Mndeni Mazibuko sharing a light moment.



The VIP area in the inside of the jet.

ALL SECTORS TO BENEFIT FROM THE DEAL

All sectors of the economy stand to benefit from the spinoffs of the deal clinched to have Royal Jet operate from the country, RENAC stated.

These include hotels, game reserves as well as entrepreneurs dealing in the arts and crafts industry.

"One of the five sectors of the economy identified by His Majesty's government in the Strategic Roadmap is tourism and such partnership creates the right platforms for this industry to thrive," RENAC Chairman Mndeni Mazibuko said.

Mazibuko said the national airline has been given a mandate to revive the aviation industry in Eswatini and draw the much needed traffic to the country's pride, the KMI International Airport.

He said in pursuit of the mandate, RENAC has partnered with Royal Jet, whose bulk of business activity is executive air charter services, aviation consultancy services, aircraft management and aircraft maintenance services.

He said the main aim of the partner-

ship was to enable Royal Jet to base an aircraft at KMI International Airport in order to ascertain existing and potential market opportunities.

The board chairperson thanked the partners, Royal Jet, for agreeing and choosing to base their aircraft in the beautiful kingdom.

"This partnership is one of the many initiatives by RENAC to revive the aviation industry in the country and it will be implemented in phases, the first of which we have just witnessed," he added.

Marketing

He said the next phase would involve vigorous marketing of both the BBJ and MD87 aircraft and the KMI International Airport. He further said the long term goal between the partners is to look at the possibility of establishing a cargo terminal, an aviation school and other mutually beneficial opportunities in the kingdom.

"I'm happy to report that Royal Jet aircraft's line maintenance will be conducted in Eswatini. This will provide an opportunity for skills transfer to the local aircraft engineers, resulting in

increased skills base in the kingdom," said Mazibuko.

He said this partnership would definitely bring the attention of the world to the kingdom and draw the much needed investment in the aviation industry, which in turn would contribute to the GDP of the country.

Mazibuko said there were both tangible and intangible immediate benefits to the country flowing from this partnership.

He said there was jet fuel and ground handling services that are available in the country.

These will be provided by RENAC and bring revenue to the corporation. "The crew for the aircraft will be based locally, thus using our hotels and shops. This will have positive spinoffs to the economy, in significant as it may look," he said.

Worth noting is that the partners have also agreed on the sharing of profits to be generated from the operation. He said all of these would reduce the reliance of RENAC on the national budget for its operations.

'ESWATINI NEEDS TO CAPITALISE ON AVIATION INDUSTRY'

Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Eswatini National Airways Corporation President Dhlamini said the country needs to take advantage of the aviation industry.

He said because Eswatini is a landlocked country, there was need to make use of the industry to boost the country's commercial performance.

Dhlamini stated that the partnership with Royal Jet was one of the few projects in the pipeline by RENAC towards transforming the aviation industry.

Dhlamini said for the past 20 years the aviation industry had faced challenges that need to be addressed through innovative ideas.

"That's why we are investing a lot in the aviation industry because we have



RENAC CEO President Dhlamini passing a vote of thanks.

learnt that in the past 20 years training was lacking and now we want to assure

partners and the nation that the aviation industry will be different," he said.

ROYAL JET STAY'

be a market analysis to determine the possibilities of failures and risks that may be faced by an airline. He said that was done to avoid financial losses.

Mazibuko said there was a lot of funding and investments needed for such to happen. He said it is not a decision that can be made overnight. He said it needs a lot of time, proper planning and procedures.

The board chairman added that they were very grateful for the partnership with Royal Jet and as an organisation, they were praying and hoping that the relationship continues to thrive.



Fire engines on standby as the plane landed at KMill International Airport.

Tourism industry ready to soar – ETA

The Eswatini Tourism Authority has assured the nation that it is ready to catapult the country to be one of the tourism hubs in Africa.

This was said by ETA Head of Marketing Siboniso Madlopha. Madlopha said the country's partnership with Royal Jet would see a boom in the tourism industry, hence called upon ETA and other tourism stakeholders to rise up to the challenge.

Madlopha said the partnership launched yesterday would bring tourists directly into the kingdom and those tourists have planned to spend more days in the kingdom. "Such tourists will be spending a lot in our tourism facilities and so we are ready as we will be meeting them to discuss how we can attract more tourists into the country," he said.

The head of marketing said they would have subsequent meetings with the Royal Jet operators to ensure that they have a full package of the country.

Proximity

He made reference to the fact that the KMill was in close proximity with some of the game reserves where a tourist can take a 20 minutes' drive and be able to see the big five while surrounded by other facilities. Madlopha further said there was a snowballing of opportunities and a lot of sectors that would benefit from the partnership. He said skills transfer was one of the opportunities as Royal Jet has promised to train local engineers on maintaining the airplanes. Madlopha was making reference to the Royal Jet's Simon's presentation who said they were planning to capacitate local engineers in the aviation industry. Madlopha said this would boost the aviation industry of the country and the local engineers would acquire to get a lot of skills from the United Arab Emirates experts. On the other hand, Royal Jet's Simon D'Oyly said with Eswatini's unique culture, the company would thrive to ensure that Eswatini's was marketed throughout Africa and the world to help it become a tourism hub. D'Oyly said it was their passion to improve the aviation industry of the country and that could only be achieved through sound and vibrant partnerships with RENAC, government and Royal Jet.

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SANU students demand their monies back

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

The relationship between the Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) and students degenerated into unprecedented levels when students demanded that the institution pays back its SRC membership fees this week.

This after the unceremonious demotion of the students from their positions in the Student Representative Council (SRC), following the protracted fight with the institution that has lasted months.

As a result, students now want the release of their monies from the institution's administration.

Initially, each student who enrolls at the institution is obliged to pay E150 per academic year. The money caters for situations whereby one of the students is bereaved, or during sporting activities.

Eligible

According to some students, they are now worried how they will access the money as the only authorities eligible to claim it are members of the SRC.

"We wonder what will happen to our monies now that the SRC has been fired," commented one student, who revealed that according to the consti-



tution only SRC members are at liberty to make claims from the coffers of the administration.

"Normally, the money helps when one of us is bereaved. We also use the money for transport to funerals, also when we want to deliver petitions in Mbabane we use the money, all in all it assists in unbudgeted events," said one student.

Another student, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they cannot sit back and not demand their money back. He said unless the administration explains how they can access it in case they want to utilise it, they want

the monies returned to them.

"We cannot sit back and do nothing about our money. The former SRC could have used the same funds in legal fees, if their case ended up in court." It emerged that the reason the students are demanding the money back is because they were informed that if they do not get it back now or have a clear explanation on how it would be kept they may end up not getting it. Normally, when the SRC leaves office they declare the money left in the bank account.

A questionnaire was sent to SANU administration enquiring about the matter. The Marketing Manager Petros

Mavuso briefly said: "We acknowledge the current situation at the institution in regard to the former members of the SRC. What we would like to state is that SANU has communication structures in place to address concerns students may have. We would like to encourage our students to always follow these structures to raise any issues they may have." The marketing manager referred further questions on the matter to the chief electoral officer. This officer coordinates SRC elections at the institutions. When called numerous times yesterday, his phone was not available on the mobile network.

Suspended

This newspaper reported in its previous edition that three students who were suspended by the university are reportedly receiving treatment for depression. Coincidentally, the students are part of the seven who were suspended from the institution for allegedly engaging in unlawful class boycott. They are now back in class after Senate ruled in their favour.

In different interviews conducted by this newspaper, the students disclosed that it has not been an easy journey for some of them. They said three of their colleagues were once admitted at the Psychiatric Centre and diagnosed with depression. Mavuso disclosed that the

office of the registrar would always assist where the students need help. He said the university has structures in place and the DSA's office is always available to respond to students' concerns.

He was also asked to explain why some of the students were forced to step down from the SRC. He explained that: "The University Senate makes independent decisions on academic matters and extra-curricula matters."

The students were once stopped from registering for the second semester. The registration deadline at SANU was on January 9, and none of the students suspended by the institution were allowed to register. Late last year, while on suspension, the members also missed their examinations.

Led

These include the Minister of Sports Holinhlhla Matsebula (Year 2), Vice-Secretary General (Year 2) Mfundo Gamedze well as Sibusiso Nkwanyana (Year 3). The others are SANU SRC President Tholumuzi Gubevu Simelane and Secretary General Xolani Khulekani Maseko. These SRC members are the individuals who led a class boycott within premises of the school which turned violent. They were suspended on November 11, 2019. On November 25, SANU served the seven students with a communiqué which invited them to a disciplinary hearing at the SANU Faculty of Health Sciences Boardroom. The boycott left one of the students Phephile Sifundza shot in the leg and she was admitted at RFM Hospital. She also missed the first semester exams last year. It could not be ascertained if she will be able to sit for this semester.

Soldiers accused of being selective in handling cases

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

Soldiers manning the cordon fence at Malutha have been accused of being picky when it comes to dealing with criminal activities brought to their attention.

Community members of Malutha accuse the army of only focusing on car smugglers and dagga dealers.

They allege that once one reports stock theft, the soldiers do not respond as promptly as expected.

This frustrates the community members and they now contemplate taking the matter into their own hands.

A Dlamini homestead of Madlabazi in Malutha complained bitterly about the services rendered by the security service guiding the cordon fence.

Impossible

They claim that each time they report their stolen livestock, they are told to guard them from crossing to South Africa. They claim it is impossible to guard the livestock even during the night.

"Each time we lose our livestock to South Africa, we report to the soldiers at the fence but we never get assistance. We have opted to take matters into our own hands. We cannot afford to continue losing our livestock to the South Africans, some of us are not employed, and depend on these livestock for survival. We managed to take our children to school because of the livestock," explained Dlamini.

One of the soldiers stationed at the fence captain Dlamini, refuted the allegations levelled against them, saying they try to resolve every case of stock theft brought to their attention.

He said they work closely with their South African counterparts.

He mentioned that the major cause of the problem was that the cordon fence is now damaged, which makes it easy for livestock to cross to the neighbouring country.

"May I advise the homesteads near the fence to look after their livestock to avoid situations where you find that they cross to South Africa. It then becomes difficult to get them back once they are that side," said Dlamini.

Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) spokesperson Tengetile Khumalo said if the residents have grievances against the troops stationed at the base in question, they should follow the appropriate channels in addressing the matter. "The UEDF would like to reaffirm the duty of the community that they are also morally obliged to safeguard their livestock."

Rustling

It is worth mentioning that the police from the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cattle rustling which was implemented in 2014.

A couple of months ago, residents of Lundzi situated near the borderline separating Eswatini and South Africa also complained of the same problem.

Residents of the area asserted that it had more to do with organised crime and a demand for meat.

According to sources at Lundzi, the problem was once spotted in 2017. They stated that a syndicate wiped a number of their livestock and three suspects were apprehended and thoroughly assaulted by the community members. Unfortunately, they all died. Amongst the suspects, two were Emaswati and

one was a South African.

"We strongly believe that some of the community members work closely with their South African counterparts in this illegal act. What makes matters worse is the fact that our livestock is stolen in broad daylight. Maybe this is because the cordon fence has been destroyed and in other parts it has been cut," said one female resident.

This publication tried to ascertain as to where the soldiers were when all this happens, however, there was no straight answer as some stated that the soldiers were always on guard along the fence.

When this newspaper visited the area, there was no soldier on sight, the Observer team crossed to the South African side and walked for almost 200 metres and still there was no member of the defence service.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the report of livestock being stolen at Lundzi and surrounding areas.

Confirmed

She said they had been informed that community members had formed groups with the intention to cross to South Africa to get back their livestock.

Vilakati warned the community against taking the law into their hands, as there were laid down structures that should be followed.

She said that could pose a danger to them.

She further confirmed that the two countries signed an MoU on cattle rustling which would facilitate dealing with such matters. She assured the Lundzi community that the police were doing everything in their power to apprehend the culprits.

Ministry of tourism PS retires

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, has retired.

His last day at work was January 24. Dlamini had been with the ministry for sometime. As PS he used to supervise all the ministry's departments, and also serviced as the controlling officer of the ministry's fiscal allocation.

Sources within the ministry of tourism confirmed the retirement of the PS, revealing that beginning of 2020 he was already at home. It was gathered that currently the under secretary at the ministry is holding the reins for now.

Executive Secretary at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Amos Ngwenya confirmed the retirement of Dlamini. However, he referred further questions to the ministry of tourism.

"Yes, I can confirm that Dlamini is no longer an employee of government as he has reached the retirement age of 60 and he is now at home. For more information, please liaise with his former superiors; the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs," said Ngwenya.

Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati said they would miss Dlamini at the ministry. He said he would be remembered for the role he played in climate change. Vilakati said Dlamini developed the Eswatini climatological database system and the

Eswatini public weather forecast system.

"He previously served as Director of the Eswatini Meteorological Services before being the Principal Secretary. He was also the Eswatini National Climate Change Focal Point. He contributed immensely to the production of Eswatini's first, second and third national communication," said the minister.

Dlamini holds a BSc, majoring in Mathematics and Physics, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Meteorology and an MSc in Computer Science focusing on climate database.

According to information sourced from the ministry of tourism website, Dlamini was the lead negotiator of Eswatini under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Over the years, he chaired the African Group of Negotiators under the UNFCCC, Chaired the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Science and Technological Advice. He also served under the UNFCCC Chair of the Subsidiary body of implementation.

”

He previously served as the Director of the Eswatini Meteorological Services before being the Principal Secretary

'Stop killing snakes'

STORIES BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

The first thing that comes to mind when one is confronted by a snake is to kill it, if not run for dear life.

This is the dilemma faced by most people.

However, the answer to this predicament is not to kill the snake.

This is the expert opinion offered by one of the country's renowned snake catchers Benedict Bennett, who told this newspaper this week that the killing of snakes was wrong.

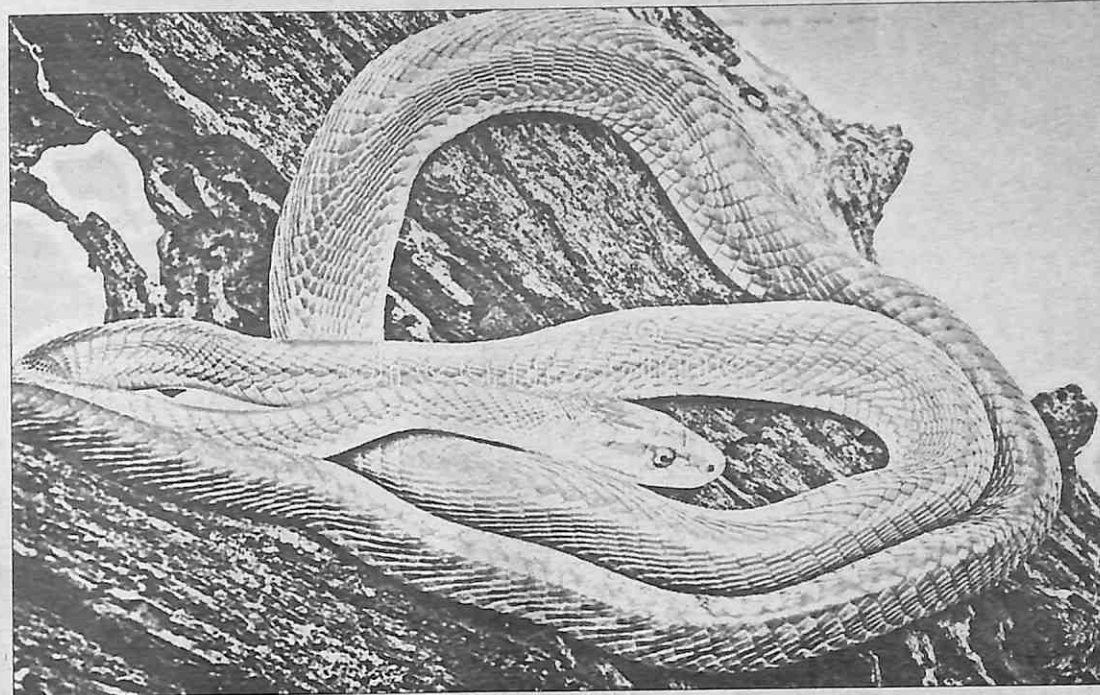
Pupils at Siteki Nazarene reportedly killed a black mamba when it was discovered within the school premises. The snake was discovered in one of the agriculture sheds used to accommodate chickens.

Responding to this, Bennett echoed the words of anti-venom activist Thea Litscha-Koen, had who also said the snake should not have been killed.

Bennett called upon the public to refrain from killing snakes because they are an endangered species, and must be protected at all costs!

Taking good care of the reptile is important as people in different sectors of society would love to know more about snakes. According to Bennett, who is a member of the Eswatini Anti-Venom Foundation, many individuals are interested in snakes for research purposes. The foundation boasts a membership of over 50. Bennett is one of the specialist snake catchers who has helped save many people from snakes.

His love of snakes is what drove him to become a snake-catcher,



something he has done out of his own volition, including responding to calls from panic-stricken members of society. He explained that people should understand that snakes were not out to kill, it is just that human beings had encroached on the natural environment of the reptiles and they find themselves without sufficient space.

"We must also be aware of the fact that humans have now domesticated animals the reptiles feed on like chickens. Hence, you would find snakes intruding homes either for the chickens or eggs hatched by the chickens," explained Bennett.

What is striking is that Bennett once had a phobia for snakes, until he decided to do something about it. This is when he enrolled for training on how to capture a snake, which was held at Nisela Safaris,

and covered training on snake identification and handling.

He said one had to be good in both identifying and handling a snake. He stated that the identification part helped in knowing what kind of equipment to use when handling the snake.

"The equipment used in handling a black mamba is different from the one used in a rinchals (*phemphet-fwane*). The course helped me a lot in that regard. I must state that it does not take long to master the art of handling snakes, it could take a day or two depending on how fast and passionate you are in knowing the job," said Bennett. Being a snake catcher has been turned into a thriving profession in other countries and pays handsomely, which is not lost on Bennett and many members of the foundation in

Eswatini.

He called upon Emaswati to join their organisation so that they could be of help to the society.

Bennett explained that they still need more snake catchers. He said currently the ones they had were mainly in the Mbabane-Manzini corridor. He would like to see more snake catchers in the other regions of the country, especially in Lubombo and Shiselweni. For those who may be interested in the art of handling snakes, the Eswatini Anti-Venom Foundation will be conducting trainings on how to identify and handle snakes on March 21 at the Mbabane Club.

Registration for the course is E300 per person. The course attendees will be provided with certificates after the training. This is a one day training.

Too many false alarms

Members of the Eswatini Anti-Venom Foundation are always a phone call away to come to the rescue of those confronted with snakes.

They use their own resources, including transport, to attend to the calls for help.

But, too often these have been sent on a wild goose chase by members of the public, which is now a concern for snake catchers.

Misleading

"We are concerned with the frequency of the false alarms from the public," said Bennett this week. He made an example of how others give misleading information, saying they had been attacked by a black mamba when in fact it is a different kind of snake, 'probably a not so venomous one'. Bennett revealed that this delays the capturing of the snake as they would have to find the right equipment to handle that particular snake. "The public needs to consider that getting to their places is an expense; we need to fuel our cars so they must give us correct information," he stated.

Branding

"Also, I want to clarify that we do not have a green mamba in the country, you can only find those kind of snakes in coastal places like KwaZulu-Natal." He said Emaswati often make the mistake of branding every green snake as a green mamba. He also appealed for support from members of the public. He said they need more equipment, especially the anti-venom.

They rely on sponsors who provide them with the anti-venom but it is never enough.

Bennett has an impressive resume of snakes that he has been able to handle after calls from desperate members of the public.

He also records videos of the different instances he has attended to calls, as well as varying types of snakes he has handled. In one such video, is a frightening black mamba which invaded a homestead in a suburb in Ezulwini. The owners of the home were fortunate enough to identify the snake before it entered the house.

It was seen trying to force its way into the house through the glass door, fortunately the snake catchers were called in time to take it away.

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

Shisanyama a 'thorn in the flesh' for Matsapha Municipality

Shisanyama business is literally in every corner and street in Matsapha, much to the annoyance of the council.

It has left the leadership of the local authority in a dilemma to rid the council of every *shisanyama*, despite that these are booming businesses for those who earn a living out of them.

The town council insists that *shisanyamas* are illegal businesses in Matsapha. Raids have not helped solve the problem, which include taking away the items. As soon as they have cleared the streets, a *shisanyama* vendor sets up stall again, and then it is business as usual.

Instead of the council 'cleaning' its street of the illegal businesses, *shisanyamas* are still littered all over, and those running them are determined to defy the council - because they claim this is their only source of income.

Shisanyama is a term used in many townships to describe a barbecue or braai where people come together to grill meat in an open fire.

Street foods like the *shisanyama* are perceived to be a major public health

risk due to lack of basic infrastructure and services and there is difficulty in controlling the large numbers of street food vending operations because of their diversity.

"*Shisanyama* is welcomed by most quarters of the townships because it solves major social and economic problems through the provision of ready-made meals at relatively inexpensive prices and employment for teeming rural and urban populace along its value chain. However, due to the informal nature of the business, the activities we are engaged in are not regulated," said one of those running a *shisanyama* this week.

Strengthening "Street food vend-

ing is a common feature of most cities and towns, active collaboration of all stakeholders toward the strengthening and proper enforcement of public health policies to ensure safe practices and create safer and healthier society is recommended."

Many of the people running these know that their businesses are classified as illegal around the Matsapha industrial area. "But there is nothing we can do because we have to support our families," said another *shisanyama* vendor. According to these vendors, they have been made aware that the municipality wants to conduct a raid in

all the *shisanyama* businesses. "They usually raid us, and take our things, however, it is not like we are being rebellious, but we are also trying to make ends meet."

There are no jobs, our children are unemployed, they have finished school and wondering around with nothing to do," said one businessman.

Matsapha Municipality Public Relations Officer (PRO) Babhekile Dlamini said as far as she is concerned, they do not have *shisanyama* businesses within the boundaries of the town. She said most of the businesses were removed in 2012, and only vendors dealing in goods were relocated to designated spots.

Manage

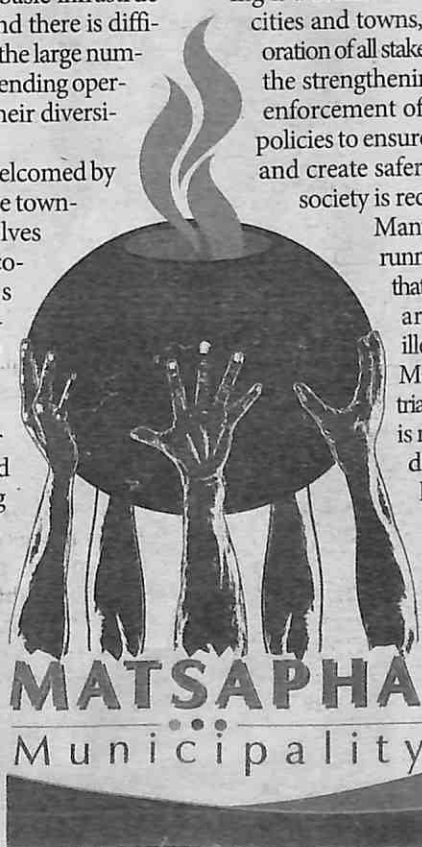
"The town is mandated by the Market Regulations of 1970 and the Urban Government Act and its regulations to manage and control informal trade within the urban space. We also have an informal trade policy that regulates their trade in town," explained Dlamini.

She further shared that a night inspection was once done last year in November, and illegal vending was

discovered. She said all the illegal vending goods were confiscated and disposed in the presence of the market master. Vending goods were guided by the trading license order of 1975.

"All vendors must have permits and identification vending cards depicting their names and picture on them. A fee of E100 is charged should you be found trading illegally, also the goods are confiscated and released upon payment of the fee," she explained. According to the municipality annual report for 2018-2019, the town has over the years evolved into being Eswatini's investment hub and a home to over 700 formal business operations as well as over 300 informal traders.

The report states that as the town's population continues to grow, there is a need to strengthen environment and public health interventions aimed at safeguarding health, safety and the environment. It asserts that high population growth coupled with industrial and economic development is a cause for concern to the earth's finite natural systems and resources.





Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule ministering the word of God at the Back to the Cross Crusade on Thursday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Guest preacher Bishop Nash Shongwe sharing the Word.



Some of the congregants queueing to be prayed for by the men of God.

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WE'VE COME

BY SIMON SHABANGU

Bishop Nash Shongwe this week opened up about his long-standing relationship with another of his protégés, Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule.

Shongwe told the congregation during the 'Back to the Cross' crusade that they have a history such that Bishop Nkambule could write a best-selling book about him.

Bishop Nash said he and the founder of the Ambassador's House Ministries International both fellowshiped at Assemblies of God

before following their calling and started their ministries.

Bishop Nash was speaking at the Back to the Cross Crusade on Thursday night where he was the guest preacher.

Memory

The congregants who had braved the chilly weather were left in stitches as the two bishops went down memory lane.

Bishop Nash said God had blessed him with true friends like Bishop Mpendulo, who knows his early days in the ministry and still believes in the message of the cross that God



The two bishops embracing.



Bishops Shongwe and Nkambule joined by Reverend Ndlangamandla as they prayed for Zanele Mbokazi.



Bishop Shongwe leading the congregation in prayer.



The praise team members in song and dance.



The men of God in conversation before for those who got saved for the repented.

A LONG WAY – BISHOP NASH

had bestowed upon him.

"The way he has elaborated on our background I am convinced that Mpendulo can write a book about me without even asking me a single question. I thank God that I have people like him who have a true story to tell the world about me, despite all that has been said.

Social Media

"In this ministry, people speak all sorts of things about you yet they do not even know where you come from with your the ministry," he said.

The bishop said he was pleasantly surprised one day when he woke

up to a touching post on Facebook shared by Bishop Mpendulo.

He shared that Nkambule said a lot of positive things about him.

Prayer

"I received calls from even abroad as people thought I was dead!" he said, much to the excitement of the congregants.

"I realised that the bond we have is still strong. I was deeply touched and thought I would die. I was surprised he even recalled a prayer I did over 20 years ago when I was 'raising' a man who had been condemned dead," he jokingly said.

Meanwhile, Bishop Mpendulo

said he was pleased with the success of the crusade as people attended in their numbers on daily basis despite the persistent rains almost every day of the crusade. "We were also graced by Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku, who has supported my ministry for many years.

"His presence at the crusade gave us courage to press on because this is a sign of endorsement and approval of what we are doing for the Kingdom and the people of God," he said.

Bishop Shongwe also had a special prayer for Nkambule's wife Zanele and thanked God for saving her from

the claws of death after she was involved in a near fatal accident.

She survived the accident unscratched while the car was a write-off. Meanwhile, the crusade that started last Sunday ends today.

Prayer for King, country's leadership

His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Indlovukazi, Cabinet and others in leadership positions. He said it was only through prayers that the leadership would continue to be in authority and take the country to even greater heights.

He said Kings were ordained by God who command that the nation especially the church to pray for them at all times. He said as church leaders, they had a duty to pray for them.

"We are commanded by God to pray for our King. He needs the protection from above. So our prayers are needed to shield him from all the enemies that seek to destabilise his leadership and smooth running of the country. I declare that no weapon formed against our King and the country shall prosper. Eswatini has been described as the pulpit of Africa. I pray that the country continue to have a good environment for the church so that could God display His might and put our country in its rightful position in all spheres," said the bishop.

The bishop also called upon all church leaders and ministers of the word to always dedicate time to pray for the King.

He said the challenges faced by the country need the church to pray for the leadership so that they could make wise decisions and find solutions. He declared that Eswatini would continue to rise.



Bishop Mpendulo and his wife Zanele posing with Bishop Nash and Reverend Ndlangamandla.



A section of ongrogants who attend the crusade.



Bishop Shongwe praying for one of the congregants during the service.



WaterAid

Eswatini

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Expression of Interest for Formulation of a Regulatory Framework for Private-Public Partnership in Rural Water Supply in Eswatini

Established in 1981, WaterAid is an international non-governmental organization focused on improving people's access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation in developing countries. It works on the basis that water and sanitation are basic human rights, and are essential services vital for health, education and livelihoods. WaterAid has been working in Eswatini since 2012.

WaterAid Eswatini, calls for proposals (including technical and financial) from interested and eligible consulting firms/individual consultants for the "Formulation of a Regulatory Framework for Private-Public Partnership in Rural Water Supply in Eswatini".

Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the required service outlined above can be accessed at <https://wateraideswatini.blogspot.com/> or can be collected directly from WaterAid Eswatini Offices Mbabane, Along Somhlolo Road, Lilunga House, Ground Floor, Office G6 or call 2404 8812 between 08:30 and 16:30pm.

The application should demonstrate sound knowledge, technical skills and capability as required by the nature of the assignment and understanding of the requisite task set forth in the scope of work.

Interested and eligible consulting firms/individual service providers are requested to submit their proposals through email addressed to the Chief Water Engineer (Services) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy - Department of Water Affairs, email: khozamm@gmail.com copied to WaterAid Eswatini Office Admin on email: WASWAAdmin@wateraid.org on or before 12th of March 2020 by 17:00hrs (Swaziland time) titled with the subject 'Private Public Partnership Regulatory Framework for Rural Water Supply'. Companies should enclose copies of company registration certificate, most recent tax clearance certificate, VAT registration, and company/personnel profile.

Note: Proposals that will be submitted after the set deadline will not be considered and ALL submission must be done via email.

POVERTY A DRIVER OF EARLY, UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

STORIES BY NOMTHANDAZO NKAMBULE

Eswatini needs robust strategies to effectively deal with issues of early and unintended pregnancies (EUP).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) HIV and Health Education Eswatini National Programme Officer Dr Bethusile Mahlalela said there was evidence that teenage pregnancy had not decreased over time; rates have either stabilised or increased. For example, she said, DHS data demonstrated that in Malawi, pregnancy rates had increased from 26 per cent in 2010 to 29 per cent in 2016. In Namibia, rates rose from 15 per cent in 2006 to 19 per cent in 2013; and in Uganda, rates increased from 23.8 per cent in 2011 to 24.8 per cent in 2016.

She said in the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) region, early pregnancies were more common in rural areas, among girls with low education levels and those that are from the poorest households.

"Poverty is a key driver because teenage girls are able to obtain money and material goods that would otherwise be unaffordable through relationships with older men, who give



UNESCO HIV and Health Education Eswatini National Programme Officer Dr Bethusile Mahlalela.

them basic goods and/or gifts in exchange for a sexual relationship. As such, there is need to craft strategies that will deal with poverty so as to deal with issues of EUP," she said.

Dr Mahlalela said in Eswatini the EUP rates were slightly higher in urban settings than the rural areas at 18.5 per cent in the urban area and 17 per cent in the rural area. The level of education and poverty being a determinant, the rate of girls with primary education being 26.3 per cent and those with secondary education being 14.2 per cent. She said

early marriage was a cultural norm that both leads to and results from adolescent pregnancy.

She added that child sexual abuse, sexual coercion and/or sexual assault were additional important drivers of early pregnancy as well as lack of access to SRH services despite a sexual activity.

Analysis

Dr Mahlalela said in 2017 UNESCO conducted a situational analysis in 10 countries, namely Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

and Zimbabwe.

She said the percentage of young women aged 15-19 years who had been pregnant was high in all countries – at least 15 per cent according to DHS data, and more than 25 per cent in Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia and 17 per cent in Eswatini (MICS) 2014. Dr Mahlalela said to mitigate EUP, amongst other things it was recommended that there is a need to strengthen and adequately resource multi-sectoral committees/technical working groups that deal with EUPs to tap into the expertise and roles of different sectors that complement each other such as education, health, police, social welfare, youth and gender.

Also, countries including Eswatini, must develop and finalise learner pregnancy management policies depending on country.

"Policies need to be comprehensive by including the rights and responsibilities of different role players as well as implementation of guidelines and mechanisms to manage learner pregnancy."

She said adolescent girls from poor, rural communities, with low levels of education were most affected by EUP. Dr Mahlalela said poverty was a driver of child marriage and transactional/intergenerational sex which leads to unprotected sex/no contra-

ception use.

She said in response to EUP, at regional level there was the ESA commitment of reducing pregnancy among young people by 75 per cent by 2020. Other policy documents that align to the ESA commitment were the minimum standards for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health in the SADC Region (2015); and the SADC Parliamentary Forum Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage (2016). "At country level we have the Children's Protection and Welfare ACT of 2012, the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018, the Eswatini National Education and Training Policy of 2018, the Sexual Reproductive Health Policy of 2013 and Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Framework of 2013, to name a few."

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Policies need to be comprehensive by including the rights and responsibilities of different role players as well as implementation of guidelines and mechanisms to manage learner pregnancy

Girl child empowered by Bantwana Initiative

The Dreams Innovation Challenge by Bantwana Initiative proved effective as many girls at Sithobela constituency migrated to respective tertiary institutions within the country.

Bantwana Initiative Programme Manager Samu Busika said the Dreams Innovation Challenge spanned from October, 2016 until September, 2019. It was a PEPFAR funded project.

She said it targeted adolescent girls and young women who had dropped out of school because of teenage pregnancy between the ages of 15-24 in Siphofaneni and Sithobela inkhundla. "The goal was

to help young mothers and young wives who have been forced into parenthood by early pregnancy circumstances or even forced into being wives at a young age as a result of pregnancy to continue with their education knowing that an increase in education decreases the HIV vulnerability. The out of school adolescent girls and young women were provided with an alternative education pathway through none formal education provided by Emlalatini Development centre for secondary and high school and worked with Sebenta National institute for those who dropped out at primary school," she said, adding that the programme

organised decentralised classes on weekends which were facilitated by high school teachers in Siphofaneni High and Maloyi High Schools.

She added that all the girls sat for the same external examination being conducted by the Examination Council of Eswatini.

Complex

Busika added that the project was very complex and needed the full engagement of parents or caregivers of the girls who were critical in supporting the vulnerable girls within their families.

Also critically important was the usage of community mentors who were the ones supporting the girls

in their education and helping them address other challenges they faced.

The engagement of community gatekeepers was also important.

Through the project, Busika said there were community dialogues which addressed the social and gender norms that created barriers for girls in accessing education. The community dialogues were happening in 13 communities in Siphofaneni and Sithobela targeting the care givers and community leaders. Community leaders were also facilitating parts of the dialogues.

"We learnt through this project that teenage mothers are very vulnerable. They deal with a lot of challenges and need very good support not only from their families, but

from the wider community in order for them to successfully go back to school and be retained. At the end of the project we had many girls graduate to colleges from across the country including UNESWA, SANU, Limkokwing and Ngwane College to mention a few. We also had a large number of girls going back to mainstream schools and have done well in the past year," she said.

She noted that the baby daddies had a lot of influence and control on the girls particularly because of financial dependency. "They tend to get jealous when the young mothers go back to school and are not as supportive. They tend to threaten them that if they continue with school, they will not pay child support."

Franchising deal hinders further development at Pigg's Peak Hotel

BY NOMTHANDAZO NKAMBULE

Failure to acquire a franchising deal at the Pigg's Peak Hotel hinders further development at the facility which might result to sustainability.

This is one of the few challenges cited in the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs second quarter performance report of 2019/20.

The report said though the hotel was performing quite well as regards gen-

erating revenue, the facility had difficulty in developing future plans for sustainability due to the pending issue of finalising the franchising deal.

Another challenge cited by the report was that there were no enablers for the casino and that capital projects such as the walkway and first floor roofing had been stalled due to the financial challenges continuously faced by the company.

The Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino is a company owned by Eswatini government. It is a Category A public enterprise entity under the ministry

of tourism and environmental affairs.

According to the report, the hotel continues to make efforts to perform well. During the period under review, the net losses decreased by seven per cent. The major contributing factor to the decrease in losses/increase in profitability was a better cost control, increase in revenue.

Total revenue from sales for the quarter amounted to E5.06 million which was an increase by five per cent from previous quarter's revenue of E4.82 million.

"The reason for the increase was

attributed to increased leisure activities in the beginning of the summer season. The average occupancy rate for the period under review stood at 30 per cent. This indicated an increase of 1.34 per cent from the first quarter average of 28.66 per cent. Casino revenue increased by 2 per cent the previous quarter. However, the casino continues to be subsidised by the hotel. In a bid to find an operator for the hotel, eight proposals were received, evaluated and were submitted to the shareholder for consideration," reads the report as part.



The report noted that the hotel had lined up a number of future plans which would result to the rehabilitation and renovation of some facilities in the hotel. The hotel also plans to attract tourists from the Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces in South Africa as well as from Mozambique.

COMMUNITY RADIOS JOIN FIGHT AGAINST GBV

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI

The community radio organisations of Eswatini have come together in fighting gender-based violence (GBV).

They are working with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in this endeavour after observing that women, especially in rural areas, are the ones at the receiving end of GBV.

The programme has been dubbed #metoo (breaking the silence).

The community radios operate under the Swaziland Community Multimedia Network (SCMN), which serves as an umbrella organisation of the community radios in the country. SCMN is chaired by Ambrose Zwane, who is the founder of Lubombo Community Radio.

Zwane said SCMN decided to join the country in fighting GBV.

He noted that GBV was prevalent in the country, adding that it was tainting Eswatini's image.

He said GBV was happening mainly in the communities and women were usually the ones who were vulnerable to such barbaric acts.

"SCMN decided that it is necessary for the community radio organisa-



Children recording a radio show in Eswatini. This is not to say the people in this picture are directly involved with the story. (Pic: news.bbc.co.uk)

tion to empower women by educating them on their rights, especially in light of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018."

Zwane said the SODV Act was the right piece of legislation that women could use to protect themselves from perpetrators of GBV.

He commended Parliament for

playing a huge role in passing the legislation for women to be protected.

Communication

The chairman said their role in this initiative was to help women with communication skills so that they could share ideas on how to tackle this scourge. He said they empowered women on how to use social

media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp to create groups where they would communicate and share ideas.

Zwane said women would also be taught how to produce radio programmes that would directly address such issues. The radio programmes would help remove myths and fears engulfing women when they want

to speak out on GBV.

Zwane said SCMN was working with NGOs like the Foundation for Socio Economic Justice (FSEJ), Gcama Mfati (Chakaza) Women in Network, COSPE and Swaziland Rural Women Assembly (SRWA).

He said the organisations enlighten them on what was really happening to women in rural areas. Members of the organisations are the ones situated in rural areas.

He mentioned that such organisations had their development partners that funded their respective initiatives.

He said it was important for them to be empowered so that they could be protected from possible injuries and deaths. He said the programme of empowering the women started towards the end of last year and would end this year.

“

SCMN decided that it is necessary for the community radio organisation to empower women by educating them on their rights, especially in light of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018

Community radios increasing

Community radio organisations are increasing in the country.

The community radio initiative was an idea conceived in the late 90s by SCMN Chairman Ambrose Zwane, who is the founder of Lubombo Community Radio. Zwane stated that Lubombo Community Radio started applying for a radio broadcasting licence back in 1999. At that time, Lubombo Community Radio was the only community broadcaster in the country. They were soon joined by Shiselweni Community Radio in Matsanjeni.

Currently, community radio organisations are divided according to administrative regions and according to interest. Zwane said there were four community radio stations in the country, with one situated in each of the four regions of the country.

Two of them are registered and they include Lubombo and Shiselweni community radio stations.

Manzini and Hhohho community radio stations are in the process of being registered. Other community radio stations (community of

interest) include the UNESWA Campus Radio, Seventh Day Adventist, and the Council of Churches, according to Zwane.

He said all those were in the process of being registered.

Zwane said the community radio initiatives were meant to empower all members of the community in which the radio stations operated.

The increase of the community radio stations in the country, according to Zwane, resulted to the establishment of SCMN.

Established

He said SCMN was meant to bring the community radio organisations together so that they could speak in one voice to government about their needs as community radios.

Zwane added that SCMN was established after they realised that community radio organisations would not just be radio stations.

He said the mass media was dynamic and had to include other forms of media like television and newspapers. It was for that reason that they formed the SCMN so that they could find a way of incorporating other forms of media.

WOMEN FEEL EMPOWERED

Women have said the empowerment programme by SCMN and its partners is very helpful.

The women participated through their various organisations like the Swaziland Rural Women Assembly and Gcama Mfati. Swaziland Rural Women Assembly Chairperson Lonhlanhla Mthethwa-Masuku said her organisation had been empowering rural women to know and love themselves first.

The aim of these teachings is to empower women to protect themselves from abuse in their homes. In order for them to be able to do so, they have to know themselves first so that they could gain the confidence to face the challenges of abuse.

The chairperson said women were divided into certain groups, with the first ones being classified as 'loyal'. She said these women would honestly work for their employers for a long time. The other type was the 'boxer' type, who would work hard in their homes, no matter what. Even if their husbands would go to work in the mines for a long time, these women would not leave their marital homesteads. Instead, they

would improve their homes and children.

The other type was identified as the 'me-type', which would make a decision quickly after realising that they were being abused. The last type was the 'IT-type', which do things using the latest technological gadgets. These women make things happen using their cell phones and other technological gadgets.

With this information, Mthethwa-Masuku said the women who were empowered were able to note where they fitted. She said they also simplified the SODV Act for the women to understand how they could use it to protect themselves. After being educated, the women would now be able to speak about these issues among themselves and realise that some of the things happening in their homes are actually abusive.

The chairperson said the community radio organisations are a platform where the women could express themselves about the challenges they face in their homes. This would also raise awareness among other women who did not get the opportunity to participate in this programme.

Gcama Mfati President Dlalile Kunene also said the programme was beneficial. She said they had been working with the Swaziland Rural Women Assembly and COSPE in the programme. Under the programme, they had been able to handle abuse cases and were able to help one another in fighting this scourge. She said her organisation was established in 2013 and was still operating in Manzini and Lubombo Regions. She said through the help of community radios, they would spread their wings to Hhohho and Shiselweni regions.

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Mthethwa-Masuku said the women who were empowered were able to note where they fitted. She said they also simplified the SODV Act for the women to understand how they could use it to protect themselves.



Local and South African poets pose for a group picture after the Unleash the City, Manzini Edition, held at The George Hotel on Thursday evening. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)



MC Jumbo jumps off stage to greet the audience.

MANZINI TALENT UNLEASHED!

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

KrTC, in partnership with Mr Shintja Eswatini, unleashed talent from the Manzini youth on Thursday at The George Hotel.

This was during the Unleash The City first edition.

Poetry, music and motivation was the order of the day as local and international poets came together to showcase their talent.

Gracing the stage were poets Trumpet, Dede, M Age and Thabani.

These poets proved not only to be passionate about poetry but also about youth empowerment.

All their poems were centred around encouraging the youth to be the best in everything they do.

The night, however, was not just about poetry as newly-formed group A2Z was also



A2Z set the mood for the night. on the line-up.

The duo performed their two singles and the crowd was taken. Members of the audi-

ence danced to their songs.

Taking to the stage after the duo were South African poets Siyabonga Mpungose, Xoli

Zion Vilakazi and Zamani Mzobe.

Although their performances were short, they managed to get a positive response from the audience.

After their performances they acknowledged the organisers for inviting them to the show, adding that they would gladly come back for other shows.

"Seeing that people were moved by our performance it left us humbled and it was a joy to see all of them out to support us and poetry in general," said Mpungose.

Speaking about the event, KrTC said Unleash the City would be hosted in all four regions of the country with the first edition in Manzini.

This, he said, would be a gathering that brings poetry, music and motivation together so as to create an interlink in one venue which he believes is a perfect combination.

"We will continue to host these shows and we hope that the nation will support us," he said.



Trent Omar serenaded the crowd with his music.



Xoli Zion Vilakazi recited mostly poetry about women empowerment.



MC of the night KrTC also recited poems for the crowd.



Fans react to a performance by Thabani.



Eswatini National Youth Council CEO Makhosami Dlamini was also there.



The audience laughing incessantly at the jokes shared at the show on Thursday during the Live, Love, Laugh show hosted by Mdura at the Eswatini Theatre Club.

A night of laughter!

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

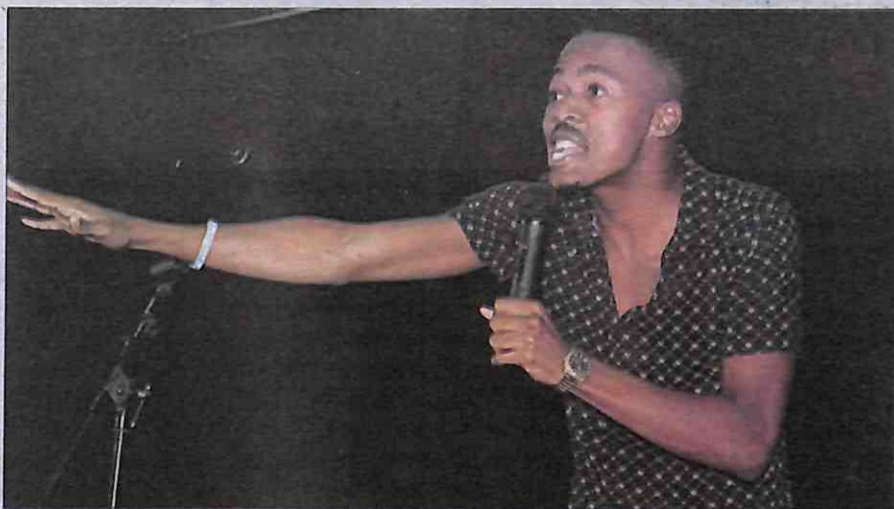
Comedy nights are meant to be fun, funny and good outings for those looking for outdoor entertainment. And comedian Mdura knows how to serve the best comedy, no matter who he shares the stage with.

This proved true on Thursday night during the Live, Love, Laugh comedy show hosted by the award-winning comedian at Eswatini Theatre Club.

This time on stage, the comedian was joined by the talented Mpumalanga comedian Mozzy, who teamed up with local comedian Sbu to dish out rib cracking jokes of fun and laughter.

Comedy fanatics left the venue pleased with the night's performances by the comedians who delivered the best.

An impressive crowd that turned out for the show was given a dose of fresh jokes that left them in stitches throughout. It made for



Mdura the comedian sharing jokes at the show.

a beautiful outing that was enjoyed by the near capacity crowd.

Mozzy's versatile delivery delighted the audience, which he improvised with music.

A member of the audience, Nqobile Dlamini said she enjoyed the comedian's set, noting

that he was very talented and gifted with a beautiful voice.

But, the night belonged to Sbu whose performance was so impressive it had everyone in stitches.

His jokes were centred on the church and

it appeared that most could relate to his stories. The man of the night was the host Mdura whose set was based mainly on how black people react at funerals compared to the western community.

The show was directed by Ndosh who directed the proceedings very well, using his own set of jokes to keep the audience entertained in between the sets.

Comedy fanatic Thabile Shongwe said she enjoyed the show and could not wait for the next one.

"These are the shows that make our days extra beautiful," she said.



Dr Shakes was also spotted at the event.



Sbu the comedian delivered an impressive.



A comedy lover laughing her lungs out.



Eswatini artist Nathaniel performing..



Ndosh directed the proceedings well.



By Sibusiso Dlamini
sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com

OVER E16M WORTH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED THROUGH TKI

The Knowledge Institute (TKI) is a non-governmental organisation in the country whose mission is to promote access to higher education and impactful skills development in Eswatini and beyond.

Executive Director Fanele Chester-Fakudze says they were motivated to start TKI to close the information gap on higher education opportunities for students in the country.

"Currently, less than 10 per cent of high school graduates annually proceed to university, and our aspiration is to increase that figure to 50 per cent through a combination of information sharing, student counselling, capacitating schools and lobbying government.

The executive director further added that TKI works closely with partners and collaborators to promote access to higher education.

"Well, we work closely with partners and collaborators including the government of Eswatini, embassies and other foreign diplomatic presence in the country and South Africa, as well as our membership in international bodies, research and personal experiences form the cornerstone of the information we share with the public.

"Our work centralises on information research and dissemination on local and international universities and scholarships, for undergraduate and postgraduate study as well as information research and dissemination on local and pan-Africa work



TKI Executive Director
Fanele Chester-
Fakudze.

and volunteer opportunities as well as entrepreneurship funding and programmes, for young

people in Eswatini," she explained.

Chester-Fakudze further added that over the

SCHOLARSHIPS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE: JANUARY – MARCH 2020

1. COMBINED BACHELORS AND MASTERS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIPS

Taiwan ICDF Scholarship
Mauritius Africa Scholarship
Turkiye Burslari Government Scholarship
India ICCR Scholarship

2. BACHELORS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIPS ONLY

United World Colleges
Eswatini Government Scholarship
Albukhary International University, Malaysia Scholarship
African Leadership University – Patoranking Scholarship
African Leadership University – General Scholarships
Ashesi University – MasterCard Scholarship
Qatar Education City
AGOF Scholarship Program (SA)

3. MASTERS / PHD DEGREE ONLY

New Zealand Development Scholarship
Fulbright Scholarship Program (USA)
DAAD Germany Scholarship East Africa
DAAD Germany Scholarship in Germany
Japan Teachers Training Program
Eiffel Scholarship Program (France)

past seven years, TKI has reached Emaswati through digital channels more than one million times, with relevant and accurate information on scholarships, universities and other opportunities. Since 2015, they also sit on the Waterford scholarship selection committees for

ESWATINI MEDICAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

The Eswatini Medical Christian University is a partnership between Africa Continent Mission (ACM), Korean Donors and the government of Eswatini. The university was established in 2013, and since then, it has offered students a very unique learning experience, highly conducive learner environment and competitive platforms for performing practicals both within and outside the borders of the country.

The university, through its diversified curriculum is dedicated to the advancement of the health and ICT sectors in Eswatini, Africa and beyond, by promoting Christian faith, excellence through education, healthcare, innovation, community engagement and research.

The vision of the university is to be a Christian university of choice in Africa in the production of best-trained Christian professional in the areas of health, social sciences (social work and psychology) as well as information and communication technology (ICT). The university is dedicated to the advancement of the

health, social services as well as ICT sectors in Eswatini. In its pursuit for excellence, the Christian Faith shall be an integral part of the training and research programmes.

PROGRAMMES BACHELOR OF NURSING SCIENCE

The nursing department's major goal is to produce excellent, compassionate and a Christian nursing care for competence.

It aims at preparing nurses at undergraduate through an educational process that promotes personal and professional development for competent nursing practice of the highest quality and standard.

BACHELOR OF PHARMACY

Pharmacists, also known as chemists or druggists, are health professionals who practice in pharmacy, the field of health sciences focusing on safe and effective medication use.

On completion of the pharmacy programme, the students will be equipped with the following skills:

- Compounding and manufacturing of medications such as tablets,

capsules, syrups, pharmaceutical cosmetics etc.

- Dispensing of medication
- Counselling of patients
- Advising the health care team on proper drug therapies for patients
- Quality control of medication such as testing the quality and effectiveness of medication
- Management of pharmacies
- Research and development of new drugs

Currently, EMCU is the only institution in the country that offers training in pharmacy at degree level

BACHELOR OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

The Medical Laboratory Sciences programme prepares students for exciting yet challenging and dynamic careers in places such as hospital laboratories and clinics, forensic laboratories and industrial research laboratories.

Students come out fully equipped with the skills to analyse blood, urine, sputum, tissue, bone marrow and many other body specimen.

These test results play an impor-

tant role in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Basically, they learn how to conduct tests with the purposes of detecting and diagnosing and identifying the suitable treatment of cure.

Currently, EMCU is the only institution in the country that offers training in medical laboratory sciences at degree level.

BACHELOR OF RADIOGRAPHY

Radiographers are committed to development of a working environment that maximises patient care.

They use ionising radiation to image internal structures in patients in order to help diagnose and treat patients' medical conditions.

Upon completion of the course students can;

- Work in hospitals as diagnostic or therapeutic radiographer
- Advance in studies and venture into lecturing
- Specialise in modalities like magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography and ultrasonography.

Currently, EMCU is the only institution in the country that offers train-

ing in radiography.

BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology is the first academic department of this discipline in the country.

Students are equipped with analytical skills that enable them to engage critically with knowledge, develop problem-solving skills, to be open-minded and develop a broad understanding of human behavior which is beneficial to any other vocational and professional program.

The department aims to contribute valuable knowledge and skills in the areas of mental health care, human services and psychosocial interventions in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work Department's mission is to produce professionals who are proactively responsive to social problems of all groups without discrimination be it individuals, families, groups or communities.

The programme emphasises professional ethics, social justice, equal-

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

TITO MBOWENI GOES AFTER CONTROVERSIAL PREACHERS

DURBAN - Religious groups have agreed that those religious leaders who avoid paying tax should be dealt with by the government.

The groups were reacting to Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's comments on Wednesday regarding controversial preachers who displayed their wealth, but were not paying tax.

Mboweni said the government had enlisted the assistance of tax experts to strengthen the laws governing the tax affairs of religious public-benefit organisations and churches. Pastor Dennis Hustedt, the former pastor of Durban North, Durban Central and Hillcrest Baptist Churches, said: "Finances need to be open and public with a clear understanding of what the money



Finance Minister Tito Mboweni.

is doing, where it is going and even salaries, particularly for members of the church." Hustedt, who for the past 15 years has spearheaded a conference for pastors in Phoenix

and Seaview, said they often spoke about the issue of the false gospel. "I think it would be fair to say that there are a majority of churches in the greater Durban area, or in fact

the region, where there is a mis-handling of what the Bible teaches regarding the emphasis on finance." Hustedt said two years ago they had to address a cult that was prolific in Phoenix, Chatsworth and elsewhere.

"That cult along with many other cult-like groups out there tell people that if they give to their leadership and to the cause, then they promise that the Lord would bless them. They make God out to be someone who needs their money." Michael Swain, the executive director of Freedom of Religion South Africa, said all religious organisations and practitioners, irrespective of faith, were subject to the laws of South Africa, including the laws pertaining to the tax regime.

The Mercury

ANC's Maepa threatens DA Tshwane's Williams with legal action

JOHANNESBURG - This after Randall Williams threatened legal action if Maepa doesn't withdraw a statement accusing him of playing a critical role in the notorious GladAfrica contract.

The ANC's chairperson in Tshwane, Dr Kgosi Maepa, has hit back at DA mayoral candidate Randall Williams, threatening legal action if he hinders Maepa from carrying out his constitutional mandate.

Maepa's lawyer responded to an attorney's letter sent to him by Williams earlier this week in which he threatened legal action if Maepa failed to withdraw a statement accusing the long-serving councillor of playing a critical role in the GladAfrica contract.

In a tweet on February 21, Maepa claimed Williams was involved in the GladAfrica scandal as the leader of government business in council, which led to the legal threats made by Williams. The Auditor-General later declared the tender irregular, leading to the contract being cancelled in 2019. Various legal entities also flagged the contract for procurement process irregularities.

Through his attorney, Maepa responded to Williams, claiming his statement was not defamatory. "As stated above, the statement was made within a political context, truthfully and bona fide," the lawyer's letter read.

"As a political functionary, our client is duty bound to communicate with his constituency and to update them on various issues - inter alia, their livelihoods, general governance and developmental matters - concerning them." *The Citizen*

'Myeni deserves minimum seven years imprisonment'

JOHANNESBURG - Former South African Airways Dudu Myeni deserves a minimum of over seven-years imprisonment.

This was the argument made by advocate Carol Steinberg, who represents the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) and the SAA Pilots' Association (SAAPA).

OUTA and SAAPA want the court to declare Myeni a delinquent director.

"We say that the evidence has conclusively demonstrated that Ms Myeni's conduct was delinquent..." said Steinberg.

Steinberg added that such conduct warranted a "lifelong declaration of delinquency." *eNCA*

Supporting Zuma doesn't mean undermining Cyril Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG - African National Congress (ANC) Secretary General Ace Magashule said no one would be banned from the party for supporting former President Jacob Zuma.

Addressing the launch of the party's new online membership system in Sebokeng, Magashule said the party's NEC has decided that members can support Zuma.

"So we have taken a decision. You can support and you must support President Zuma. You can wear your ANC T-shirt, that is your right, we can't ban you."

Previously, the party banned its members from wearing ANC regalia when supporting the former president in court.

Meanwhile, in his address,



ANC Secretary-General Ace Magashule.

Magashule appeared to take a swipe at the National Assembly

for inviting former apartheid President FW de Klerk.

"You can't respect de Klerk and disregard Zuma."

However, Magashule was careful to say that supporting Zuma doesn't mean current President Cyril Ramaphosa will be undermined.

Scores of supporters welcomed the former president at OR Tambo International Airport last week on his return from receiving medical treatment in Cuba.

Zuma is facing corruption charges linked to the multi-billion rand arms deal and expected to appear in court in May.

The Pietermaritzburg High Court issued a warrant of arrest for Zuma when he failed to appear for his corruption case last month. *EWN*



The ANC Chairperson in Tshwane, Dr Kgosi Maepa.

AUSTRALIA DENIES SOUTH AFRICANS REFUGEE STATUS

JOHANNESBURG - A number of South Africans who tried to enter Australia by applying for refugee status have been disappointed after their visas were not approved.

The families, according to Australian media, were applying for protection and humanitarian visas, but received rejection letters that read: "The risk of murder and serious physical/sexual assaults is one faced by the population of the country in general and not by the applicants personally."

There had been a recent surge in

applications two years after Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton suggested that South African white farmers were being persecuted and should be given special attention under his country's humanitarian programme.

He had instructed his department to consider claims from persecuted South African farmers whose families had suffered murder, torture or rape.

According to its website the Australian home affairs department considers

a refugee to be someone who has a well-founded fear they will be seriously harmed because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a social group.

In Australia, politician and South African expat Savanna Labuschagne told Australian media that she was frustrated that South Africans were prevented from receiving assistance by the government.

The home affairs department said there were many other visas open to South Africans that include skilled,

temporary and family visas. Nearly 8 000 visas had been granted to South Africans since July 2018.

South Africa is the ninth-largest source country of permanent migrants in Australia.

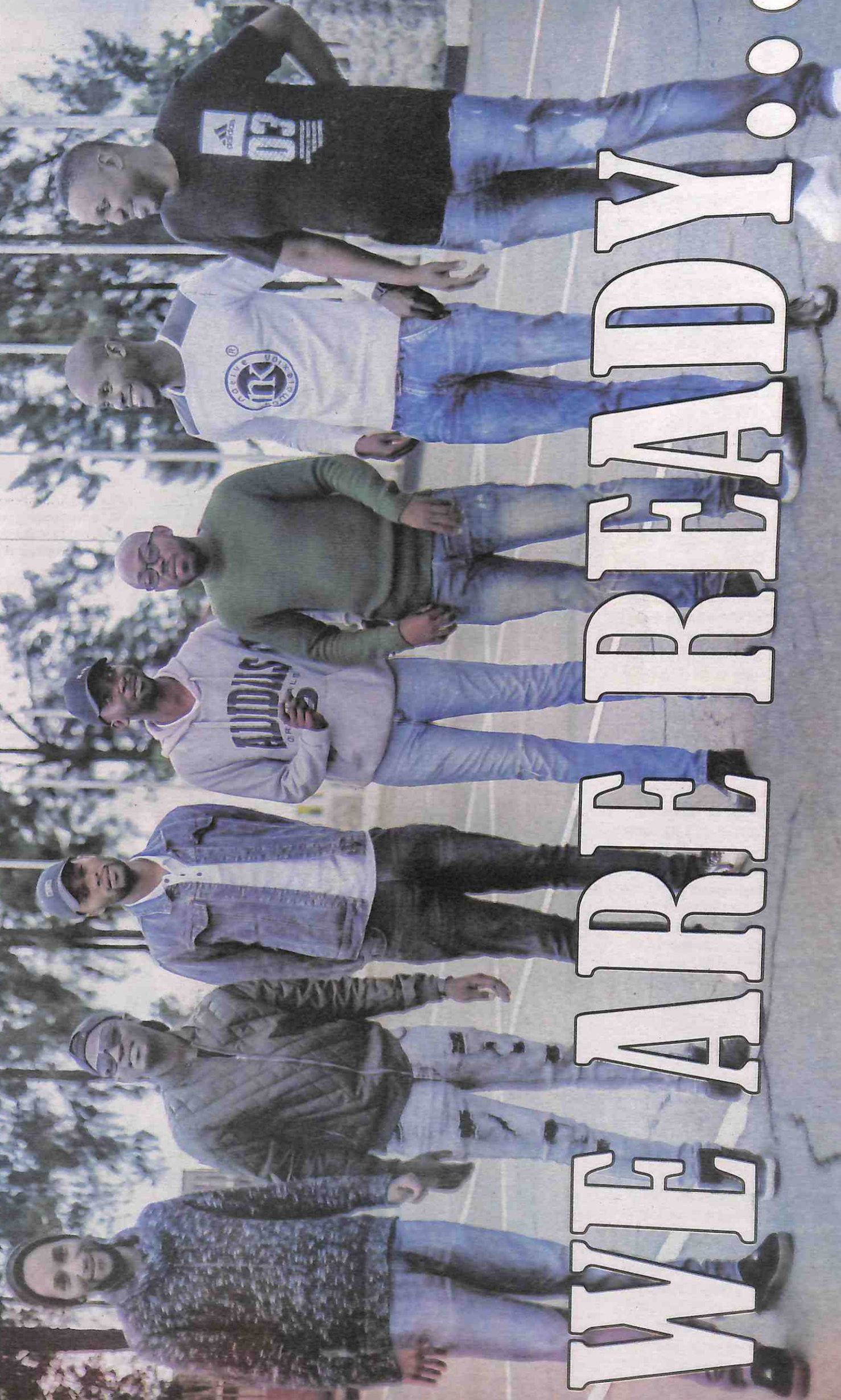
Lobby group AfriForum has highlighted the problem of farm attacks in South Africa. However, it does not believe applications for refugee status in Australia will solve the problem.

"We are looking to deal with it here, in South Africa," said Chief Executive

Kallie Kriel. "If you are going to ask for that kind of visa, you would have to prove that some kind of genocide is happening."

That is why, from the outset, we have never used the term genocide. What we are saying is that disproportionate numbers of farmers are being killed. Just like there are a disproportionate number of people being killed in gang violence in the Western Cape." He said AfriForum was calling for the SAPS to set up a special task force to deal with farm murders, as has been done in the fight against rhino poaching and copper theft. *Saturday Star*

WE ARE READY..





EDITOR'S NOTE:

Music festivals are a great way to make memories with your loved ones. Some of the most resonant memories that we have are made in our hometown or where we grow up.

From photos to laughter, the experience that you and your friends or family get from attending will be second to nothing else in the world – what better way to bond with those you love, than to share in entertainment and let your hair down?

When attending music festivals, it's important that you get into the spirit of the activity. Even those who are put off by the idea of mud and an uncomfortable night's sleep will soon find that they are revelling in the idea of not caring about your appearance and having a great time. The great thing about hometown festivals is that you don't have hours of travelling on public transport to get home, so no embarrassment if you aren't looking your best.

Music festivals are a superb way of coming across new, up and coming stars of the music scene. Everyone started somewhere, and it's usually the smaller local events which draw the hidden talent. So even if there isn't a headlining act which you are particularly fond of, the chance to see an aspiring artist who will one day be selling millions of albums is always worth a trip.

With that said, the countdown has begun for the House Music festival.

To be held at Esibayeni Lodge; Ron Deh Vu, this is a must attend festival. Hence today we decided celebrate the local acts who will be performing at the festival.

House music is an influential genre of dance music that has become a global phenomenon. It deserves the recognition.

It has been keeping people dancing for decades, spawned subcultures, influenced technology, united people, and propelled music innovation.

See you at the festival!
Till Next week.

Ayanda Dlamini



HOUSE MUSIC DESERVES A CELEBRATION!

House music is an influential genre of dance music that has become a global phenomenon.

It has been keeping people dancing for decades, spawned subcultures, influenced technology, united people, and propelled music innovation.

Stemming from disco, house music has evolved into many genres and subgenres of electronic music. It's even influenced pop music, hip hop, and other modern music styles. To this day, the cultural impact of house music continues to inspire new generations of fans, music, technology, and innovation.

Let's explore how this niche underground sound originated and how it became globally recognized as the soundtrack to modern dance music culture.

Few cultural movements in music have a legacy as influential as house music. According to our research, we have found that



FASHION TIPS: WHAT YOU CAN WEAR AT THE HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL!

Look good, feel good and comfortable!

Outdoor fun, cool music, outstanding fashion looks and good vibes. What can be more tempting than the music festival season?! Like the event itself, festival fashion is cheerful, funky and special, and it definitely needs a review, after all it's really a difficult task to look chic in the middle of a desert, in the sweltering sun or in the mud.

As the festival fever kicks off, we all wonder what to wear to the upcoming house music festival in order to look outstanding and memorable, without losing that charming spirit of free, relaxed and effortless styling? To instantly stand out in the crowd of the young and the fashionable, make sure you get our festival fashion tips we have compiled for you and don't miss your chance to be a part of this crazy, awesome and energizing event that you'll remember forever.



Lots of tribal patterns, florals and mixed prints

Romantic floral prints, bohemian maxi dresses, denim, crochet, lace, embroidery details, country, folk and ethnic touches, vintage vibes and quite unexpected, outstanding combinations are what describe the admirable music festival style. This is when you have the chance to set your inner creative stylist free and go wild mix and matching, combining various trends, textures and fabrics together without going over the top for a charming relaxed look.

Perhaps the only rule about music festival styling is to forget about all-things-glamorous and special, and think effort-



house music's origins trace back to the underground clubs of Chicago and New York in the late 70s. Club culture spawned from the disco era was thriving, and DJs were experimenting with new ways of mixing their sets to keep people dancing. Early mixing and remixing techniques gave new life to dance music in the dying disco era. And a unique sound coined "house music" emerged in Chicago. The exact origins of the name are unclear, but many say house music was named after "The Warehouse" nightclub in Chicago's South Side. Chicago record stores would attract fans of the emerging sound by labelling dance records "as played at The Warehouse," which became

shortened to "house music."

...PROMINENT HOUSE ARTISTS INCLUDE

House music roots will always be in South Africa, but it has broken the boundaries of geography and is produced and enjoyed around the world, to the extent that some artists' passion, love for the music and fan base encouraged them to emigrate to South Africa.

Prominent house artists worth to be celebrated in South Africa is Black Coffee, Black Motion, Brian Temba, Chymamusique, Culoe De Song, C-Major, Darque, Deepconsoul, DJ Fresh, DJ Kent, Kaylow, Bucie, Sipiwe Mkhize

(Enoo Napa), Jackie Queens, Wanda Baloyi, Echo Deep, Da Capo, Sir LSG, Tumelo, Lilac Jeans, Jullian Gomes, Derrick Flair, D.O.R. Projects, Gintonic, Octopuz, Zulumafia, House Victimz, Kat La Kat, Jazzuelle, Nastee Nev, Veneigrette, Young DJ, Rancido, Liquideep, UPZ and DJ Afrozilla. The list is just endless.

Such is its growing influence, world respected trumpeter and flugelhorn player Hugh Masekela has collaborated and played on Afro House tracks with the likes of Ralf Gum, and Masters At Work have collaborated with a number of artists in recent times.



less, hippie, indie, bohemian, casual and fun. This is the best event for you to don a sweet floral or ethnic printed mini dress or a breathtaking boho-chic maxi one, a pair of short ripped or studded denim shorts worn with bandeau tops, crop tops or a loose tee. Chambray shirts, maxi skirts, rompers, jumpsuits, waistcoats, crochet blouses and tops, jumpers and maybe sweaters. There are so many cool clothing pieces that you can mix and match creatively for smashing hot festival looks!

When it comes to the colour palette, you can stick with eye-popping neons, brights and prints, or go more romantic by giving preference to neutrals, pastels, creams, beiges, camels and denims. It's a good idea to check the fashion trends and find something special for you close to your personal style and interests. Layering, contrasting, combining and mix-n-matching are highly recommended for creating one-of-a-kind looks.

Go for a pair of denim

Go for a pair of denim shorts or a miniskirt and make your long tanned legs the center of everyone's attention! You can pick high-waisted shorts or mini swing skirts, pairing them with some printed tees or crop tops.

A lovely festival frock is what will make you look ultimately girlish and spectacular throughout the cool event! Pay attention to the trendy patterns, colours and prints, while making a choice. You may pick simple mini dresses



with a vintage feel or asymmetrical ones with transparency details and lots of crochet and lace. Dangerously tempting will be a ground-skimming boho dress matched with a flower in the hair and flat strappy sandals!

Think denim, denim and lots of denim! The all American denim look is proved to be one of the coolest and most common festival looks. You may match your denim short, romper, pants or skirt with some crochet or printed tops and cowboy or biker boots, for instance! In case you like to keep denim less, opt for a denim vest or a denim jacket!

Sneakers all the way

Shoes are perhaps the most essential elements, when it comes to festival fashion. In case of bad rainy weather, give preference to rugged boots or Hunter willies, matching the colour and the prints to your entire outfit. Sneakers, biker booties, oxfords, flat sandals, loafers and wedges are all fab festival picks!

Despite your preferences when it comes to bags, music festivals require tiny bags, since you don't want to bother everyone with your huge leather sack. Cross-body bags, small vintage rucksacks, mini satchels or a leather shoul-

der bag with fringe details will look way too festive to be ignored!

Of course, it's impossible to talk about music festival fashion without mentioning lots of accessories! This is when you have to put your creativeness to the test and spice up your looks in the best way. Sunglasses, seventies-inspired floppy hats and wide-brimmed ones, lots of earrings, necklaces and rings, scarves and hair accessories are festival fashion must haves!

As a final touch, don't forget about a youthful relaxed hairstyle and some trendy makeup. Here, you can opt for a fishtail braid or let your messy tresses hang down loosely. As for the makeup, leave it clean and minimal, you aren't going to a wedding party! You may opt for a bright lipstick, it will add a zest to your look!

For music festival fashion inspiration, you can always look to Kate Bosworth, who always manages to look incredibly stylish every time, she hits the famous Coachella party or other music festival.

Famous boho-chic brand Free People can help you get the ultimate indie look and if you are looking for more affordable style solutions, keep an eye on the famous high street retailers, since they all come up with special festival lines as the season arrives! Last but not least, don't forget about extremely high spirits and a smile on your face!

Look good!



HOUSE MUSIC MY RAMPART AND MY ONLY ONE

HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL IS HERE!

.. Are you ready? From your lined-up acts

SwaziBoy Entertainment has brought party lovers many events but this is a first of its kind event as they are bringing the second edition of House Music Festival. To be held next Saturday, the festival will be held at Ron Deh Voo, Esibayeni.

This year the stable is going all out when it comes to this year's line-up.

"We will not just focus on DJs, but we will allow everyone who considers themselves a house music artist to showcase their talent. We will obviously have some of the leading house DJs in the country and we have a surprise international artist as well," shares SwaziBoy Entertainment PRO Ur Gal Zee.

This is one of the best shows not to be missed. People should go party and expect great music. It is obvious that house music has a huge fan base, so SwaziBoy is catering it to all house music fans and music fans in general. Gear up and be ready to have fun.

We sat down with some of the spinners who are line-up for this festival as they share their sentiments about the festival and what is really house music them.



XSTACY

House is best explained and described by the famous lyrics of Chuck Robert's, 'House music is a universal language, spoken and understood by all.

House is a feeling that no can understand really unless you deep into the vibe of house. House is an uncontrollable desire to jack your body."

"I am looking forward to the very best of house music from the first deejay set of the day to the very last deejay set.

"Coming to what inspires my set, I listen to a lot of house music from the era of early 2000s when music was still pure and compilations were a big thing in the house music scene. There's a lot of ignored good music that didn't get fair airplay then and now, unlike taping much into that.

MSAKRIE

“

House Music to me is everything. House music is one of the genres that brings people closer together.

There's an inexplicable spiritual element to it that brings so much calmness and tranquillity.

"I am looking forward to see people and

more people.

The festival celebrates house music in its entirety (commercial house, deep house, soulful house). This is one event that is centred on unity so it will be great to be with people from all walks of life. "The mood of the vent is what determines what I will play. I always appreciate every event I am featured on, so giving both promoters and fans value for their money is what drives me to always give a 100 per cent.

THE SPIN DOCTORS

“

How does one sum up or describe, house, without going all philosophical?

Besides a whole lot of fun and solid beats to move to, a music that has the unique ability to unite people from different walks in life that, like reggae, spreads the message of love, peace, self-expression and overall positive, healthy living.

"You can see it in the eclectic mix of styles, lyrics or lack of and people involved in the music.

Also the best music is found in the under-

ground, as mainstream or commercial music is over, over played and often lacks the musical substance that lovers of House demand, like Jazz lovers, similar approach.

"We enjoy festivals and the crowds, always a great time, it's been a while since we've appeared at home as The SpinDoctors, so we are looking forward to seeing some familiar faces, as well as winning over a whole new generation of fans who haven't heard or experienced us live.

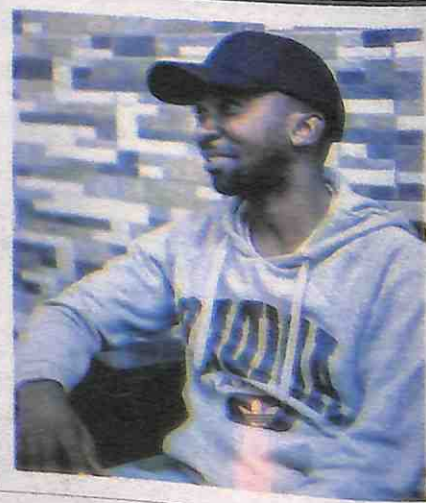
"What inspires us? We call it, 'Dance floor medicine'. We do whatever it takes to make sure you leave in a better state, than you came.

MSETO

“

To me house music is more than just a genre, it's a way of life and the basis of which a lot of my social interactions are based on (at first). The often happy and vibrant tone of the music offers a great soundtrack to the life that I lead.

"The people of Eswatini love house music so I'm definitely looking forward to a grand celebration of house music and deejay culture."



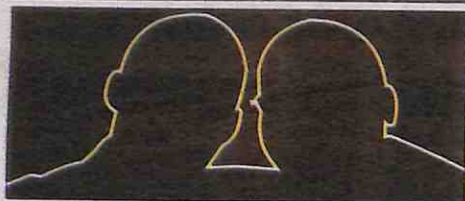
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“What inspires us? We call it, 'Dance floor medicine'. We do whatever it takes to make sure you leave in a better state, than you came.

SMISH

“

House music is my life. This genre promotes love, peace and happiness and my life is all about that.

First and foremost I would like to thank the House Musiq Fest team for this opportunity. Being part of this big event is such an honour and I'm looking forward to deliver an electrifying set.

“As a spinner, the mood of the event plays a huge role in me delivering a great set. I'm inspired by my fans' gestures, see people smile and dance to my sound. It connects me to them in a certain way.



MISTOSOUL

“

House music is the air that I breathe. It is the connection between myself and the spiritual world.

“For next weekend, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone out in style to celebrate this beautiful genre that has always been a part of our lives since disco days. I'm also looking forward to all the sets that will be played by the local deejays and artists as well as our international iconic deejays and artists.



CROOKS

H

ouse music is a good feeling. It's that beat that occupies space in your soul no matter the mood. It can pick you up when you down, it can find you when you lost and dance the way. “Coming to next weekend, I'm looking forward to a good at time, meeting good people who will be celebrating house music with us, also looking forward to checking out the local stalls on display on the day, the clothing brands the food just the good vibe all around the fest.

My set is inspired by the vibration, the ambiance of the party, the energy I give and receive from my crowd more than anything. On the festival people can expect a mind blowing set from myself as I will be delivering with my percussionist.”



TREND TWINS



“

As Trend Twins, we are looking forward in experiencing and gaining more knowledge about house music as there will be different deejays playing different sets.

“Starting off as Trendsetters dancers, spending time with DJ Extra Luv, we ended up falling

in love with this genre. He managed to teach us some skills.

“My set is inspired by life itself, all the vibrations around me are a huge contribution to what I play. So people can expect a very inspired set full of life and good vibrations from me with my full band featuring Reshen Music, Zwile, Mvelo and Semusa.



SLOTTA

“

House music just like any genre is pretty much the sound track to my life, that mood 'setter'

during a long drive.

I am looking forward to crazy vibrant atmosphere of avid music fans with nothing but blessed house music all the way from the various deejays who'll be dishing their best.

“Excitement gets me tingly all over and that right there makes me want to translate that exact same feeling to those that will be dancing away.”

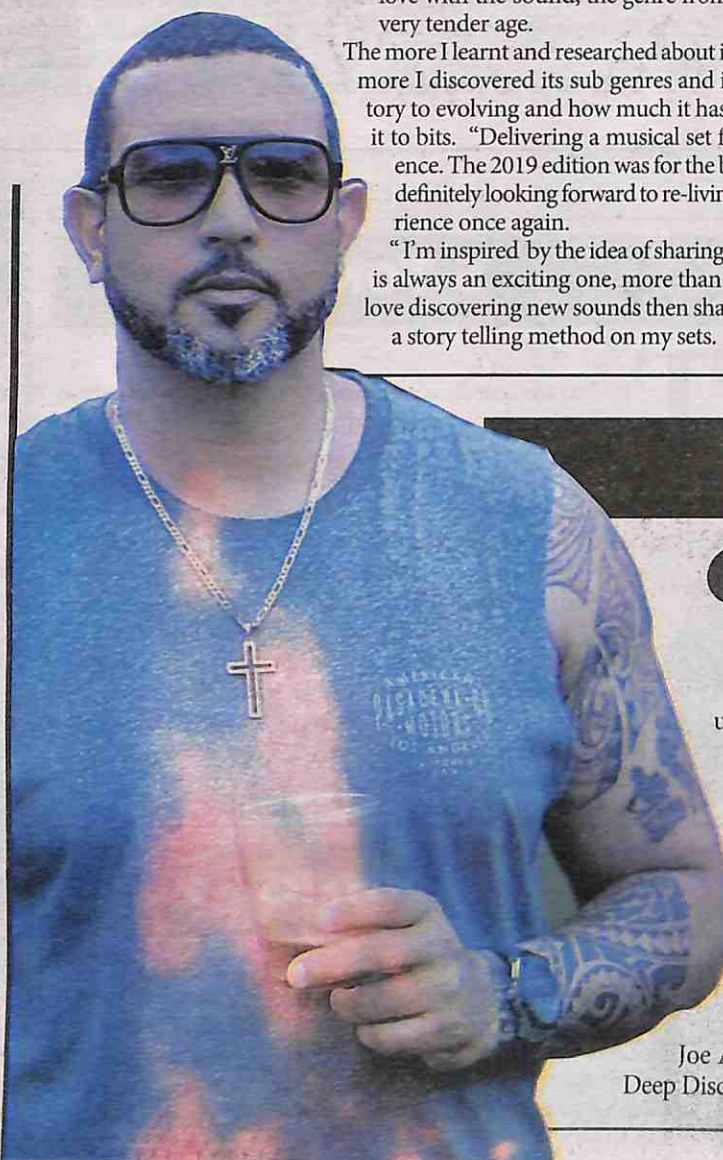
OSCAR MBO

“

House Music is my safe haven. Fell in love with the sound, the genre from a very tender age.

The more I learnt and researched about it the more I discovered its sub genres and its history to evolving and how much it has grew. Love it to bits. “Delivering a musical set for the audience. The 2019 edition was for the books so I'm definitely looking forward to re-living that experience once again.

“I'm inspired by the idea of sharing new music is always an exciting one, more than anything I love discovering new sounds then share them in a story telling method on my sets.



DJ WICKED

“

House music to me is the one genre of music that speaks to all of us if you give it a chance. It has so many sub genres under it and there's some love in it for everyone u need to just find which groove speaks to you. I'm looking to hearing what makes everyone/act tick under the umbrella of house music. We all play different we all want to express ourselves through music differently. So variety is on the Menu.

“I grew up around Motown and Disco .So Sister Sledge, Donna summer, and Chic to name a few were played a lot at home. My set is a tribute to Disco I've also brought on Joe Alexander my guitarist so expect that sweet Deep Disco Music.”





BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



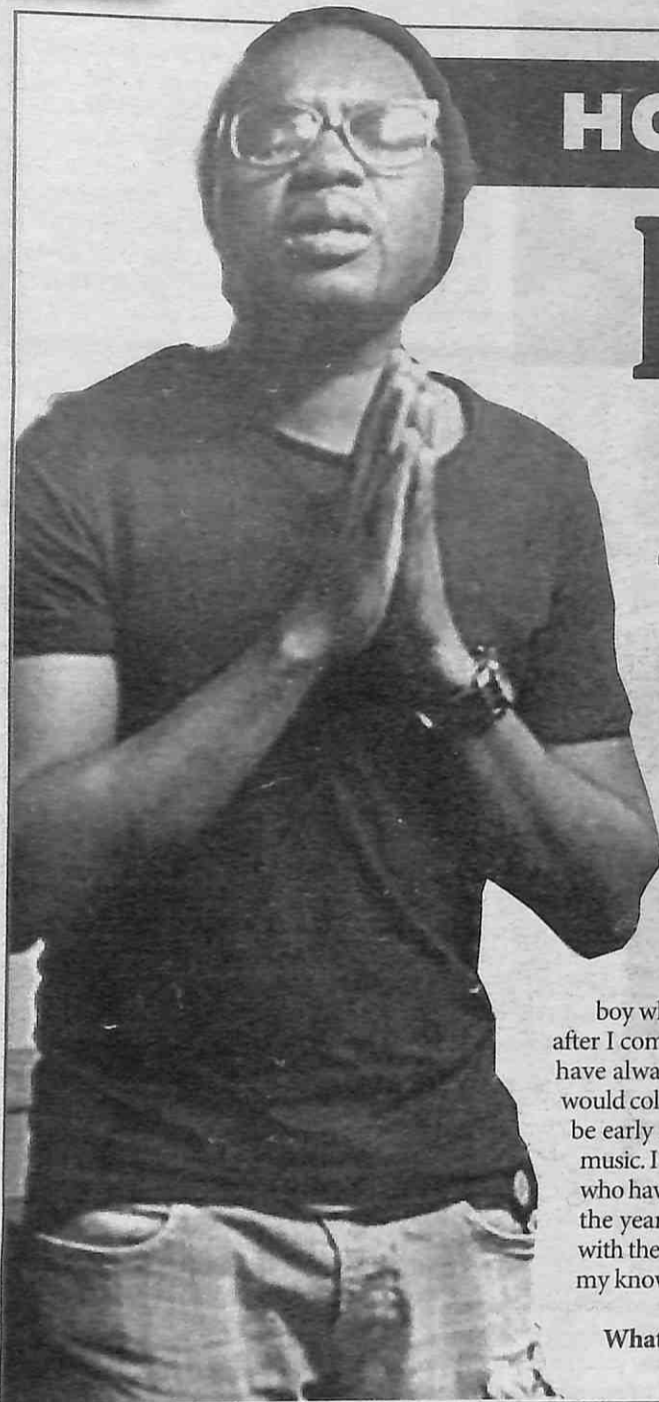
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Sunday Observer
Scene



HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL

IT CAN ONLY GET BETTER - PITERI



Briefly tell us about yourself.

My name is Sthembiso 'Piteri' Fakudze, a house-head, born and raised in Lobamba.

Where did your love of music come from?

Just like any other ordinary young boy who is into music, it all began right after I completed my high school in 2007. I have always been a Black Coffee fan, so I would collect his mixtapes which proved to be early influences in my love for house music. I then met DJs Calinda and Crooks who have been a part of my journey. Over the years I have shared so much music with these two and they have helped with my knowledge for the music.

What role do you play in the house



#Wegotsoul's DJ Sabz, Crooks and Piteri.

music scene in the Kingdom?

I'm the guy on the other side of the decks lol. I love music and I support our brothers and sisters who bless us with good music

every weekend.

Which artists have been early influencers in your love for house music?

S-TONE

This is undoubtedly going to be an exciting show for house music lovers.

The line-up is tight including legends of house music from outside the country who have helped shape the genre, as well as younger brothers and sisters in this culture. It's also awesome to see some of my long time DJ friends who've been great representatives of house music in the country such as Simza & Dr P, Tibza, Crooks, Misto, Mseto, MBO, Wicked for example on the line up. People are in for a treat. I think it's a beautiful thing that such an event was initiated. It brings more attention to Swazi DJs/artists and it shows how much growth there has been. We are on the map, and people will witness greatness!

HOOTERS

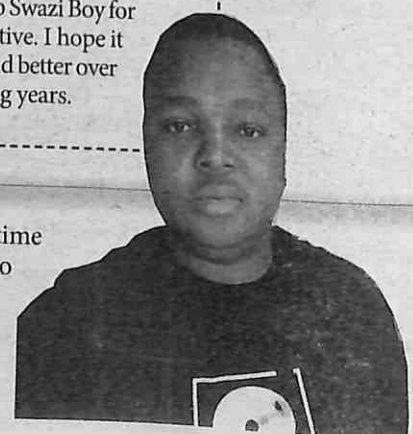
I salute the brains behind the House Music Festival concept which has now become a unifying movement in the

house music community, at the same time giving emerging local talent a chance to showcase their art. I like that it's not just about partying but it also gives small businesses an opportunity to advertise their different unique products.

MISS V



Having missed last year's event, I am definitely looking forward to this year's one. My brother Dope Deep has played a major role in my love for house music. Big up to Swazi Boy for this great initiative. I hope it grows bigger and better over the next coming years.





BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



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Scene



Meeting the best in the game Crooks, Katz Mthande, Mistosoul, Wicked and Fantasy. These gentlemen have made me love music more. I believe we are all on the same page when it come to our love and understanding for house music. When I'm with them I feel at home.

What role can fans and revelers play in supporting the movement in the kingdom?

Fans can play a major role by attending shows buy tickets and One other happen I believe we need to do away with is not attending shows because there is no South African headliner.

Let us stop complaining and blackmailing each other, the music is bigger than all of us

March 7 sees the second edition of the House Music Festival. In your opinion has this initiative helped improve the house music scene?

Yeah man, the House Music Festival has helped a lot. We definitely need more initiatives like these.

My wish is to see the house music festival on the same level as Bush fire, Luju and the rest. I would also love to see interbationa acts like Louie Vega, Sean McCabe, DJ Spinna, Opolopo to name a few joing in the party. So my plea is for cooperate companies to sponsor such events.

Swazi Boy entertainment has been involved for quite some time, dating back to the days of Café Mugambo. In your opinion what have they done right over the years and as a stable where can they improve to continue delivering the best in events?

I grew up supporting Swazi Boy Entertainment. Luck was on my side that I met Crooks and wicked who were my idols when they were at Sandlasemtsakatsi and today I rub shoulders with day everyday. Swazi Boy to me are

my family.

I am music man today because of them. Swazi Boy has given everyone a chance, if you see, this year artists have changed. We have new faces mostly Swazis, so that's why I say Swazi Boy is giving everyone a chance. My wish though is a bit difficult one Is all the artists must be paid good money because I think everyone deserves nice pay

Which acts are you looking forward to see perform and why?

I'm looking forward to see my friends Misto, Crooks, Wicked and Fantancy performing. We have been talking about this event. Wicked called me a few days saying "My bra I'm hiding bombs for the fest, I will be bringing a "A" Game. Mistosoul owes me this performance because I missed his concert his one man show.

How would you define the art of deejaying?

ing?

The art of deejaying is just simple. Listen your music, don't be under pressure, be calm do your thing. Love your music.

Can you name your favourite tracks right now

- a. Diamond - You like Jazz
- b. Ron Trent - Sweet Chocolate
- c. Newman (Uk) ,Dave Anthony & Susu - Magnify(Neil Pierce Remix)
- d. NeverDull - What is that Sound
- e. 4hero & face - Look Inside (Izmabad Remix)
- f. USG - Ncameu (Main Mix)

If you could give aspiring artists advice. What would it be?

To the aspiring artists my advice for you is : Dont be carried away, listen and respect those who have been in the industry longer.

MANQOBA

With the upcoming House Music Festival in think the line is well balanced from legendary djs to upcoming legends.

This year will sure top last years edition. A line up with people like Christos,

Oscar Mbo, Sculptured Music it sure will be fire.

Mistosoul and the band, very much looking forward to that. Last year he blew me away with his set which was also blessed by Nomalungelo. To also see our top local producers Sooks and Slotta also in the line is just massive. Big up to the biggest Stable in the land. Can it be 7 March already. I have waited for 12 months for this show man...I can not wait to be HOUSE-D



CELSO

This year's House Music Festival promises to be bigger and better. Looking at how Swazi Boy entertainment has packaged the whole event for this year. It really shows growth and gives no doubt that it will be

one of the biggest music festivals in the country. It's a great initiative and looking at the line-up, as much as we have the international acts, it is pleasing to note that 80 percent are Emaswati and I believe and can't wait for the day where only good music will be served. A big shout out to Swazi boy entertainment and wishing them success in any future events like this one.

SPEECH

I like the improvement from last year's lineup.

I see a lot of local acts being given a chance to shine just like what Misto did last year. I'm hoping for a good performance from the locals.

Also shout out to Swazi Boy for pushing Eswatini acts and giving them the platform they deserve. It's time local stables realise that we have quality acts in the country that they should promote and celebrate.

The likes of!Sooks, Misto, Neww Black the list is endless man and it's funny how these acts are followed in S.A but hardly perform in Eswatini it's time we celebrate them what better way than this festival



HONEST MHLANGA'S ARTWORK ON THE WALL!

Honest Lihle Mhlanga hosted his Art Exhibition at Alliance Française in honour of his journey in the art industry with Alliance Française.

The artist will be migrating to Johannesburg where he will be furthering his journey into the art world.

To celebrate his eight year mile-

stone, Mhlanga's family, friends and supporters gathered to appreciate some of his art pieces that he made from the beginning of his career to date.

Mhlanga said the kind of support from his fans, family and friends was overwhelming.

He said focusing on only art with

no side hustles was enough to prove that Emaswati supported his work.

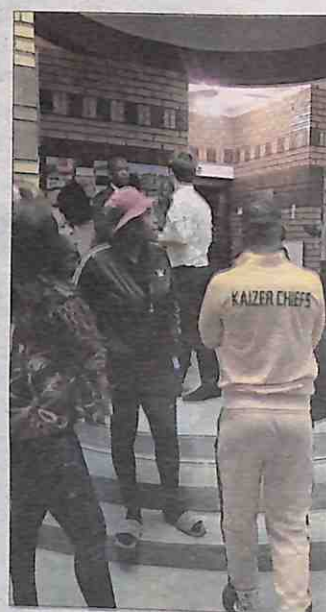
"I have been doing this for the past eight years and I have to say these years were the best. Having to live through your talent is the best feeling one could have," he said.

Mhlanga explained that his artwork was derived from his emotions which

he uses as inspiration.

Alliance Française Director Ronan Coquel stated that working with Mhlanga was amazing as through his work they got to learn a lot with regards to art.

He said the doors were opened for young and upcoming artists who needed exposure at their gallery.



Analysis & opinion

BUDGET NOT AS EASY AS CHOOSING PILCHARDS OVER STEAK FOR DINNER

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the leader and MP of the Inkatha Freedom Party, has on many occasions jibed at the ANC and its alliance partners COSATU and the South African Communist Party.

Delivering his speeches in Parliament, Buthelezi would pledge support for the government's Growth Employment and Redistribution strategy.

But he would point out to President Thabo Mbeki and Finance Minister Trevor Manuel that policy implementation was hobbled by COSATU and the SACP.

He would then do a mock toyi-toyi, saying COSATU and the SACP were preventing implementation by chanting, "Asiyifuni i-Gear! We don't want Gear!"

The wobbly jibe, by someone who evidently never toyi-toyed in his life, brought comic relief in the National Assembly chamber.

Buthelezi's point was, however, overstated.

The truth is, Mbeki and Manuel implemented economic policy reforms despite strong opposition from the Left.

Fast-forward to 2020, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni delivered what could be described as 'Gear Lite'. The Budget doesn't have all the characteristics of Manuel's budget reforms, but it is nonetheless an austerity, reforms-based budget.

Manuel had no qualms talking about privatisation openly.

He would subsequently report on

the benefits it brought in reducing government borrowing. It was a swear word in the left-wing circles of the ANC.

The SACP coined a derogatory term for the Mbeki-era economic reforms, describing them as the "1996 Class Project".

Adopted in 1996, Gear was seen as a declaration of war against the working class.

RAMAPHOSA COMES ACROSS AS A SPECTATOR

Gear sought, among other things, to reduce government expenditure, integrate South Africa into the world economy by abolishing exchange controls, trade liberalisation and, more importantly, to reduce government debt.

The government had to either bite the bullet or continue with an expansive fiscal policy that would have resulted in the International Monetary Fund running the government.

Mbeki was so determined to implement the policy that no amount of opposition would stop him.

And so was the Ben Okri-inspired Manuel. The consequence of the decisiveness over time was healthy public finances, budget surpluses, a growing economy and the introduction of social grants, among others.

In his speech, Mboweni briefly referred to the successes of the Mbeki-Manuel era. (Mbeki was responsible for running the business of government, even while Mandela was president).

Mboweni said: "In the 15 years following



democracy, economic growth averaged 3.6 per cent a year. The gross debt-to-GDP ratio declined from

46 per cent to 26 per cent. In the five years from 2003 to 2008, growth averaged around five per cent and South Africa was amongst the fastest-growing major economies. The unemployment rate improved by five percentage points."

Mboweni made it clear he would like to repeat this.

But the circumstances are different.

It was clear during the Mbeki era that the reforms originated from the president himself. That strong political backing gave the finance minister and his Treasury officials cover to do their work.

This was diminished in the second half of the Jacob Zuma's ruinous presidency.

In 2020, it seems the primary dri-

ver of public finance reforms, at least on the face of it, is Mboweni who sometimes comes across as frustrated.

President Cyril Ramaphosa comes across as merely a supporter, avoiding getting directly entangled.

Mbeki personally lobbied union leaders to support his reforms. While they complained of lack of proper consultation, some admitted that he convinced them by doing the sums.

It remains to be seen what role Ramaphosa will play after the Mboweni Budget commitments.

In his speech, the Bible-inspired Mboweni could not even mention the word he most likely would have preferred: privatisation. We know, were it up to him, he would get the quickest auctioneer for SAA.

It is precisely because the government has over the years lacked the boldness to find an alternative model for SAA that Mboweni has set aside R16.4 billion to settle government-guaranteed debt and interest on behalf of the airline.

R205BN TO SERVICE DEBT

At the same time, and let this contrast sink in, the government will cut the human settlements budget by R14.6 billion over the next three years (R4.8 billion a year).

There is no rocket science here: it's costly, not beneficial, to run an inefficient state-owned airline. Would Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu

explained to desperate citizens on housing waiting lists that there won't be as much additional housing as previously planned because of SAA?

The circumstances of Mboweni's speech are also different to the internal politics of the governing party. Mbeki had near-complete control of the party and he was often accused of centralising power.

Not so for Ramaphosa who must contend with a secretary general and a core grouping that makes it known from time to time that they don't agree with him.

However, during the Mbeki presidency, opposition to government policies was confined to the ANC's alliance partners.

Despite the fact that Mboweni's reforms in the budget are not as deep as those of the Gear period, they will be resisted by the unions that would not tolerate job losses and salary stagnation.

Mboweni wants to reduce the public sector wage bill by R160 billion in the next three years.

It is part of his clampdown on government interest expenditure, to stave off a credit downgrade to junk by Moody's that would make government's borrowing costs even more expensive. The biggest and the fastest growing government expenditure is interest on government loans. In total, the government this year will pay R205 billion to service debt.

This is estimated to increase to R290 billion in 2022/23.

The unions are arguing that workers should not be blamed and sacrificed for the bad shape of the country's public finances. Now, we'll wait for the next slogan against Mboweni, who seems ready to face them at a bargaining chamber.

Beside threatening to go on strike, will the public unions make a compelling counter-arguments to prevent Mboweni's cuts?

Will they argue that Mboweni should instead cut more of service delivery spending, rather than the R100-billion cut he proposed?

Do public sector unions agree with the SAA unions who want to keep SAA in the sky, whatever the cost to the fiscus?

The Budget presents a dilemma to the unions.

Children can have cancer too

By Dr Nongabisa Mkhabela

What is cancer?

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the body. Cancer develops when the body's control mechanisms stop working. This may lead to formation of masses and/or dysfunction of organs involved and may also cause a disruption in the functions of the body's systems. Most cancers will cause abnormal growth mass (tumor), however some cancers especially cancers of the blood (leukemias) do not cause tumors.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children have cancer too!!

Childhood cancer is cancer that occurs between birth and the age of 18.

DID YOU KNOW?

Worldwide, every three minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer, with 300 000 new cases diagnosed every year! Almost 50 per cent of all cases of childhood cancer are in children aged zero-four years

old. Many more cases remain uncounted and unreported due to lack of childhood cancer registries.

Leukaemia is the most common childhood cancer and as stated above it does not cause formation of a visible tumor (mass)

In Leukaemia, the bone marrow (the spongy inside of bones) makes white blood cells that are not normal. These abnormal white cells crowds the bone marrow and get into the blood stream. The abnormal white cells are unable to protect the body from infections. There are different sub-types of leukaemia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most childhood leukemias have very high remission rates. Remission means that doctors see no cancer cells in the body. Childhood cancers have an 80 per cent remission rate if cancer is diagnosed and treated early!

Children often are unaware of their illnesses; even more so when it involves cancer because most cancers progress very slowly.

DID YOU KNOW?

Childhood cancer is often detected too late because parents do not have sufficient awareness of the early warning signs.

You know your child best. If you have a gut feeling or instinct that something is not right with your child, visit the nearest health facility or your doctor urgently.

It is essential therefore for all caregivers (parents, teachers, older family members, community members etc.) to be aware of the early signs of possible cancer in children and seek medical attention timely.

Teenagers, busy with sports and activities, often do not notice the first symptoms of their cancer, or attribute them to other parts of their lifestyle. These are the most common signs to watch out for. If the following symptoms are consistent and unexplained, always see your doctor:

Signs and symptoms can be difficult to spot amidst the normal bumps, bruises, growth spurts and mood swings. However, early detection is key; by knowing the common signs of cancer in young people, you could help save a life.

DID YOU KNOW?

Childhood cancer strikes infants, children, adolescents alike! Therefore get to know the signs and symptoms of childhood cancer and inform others!

SAINT

S

I

L

U

A

N

SEEK
 Medical help early for persistent symptoms.

EYE
 White spot in the eye, new squint, new blindness, bulging eyeball.

LUMP
 Abdomen and pelvis, head and neck, limbs, testes and glands.

UNEXPLAINED
 Prolonged fever over two weeks, loss of weight, pallor, fatigue, easy bruising or bleeding.

ACHING
 Bones, joints, back and easy fractures.

NEUROLOGICAL SIGNS
 Change or deterioration in walk, balance or speech, regression of milestones, headache for more than a week with or without vomiting, enlarging head.

The Conservatives -
The Silent Majority
theswaziconservatives@gmail.com
By David Dlamini

THE PRECARIOUS POSITION OF THE CONSERVATIVES

We have in our previous instalments expressed our view and reading of the political landscape, sincerely admitting the shortcomings of conservatives here at home.

We continue our candid discourse and analysis in this article, also evaluating the impact of protocols of the regional trading block (SADC), in particular the protocol on Politics, Defense, and Security Co-operation. Accepting, further, that such regional blocks actually flow and are guided by a broader UN agenda, and are as such highly internationalists and progressive. The emergence of this particular protocol introduces a necessary restraint on governments in handling intra-state tensions/violence, and where state excesses are suspected it prompts the SADC organ into action.

The protocol was concluded by Head of States and Governments at Blantyre on the 14th of August 2001. Of particular interest here is what the protocol states under Jurisdiction 2 (b) (i), as the conditions that prompts its intervention;

- Large-scale violence between sections of the population or between the state and sections of the population, including genocide, ethnic cleansing and gross violation of human rights.

Conservatives, traditionalists, and revolutionists have all been caught on the wrong side with regards to handing of altercations between state and sections of the population. Maduro, the revolutionary leader of Venezuela



has had serious run-ins with his handling of protesters in his country, with some regional countries even attempting to intervene, of course there's fierce protestation of leaders, both conservative and progressive, on the degree and extent of force one has to unleash to restore what may be a legitimate call for law and order. The bloody and forever regrettable Marikana massacre of workers in South Africa is another case in point, the sheer brute of this incident is stomach turning.

Clearly the comfort of leaders across the political spectrum, liberal/revolutionists/progressive and conservative, to easily revert to using security forces to deal with political opponents is soon ebbing out.

Conservative's response to this new reality better be proactive and coherent. We must wonder what could have happened here in the

infamous national stay away of 1996/7, frantic efforts by security forces to quell the swelling numbers of protesters were rarely successful. After the restoration of order a SADC committee led by Mr. Alfred Nzo, was shown the people's parliament (Sibaya) as our home grown all inclusive conflict resolution mechanism/structure, this was long before the current protocol.

Had this protocol been already in place, it's really doubtful if the committee would have left our shores without a progressive compliant national constituent structure.

The reality is that traditionalists and conservatives then (1996/7), and still now, are simply not prepared for a meaningful participation in such facilitated structures; this is despite the fact that they represent an overwhelming majority. This point may be contested, the same

way progressives were arguing that conservatives had no support serve for their multiple wives. But this argument was laid to rest when the Imbokodvo National Party won every seat in the 1968 national elections. But the state of unpreparedness of the conservative camp right now is compounded by the glaring lack of political education even amongst people who hold serious positions.

This is the specter that should keep every conservative thinker awake, the fact that if a national constituent forum, drawn from civic groups, NGO's, the religious sector (think Council of Churches), and others, were to be convened right now, the outcome of such a body would be inevitable progressive.

This is not an issue of democratic numbers, no, it represents one of the best Marxist strategies, to form civic groups and NGO's embed them among the community advocating for some noble cause, Mr. George Soros is reputed to be the biggest sponsor of such organisations under his Open Society Initiative. The reality is that conservatives would have no stronger presence through this approach, this ought to bother us really much.

A legitimate case can be made of the fact that Tinkhundla centers hold the most credible structure in terms of ensuring democratically and representative participation, we could thus mitigate for the lack of cohesive strategy by conservatives through drawing representatives from Tinkhundla centres to be part of any forum attempting to draw the future of the country. Representatives from the 59 Tinkhundla



JOY
NDWANDWE'S
LEADERSHIP
ZONE

IN TWO YEARS, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ENDS

Congratulations Your Excellency Prime Minister for correcting the past mistakes of government, during the receiving of helicopter gifts from Republic of China on Taiwan.

At Mandvulo Grand Hall in Lozitha the Prime Minister Mandvulo, stated clearly that Vision 2022, popularised as First World by His Majesty King Mswati III originates from the nation. Evidently, National Development Strategy, through stakeholder representative groups, which guided the King with vision: "By the Year 2022, the Kingdom of Swaziland will be in the top 10 per cent of the medium human development group of countries founded on sustainable economic development, social justice and political stability".

According to the official document of the ministry of economic planning and development, which further states, "What this vision states is that twenty-five years from the year 1997, Swaziland will have considerably improved its world standing in terms of measurable indices of human development. In its quest for the improved standing, it will rely on sustainable economic

development; social justice; and political stability." Therefore this acknowledgement that Vision 2022 emanated from the nation, it's not only a corrective narrative but critical for social cohesion, unity and peace. Serving as lived cultural experience, on King listening to his people, thus, redressing dominate divisive narrative of the King's vision for the First World, insinuating that the King never seeks guidance from the nation. The utterances from Prime Minister Mandvulo are healing as over the years we have been painfully witnessing government distancing the King from nation.

WORST CASE SCENARIO, LIQAQA

Stakeholders from diverse groups and representation named worst case scenario, liqaqa, skunk, meaning, "Like Liqaqa, the government has distanced itself from the people, ignore all signs of danger leading to the collapse of the system." This in accordance of the draft National Development Strategy (1997), with the following assumptions: first, the constitutional review is successfully carried out, however, the final document is not acceptable to some groups and formations. The second, political reforms, are partially implemented and transparency and accountability is still lack, thirdly, attempts to

development the economy proves to be futile and the

National Development is not implemented. The fourth, Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts decline, this is partly due to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as it is not negotiated in favour of the region, and lastly there are no social policies.

In 1997, marking the advent of South African democratisation process, we witnessed the transition into majority rule, with a black President Nelson Mandela. Evidently one of the most profound lessons learnt over the year's importation of goods and services also includes cultural and political ideology.

Thus, reflected in the emphasis of political reforms, as politics in this era was the transformative agenda, dominate paradigm being hope lies within political transformation. In Eswatini, some groupings this international song, thus, political reforms and constitutional review processes that it is acceptable due to appealing to certain interest groups. Hence, during constitutional review process, the nation witnessed some groups and formations withdrawing from the constitutional review process. My intention is not to evaluate the merits and demerits but to raise awareness on the National Development Strategy that ends in 2022.

Middle of the Lane Scenario, Ingobiyane Draft National Development Strategy (1997), middle of lane scenario, "Like ingobiyane, Swaziland (then), has failed to analyze herself and has hidden from faults, hence, the country is worse off than before." The underlying assumptions: firstly, the constitutional review is carried out and the position of the Monarch is clearly defined, the 1973 proclamation is removed allowing for multi-party politics. Secondly, the on-going public sector reforms continue, planned projects are undertaken and the budget position of government is sustainable, and the revenue from SACU is stable. Lastly, political reforms fail, the economy declines and the delivery of social services deteriorates.

The constitutional review with the position of Monarch clearly defined, this assertion falls short of stating how some stakeholders wished for a constitutional Monarch in this scenario. It further seeks for the removal of the 1973 decree, thus, allowing multi-party politics, as this was the dominate paradigm that prevailed. Africa was following the western democratisation processes, and Swaziland then, remained the sore thumb, problem child, and unfortunately was being led by the youngest monarch. Thus, the world believed he would succumb to the international template of western democracy, and some of the stakeholders were singing from the same hymn book of democratisation

centres might present minimal relief to the disorganised conservative camp, in the event such a scenario were to prevail, and many political aware Emaswati say it's no longer a question of IF, nor is it a question of WHEN, but rather a question of HOW SOON? But we all know the quality and depth of leaders drawn from Tinkhundla, add to that the fact that these would be 59 individuals who rarely know each other, let alone having some common values and understanding of issues; the scale would remain, still, in favour of the progressive camp, by leveraging on their well-organised structure and long history of working together.

Just to illustrate the power of strategy driven by the clearly numerical inferior progressives/communists, the South African Communist Party (SACP) in South Africa has resisted contesting national politics on its own. It has instead parasitically cleaved to the ANC, achieving totally disproportionate influence in national politics.

They proudly claim, rightly so, to have been behind the axing of president Mbeki, getting Zuma into the presidency, and lately behind the success of the R17 campaign that thinly gave Ramaphosa the presidency. That's really an impressive record, coming from a party that would rarely manage any decent numbers in the ballot box.

Their leftist colleagues, the Socialists Revolutionary Workers Party, led by Irvin Jim, decided to try the waters. The SRWP contested in the 2019 South African elections, and only managed to amass 24 000 votes, a meager 0.14 per cent of the total vote.

Helping us to roughly guesstimate the popularity of leftist politics not only in South Africa, but by extension here at home.

We see the same SACP strategy here being pursued by local surrogates of the South African progressives, where left leaning unionists, who probably number around a thousand continue to cleave onto trade unions here, again achieving a really disproportionate influence in this sector, we now as a result have a workers federation that is leftist. But we need not despair,

conservatives in the US, Brazil, and the United Kingdom have wrought really impressive results. With evangelicals getting the credit for the victories in the US and Brazil, it's still a raging contest in the US with liberals trying to use every opportunity to reverse the victory. Brexit represents a fierce fight back by the British conservatives to the tide of liberalism and globalism. The Swazi conservatives faces no lesser threats, but is far lesser prepared to fight back; our perils as articulated in the article could be listed as;

- Conservatives/traditionalists in leadership or government now operate under the sharp eye of regional UN led bodies, who look at us with thinly veiled hatred.

- Conservative governments can no longer rely on security forces to quell their opposition, instead must be ready to enter the political terrain and engage in the heated contest of ideas.

- We need to worry about how effectively we have been in projecting a positive image to the youth about our values, our fears are that the youth finds little inspiration from what they see and hear.

- Conservatives within and outside the church need to critically question the way they present authority, the unaccountable and self-enriching leadership some of us display, are actually repelling our youth from conservatism.

- Structures like the Eswatini Youth Council, which has been with us for a very long, must be capacitated to realise their full potential.

The um' memo season

Beginning this weekend at Mbuleni Royal kraal is the all-important um' memo ceremonies, occurring across a number of *imiphakadzi* in the Republic of South Africa, represent another opportunity to accelerate a truly Swazi renaissance.

The deployment of speakers to these events must reflect our seriousness to inspire confidence in our fellow Swazis and such speakers must go full blast, it's really pathetic and unbearable to listen to some of the speakers droning on empty.

and multi-party politics. The new political dispensation in South Africa was seen as the saving grace towards achieving this due to SACU revenues and economic dependency including the pegging of Lilangeni to the Rand.

THE BEST SCENARIO DVOYE

The draft National Development Strategy (1997), best scenario, "Like Dvoye, Swaziland (then) will learn from her mistakes, taken corrective measures and is standing at the high road to progress basking in glory." The underlying assumptions were as follows: firstly, political reforms are carried out and the constitution is acceptable to the majority of the Swazi (ti) people, secondly, effective economic reforms are carried out (National Development Strategy (NDS), Public Sector Management Programme (PSMP), Economic Strategy Recovery Action (ESRA)) and strategies to effect expenditure controls are implemented. Thirdly, outcome of the SACU negotiations results in the agreement that is favourable to the conditions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are negotiated and the outcome is in favour of our region. Lastly, there is political stability and peace in the country, which attracts donors and foreign investors. To achieve this best scenario, political reforms were high on the agenda with a constitution acceptable to the majority of the nation. The consideration of majority surfaces, as the other two scenarios affirm strong stakeholder's views representing interest groups, thus, marginalising what my fellow columnist above coined, silent majority. The economic reforms and strategies of government, including effective expenditure controls, were preventative measures to the current financial crises. As government lost control whether by default or design of expenditure controls, with

inflated prices from tender entrepreneurs and escalating wage bill, including the King's emoluments. Yet, the country remains unable to diversify investments, with continued dependency of SACU receipts, evidently, donor and foreign investments remain unstable.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this country has two years before the end of 25 years of National Development Strategy, hopefully with a new leadership that seems to consider the nation guides the King. Thus, it's time for critical and rethinking thinking as a nation on where we find ourselves in terms of best, worst and middle of the land scenarios. With all due respect the emphasis on political reforms such as multi-party politics in Africa, has intriguing and insightful lessons, the SONA dramas in South Africa. Such that I am carefully considering whether politics is defunct, fragmented not only in Africa but globally, therefore, is politics an ideology or institution worth following? I even question whether western democracy manifests sustainable development or these are systems we accepted as they were carrots dangled by donors and promised investment opportunities?

The Kingdom of Eswatini, has made great strides with its organic democracy, and most significantly achieved visible peace, unity and stability. However, there are lot of political noises being made in the country and within diaspora, however, it's difficult to hear politics embroiled in insults and shameful language. These political noises makes me question, whether there is a political agenda worth pursuing in this country? Politics as insults and shameful language is noisy as if buganu, marula is unseasonal beverage or drinking umsaba throughout the year.

CULTIVATING APPRECIATION



By Lisa Mongelli

N

o matter where you come from or who you are the Universal Law of Attraction states; what you think about most you attract, and what you think about most you become.

To cultivate appreciation and a positive mindset is the beginning of attracting and achieving what you want in this life no matter what it may be, when you think correctly you can make the impossible, possible.

How is your attitude when it comes to your life? When you wake up in the morning do you meet the day with a smile and optimism, or do you just want to pull the covers over your head and go back to sleep. The idea of being Happy all the time may seem like a one dimensional concept best left to a Jane Austin novel, but honestly the people who actually live in the magic of life are pretty much just that happy all the time. If they are presented with obstacles they focus on the positive, and work with life's challenges in a constructive way knowing challenges are there to be met while focusing on a positive outcome that will see them to the solution they want.

People who live in the appreciation of Life cultivate an attitude that results in an overall feeling of happiness and contentment. They choose to be Happy!

Happiness and a feeling of well being, has everything to do with attitude and choice.

Those of us who choose to see the sunny side of life aren't different from anyone else who walks this planet. We choose our thoughts and focus them in such a way that the Universe gives us the gift of overall wellbeing in all areas of life.

Those people who choose to go with the natural flow of life have cultivated a habitual way of being it is not a onetime event it is a way of life. To understand what I mean by natural flow is simply this, the Universe creates and sustains itself with zero effort. We are part of that creative process and our lives were never meant to be as hard or as difficult as we make them. In choosing the right attitude we choose a course of life that brings us into the natural creative flow of all things and we become part of that great tapestry we join with and become source. We are all working with one infinite power that power is Creation.

When we learn to direct our thoughts with good feeling and optimism the scenario of life can become truly magical. Positive affirmation where the paradigm of life is lived with conscious intention brings us once again to the Universal law of attraction. What are you intending what are you

**GIVE.
THANKS.**

attracting?

We are all working with this same law Attraction; and whether we choose to believe it or not whether we understand or not it is inconsequential because it is always working. Your attitude is the very thing that attracts or pulls in your circumstances. Life is internal it begins and ends with what is inside of you no exception. In this regard God has truly created "All men Equal". What you think about most you become, what you think about most creates your life circumstances; and when you focus on something passionately the faster you make it happen, whether it is something you want or not.

Your attitude creates your feelings and is a good indication of what you are in the process of attracting into your life. When you look at the people around you it becomes evident what is predominately in their thoughts. Those with a positive Life orientation attract The Good things, success both personally and financially, robust health, loving relationships just generally a life to be envied. Those with a negative Life orientation tend to attract illness, debt, loneliness and a job or career they dislike or worse. People with a negative mind set by and large feel victimised by their circumstances. These individuals are generally completely blind to the fact that their attitude about their life and themselves has created it all. I cannot impress upon you enough what you think about most you manifest absolutely no exception it is true for every person every single time. The veracity of that statement may boggle your mind but it is a Universal truth that thought has power thought has energy thought is source. The reality, the certainty of who and what we are is a direct result of our connection and relationship to source our creator.

To embrace an attitude of love and appreciation for all that God has given you is definitely the entry to a Happier, Healthier more Abundant Life.

Attitude is everything and everything is Attitude what a remarkably, powerful idea.

Remember to keep a good thought endeavour to be Happy and above all use your intention to enrich your Life. To keep a good thought is the gateway to manifesting the life you truly want. Positive thinking brings us

into alignment with Divine Mind making it possible to attract all the good things in Life that we desire and so completely deserve. Have a lovely Sunday and God bless you.

Please share your thoughts with me. You can mail me at

lisamongelli30@gmail.com



T

wo years later the enactment of the Sexual Offences and

Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018, Eswatini now have a braille version of the act to accommodate those living with disability especially visual impaired persons.

Thanks to development partners; UNICEF and Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA).

Braille is a universal accepted system of writing used by and for blind persons and consisting of a code of 63 characters, each made up of one to six raised dots arranged in a six-position matrix or cell. These Braille characters are embossed in lines on paper and read by passing the fingers lightly.

This week Thursday, the Deputy Prime Minister Themba Nhlangiso Masuku officially launched the SODV braille version for the visually impaired at St. Josephs School. This school is inclusive in terms of admitting both able bodied and those living with various disabilities including the visually impaired.

This was more than a launch but a celebration of the milestone that Eswatini has taken to embrace and fully recognised the people living with disability as per the Disability Act of 2018.

Why the Braille version of SODV? This is very important because the SODV Act itself is embracing the rights of the people living with disabilities. They also need to read and know what SODV is all about so that they do not commit any offence that will lead them receiving harsh sentences from the courts. This will also enlighten them to know their rights if someone is violating them so that they report such actions to the police.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the launch of the SODV in braille shows there is a deliberate commitment to make sure that no one is left behind as the country is moving towards the First World status in 2022. Masuku alluded that people living with disabilities were created by God and they have dreams and visions like the rest.



It takes Eswatini to end sexual violence against children

OH HAPPY DAY!



Globally there are over 285 million people who are visually impaired. Some were born blind but others because of accidents, diseases and age are now visually impaired, which means no one is immune to partial or total blindness.

Cases

DPM Masuku further stated that every Liswati has a right to correct information including the SODV Act and this will minimise the number of incidences reported due to ignorance in some cases.

He then thank World Vision Eswatini for providing a laptop to Mhlonishwa Mabatho, who is visually impaired and this assisted him in achieving his goal of being a

teacher.

He is currently teaching at St. Josephs School despite his disability.

St. Josephs School Head Teacher Wilfred Cindzi was very excited because pupils have been asking him several times why were they excluded in terms of the SODV Act and many others that have a direct impact in their lives.

Nonhlanhla Dlamini – Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) Executive Director said her organisation decided to do the SODV in braille format because of the public outcry.

The organisation further developed a comic version of the Act for

children. UNICEF has funded both projects.

She said their mandate is to make sure that all the people living in this country are aware of the Act and are protected by all means. She then called upon the government to make sure that everyone who violates the Act is arrested. She reminded the DPM that some people because of the status in the country have evaded arrests after violating the SODV Act.

The SODV braille will be placed in strategic places for easier accessibility such as national libraries, Deputy Prime Minister's office and other public places.

These and more should be count-

ed as the country achievements in bid to fight sexual violence against children.

Indeed we shall conquer this social ill just as we continuously unite to fight it. As for this day, indeed it was a happy day!

It Takes Eswatini To End Sexual Violence Against Children Campaign Is A National Campaign led by World Vision Eswatini, to part and play a role contact, nontobeko_mbuyane@wvi.org

Report Sexual Violence Today On,

Police: 999

SWAGAA: 951

MOET: 9664

SMS U-REPORT: 8500

NEW YEAR...OLD ME?

How many of you are quite tired of making New Year's resolutions that you can't seem to stick to?

Making big promises to yourself that you can't keep? I know I've been there.

We need to be reminded that new year's resolutions are not compulsory, you could wing the entire year if you wanted to, however, chances are you would find yourself further away from your long term goal if you did that.

So what should I do then, you may ask?

Try setting quarterly goals instead. For example, by March 2020 you may plan to have read 3 books on Leadership, with the intention that the knowledge gained from these books will be a contributing factor towards one of your long term goals. Then in the second quarter you top that goal with another one which will bring you even closer to the end goal. If quarterly intervals are too far, make it weekly; adjust it to a timeline that suits you best. I would guard against making these intervals too far apart though, demotivation attacks an idle mind all too easily.

Another option would be to get an accountability partner. An accountability partner is someone who will help you stay on track with your goal and keep you accountable every step of the way. This person should ideally do the following:

1. Help you identify exactly what you want

to accomplish in precise detail

2. Help verify the steps you need to take in order to achieve your goal

3. Make sure you stay on track

I personally think a great accountability partner is someone you are quite close to, who is not afraid to tell you the truth and whose opinion you value. The reason accountability partners work better for some people is due to the fact that disappointing someone else always seems to sting a little harder than disappointing yourself, so it's largely psychological. Give it a try, it may work for you and your partner.

Also, be real with yourself. There is no use aiming to get that job promotion when your heart is truly set on developing the business that you and your friend started 2 years ago; your attention does need to be focused. Think about what it is that truly matters at this current stage of your life.

Most importantly, remember that nothing will ever go EXACTLY as you've planned. Being great at adapting to certain situations is just as important as being a great planner. So don't be too hard on yourself if this year comes to an end and you're not the multimillionaire you intended to be, you may sign out of the year as a wealthier human being, wealthier in health, wisdom and prosperity.

So, here's to another year of living our lives undimmed! **Gcinile Dlamini**

UK INTRODUCES

The United Kingdom recently announced a new Graduate visa route that will allow international students to stay in the UK for two years once they have successfully completed studies.

This is one of the changes in the recently launched points-based immigration system the UK is introducing from 2021. Students wishing to study in the UK will need to demonstrate that they have an offer from an approved educational institution, speak English and are able to support themselves during their studies in the UK.

A new graduate immigration route will be available to international students who have completed a degree in the UK. They will be able to work, or look for work, in the UK at any skill level for up to 2 years.

This will make the UK's offer even more competitive and make it easier for international students to secure skilled jobs in the UK. The new Graduate route will be introduced from the summer of 2021.

Highly skilled workers

The new points-based system, which takes effect from 1 January 2021, will open up the UK to the brightest and the best from around the world following the UK's exit from the European Union (EU). It will end free movement and introduce a single global immigration system that prioritises the skills people have to offer and how they will contribute to the UK's economy, not where they come from.

The new system will attract the brightest and best talent from across the world, including scientists, innovators and academics. It will require and award points for a job offer at the appropriate skill level, the ability to speak English and meeting the appropriate salary threshold. Minimum annual salary thresholds will be set at £25,600 (approx. £499,000) as recommended by independent migration experts.

EU citizens and other non-visa nationals will not require a visa to enter the UK when visiting for up to 6 months. EU citizens, along with citizens of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the USA, Singapore and South Korea - with biometric passports - will continue to be able to use automatic eGates to cross the UK border.

However, in some limited circumstances, everyone going to the UK for work or study will

P

atrick Lencioni once said: "I never accepted the premise that meetings themselves were bad."

The tourism space shares those sentiments. It is always a pleasure to be part of colossal gatherings, where the entire world, not just the African continent, comes to a standstill and everyone talks about conferencing and nothing else.

This year, the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) set out to the Sandton International Conference Centre (ICC), the proud hosts of Meetings Africa 2020. This year's version of the auspicious gathering started on February 24 – 26, 2020 with a total of 329 exhibitors and out of those, 116 were African.

About 20 African countries were represented, and because the floor is always open for new kids on the block to flex their muscles, about 61 first time exhibitors were welcomed. The robust team representing the Kingdom of Eswatini was led by Minister of Tourism Honourable Moses Vilakati, who had travelled with the Director of Tourism Helmon Motsa, Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) Chief Executive Officer Linda Nxumalo, representatives from Happy Valley, Royal Villas and Pigg's Peak Hotels, and myself. Meanwhile, our Client Liaison Officer Nontsikelelo Mazibuko held down the fort as she manned our stand for the whole three days.

Our hotels had come out gun blazing, all in a bid to capture as many interested clients as possible, and of course tourists for our country. The target audience here was quite different from the ordinary adventure and culture enthusiasts, as we were all out to sell conferencing facilities and capabilities. Just a little background on the event: since Africa has become more attractive in the global meetings industry because of the world class standards we have adopted, Meetings Africa became a necessity in recent years. As explained by the organisers, it provides the perfect business platform to present one's products, services and brands to senior decision-makers, buyers and influencers. Exhibitors get to meet local and international professionals from the meetings, events and business travel industry. Currently, African associations and meetings industry professionals have been forging partnerships to uplift the whole continent. Meetings Africa cer-



TOURISM & TRAVEL

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AFRICA CONVERGES AT MEETINGS AFRICA 2020



tainly lived up to the expectations as we met more than 400 highly qualified hosted buyers and key decision-makers, particularly tour operators. We mingled with businesses, industry colleagues across myriad sectors and most importantly, we got to learn the most innovative ways to launch new product and service offerings. Updating the industry's existing products was also an important lesson for the hotels we had travelled with. We also participated in the networking events and educational sessions, which opened our eyes anew. The trip was a great opportunity for the kingdom to be marketed to other African and international event planners, organisers of international conventions, local corporate executives who specialise in business travel, travel agencies specialising in incentive, business and conference travel, in-house event co-ordinators, incentive houses, conference organisers, sales and promotion agencies, marketing companies, Public Relations

agencies who came looking for the best of the best for their clients. According to Meetings Africa, the venue was crawling with national, provincial and local tourism authorities including our own, African Tourism authorities and products, convention and visitor bureaus, conference and exhibition centres, hotels and accommodation providers, destination management companies, event management specialists, professional conference organisers, transportation companies, business events service providers, cruise liners, spa resorts, trade associations and travel trade publications.

During an interview with the media, our minister mentioned that Meetings Africa was important in marketing the kingdom's events, conventions and meetings. We were selling what Eswatini could offer in terms of meetings tourism as the discipline is not limited to holiday and relaxation, even though the combination of business and pleasure is always desirable.

Which reminds me of a trio of gentlemen from Eritrea who had come here for a conference and, in the process got to sneak off for the Baganu Ceremony. That is the lovely thing about the kingdom of Eswatini, its size is just convenient for doing everything in all corners in a single weekend. Nontsikelelo would often emphasise our calendar of events to people who were interested in what Eswatini had to offer. It is always nicer to plan a coincidence between a conference and the Umhlanga Ceremony. We have all hands on deck in driving the Strategic Roadmap, which has it cast in stone that our tourist numbers should increase.

The minister emphasised that platforms such as Meetings Africa would aid Eswatini increase their numbers from 1.2 – 1.3 million to 2 million per year. "We note that Meetings Africa is one of our strategic initiatives in the MICE Tourism as we embark on the vigorous marketing and promotion of our upcoming

International Convention Centre (ICC) going forward," said Vilakati. Our minister also spoke at length with his South African counterpart and they came back with the conclusion that the time for competition was up, as we now enter an era of complementarity as united nations in Africa. This is a constant reminder of how important our Tri-Land agreement with Mozambique and South Africa is. We have arrived to the era where we have comprehensive packages including all three countries will be offered. It is so exciting that we will soon be hosting hundreds of meetings in the biggest conference facility in Eswatini by the year 2022. The ICC was indeed a step in the right direction for us to attain and enjoy first world status as a country. We came back inspired by the Sandton ICC who showed us how hosting an extravaganza should look like. We had lots of tour operators visit the ETA stand and they were interested in bringing tourists to the country.

And, we are glad to announce that we had a very fruitful trip and the results will be evident very soon. Before we bid each other farewell, we would love to appreciate all those who went for the Hlane Baganu Ceremony, especially tour operators from neighbouring countries. Lionelo Lucas from Mozambique brought us 115 tourists who enjoyed an open braai at Simunye Country Club before making it to the festival, which they enjoyed a lot.

POINTS-BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

... international students can stay, work in UK for 2 years after studies

need a visa and to pay to access the National Health Service (NHS). All migrants looking to enter the UK for other reasons (such as work or study) will need to apply for a visa in advance.

International students

There continues to be no limit on the number of international students who can go to the UK to study. The UK Government has an ambition to increase the number of international students in higher education to 600,000 by 2030. University-sponsored student visa applications are at the highest number ever recorded.

The UK Government recognises the contribution of international students and is seeking to support the education sector in increasing the number of international students in the UK.

"We will also seek to simplify arrangements for all students who wish to come to the UK to study, and their sponsoring institutions. The system is working well, and our world-class institutions will continue to provide an outstanding level of education to students from around the world," said Home Secretary Priti Patel.

"We will further improve our offer to inter-

national students by launching the Graduate route in summer 2021. This new immigration route will allow graduates of UK universities to remain in the UK for two years post-study to work, look for work, and gain valuable experience."

Patel said announcing the intention to introduce the route allows universities to promote the route when recruiting prospective students. It also enables students to decide where to study, knowing they have the option of staying in the UK to work after completing their studies, she added.

Any student who successfully completes their degree-level course at a qualifying institution after the route has been introduced will benefit and this could include students who are already studying.

"It is important to offer certainty to students and universities to ensure they will benefit from the route," the Home Secretary said.

Artists, entertainers and musicians

The new system will not be creating a dedicated route for self-employed people such as

artists, entertainers and musicians. The Home Secretary said the UK recognises that there are several professions where there is a heavy reliance on freelance workers.

"They will continue to be able to enter the UK under the innovator route and will in due course be able to benefit from the proposed unsponsored route. The UK already attracts world-class artists, entertainers and musicians and we will continue to do so in the future," she said.

The UK's existing rules permit artists, entertainers and musicians to perform at events and take part in competitions and auditions for up to six months. They can receive payment for appearances at certain festivals or for up to a month for a specific engagement, without the need for formal sponsorship or a work visa.

EU citizens

The UK will continue with its generous visitor provisions, but with simplified rules and guidance. EU citizens will be treated as non-visa nationals so they can visit the UK for six months without the need to obtain a visa.

"We will unilaterally allow EU citizens to con-

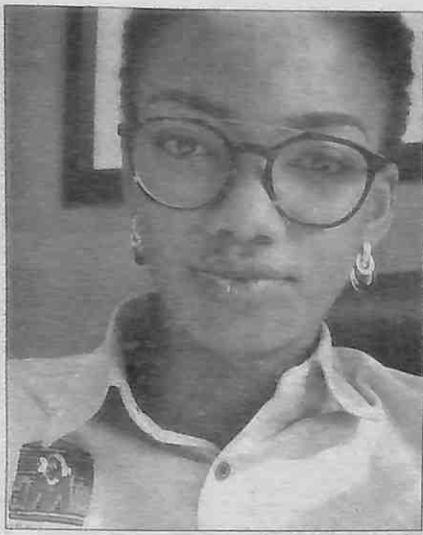
tinue to use e-gates, but we will keep this under review. There will be no changes to the Common Travel Area," added Patel.

Mobile UK Visa Application Day for Eswatini
Presently, visa applications to visit the United Kingdom are processed online. Applicants are then expected to book an appointment at the Visa Application Centre in Pretoria to submit their application and biometric data.

The British High Commission in Eswatini does not process visa applications. People wishing to visit the UK can apply, make payment, self-upload documents and book an appointment at the Visa Application Centre online by visiting <https://visa-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/uk-visit-visa>.

Despite this, the British High Commission in Eswatini has received a constant stream of visa enquiries since its offices became fully operational in December last year.

The High Commission is currently reviewing the options around organising a mobile Visa Application Day at some stage in the next few months. Once dates are known, the High Commission will advertise this opportunity. Until then, all applications should be through Pretoria.



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WHY MAIZE IS THE SOLUTION TO ESWATINI'S FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGE



Maize is a staple food for most countries in the SADC Region and it remains important for achieving food security in Southern Africa.

In the agricultural economy, maize is one of the most important cereal crops in the world for human consumption, animal feed and other industrial raw material requirements. It is, in fact, one of the world's leading crops with an estimated 637 million tonnes produced annually.

In Eswatini, it is the staple food of the Swazi nation and is the most widely produced agricultural product in the country. Even subsistence farmers grow maize more than any other crop; so much so, that agricultural marketing is dominated by maize marketing amongst small scale farm holders. It accounts for an average of 36 per cent of all caloric intake in the region and the predominance of the crop in farming systems basically suggests that yield gains have the potential to kick-start a major improvement in nutritional value.

As a result of the continuing and drastic effects of global warming, the SADC Region continues to experience high levels of volatility in annu-

al production, and though the levels of production have been varying from one season to another, the general rate of production has hit an all-time low; something the region hadn't experienced in over 30 years. This made the success of the production of the crop particularly vulnerable, especially because maize is mostly grown under rain-fed conditions. However, through the introduction of the Farmer Development Officers, NMC aims to increase production. The primary function of the Farmer Development Officers is to aid maize farmers and arm them with the latest techniques and information related to maize production with a view to help them achieve their maximum potential aimed at making the country food secured.

In order to stimulate changes in maize productivity and increase benefits for farmers, they must be alerted about the availability of formal marketing bodies such as NMC, who, through their different stakeholder management activities and

communication platforms will awaken their interest in commercial farming. For Eswatini, it is not so much that there isn't enough land for farming than it is that we are not going about our farming activities the correct way. Farmers alike need to adopt a culture of reflecting on what commonalities lie in their farming methods, look at the general characteristics of small-holdings in terms of farming, identify them (low yields, poor harvests, etc) and then look into ways of improving in those areas, with a view to start making lucrative revenues from the farming activities. The days of looking at farming purely for subsistence purposes must come to an end, the sooner, the better for us all. Major opportunities lie in using NMC as a maize market for the nation because this is the one organisation that has the muscle and technical know-how to circulate and spin our maize industry thereby turning maize production into a highly profitable grain.

For a small country like Eswatini, at just over 17,000 square kilometre-

tres, it is estimated that we need to have maize yields of 140,000 metric tonnes (MT) a year in order to consider ourselves food secure, this would take about 14,000 hectares of land to produce an average of 10 tonnes per hectare; and now, considering that we have what is termed winter maize, which is maize grown under irrigation during the winter season, thereby giving us two farming seasons, the country is estimated to be able to 'get by with ease' with just 8,000 hectares of land. But Eswatini has endless arable land, this is indeed a possibility. And with support from the National Maize Corporation who will provide a guaranteed market to farmers and the Swazi Nation, farmers can be able to benefit through the different levels of the maize value chain.

In neighbouring RSA for example, agriculture contributes to approximately 10 per cent of formal employment, contributing about 2.6 per cent of that country's GDP. Maize is also their most important crop;

is a dietary staple, a source of livestock feed and an export crop. Government programmes including generous loans and extension services have been crucial to that country's business enterprises. This, too, is the vision of NMC's CEO, Sabelo Msibi, who sees a food secure Eswatini through the continued development of strategic alliances with entities that can produce maize for NMC and ultimately the country on a commercial scale as well as through developing and upholding healthy stakeholder relations.

NMC's CEO insists that food security is not in the supermarket, nor does it lie with government. True food security lies with man and his hands. Food security lies in our ability to produce enough for our families and surplus to sell to others, thereby achieving a difficult feat of attaining access to food for all. Food security lies in good agricultural practices and this, for him, is one of the noblest forms of employment for man. Will you be producing maize season?

Evang. Wilton Mamba



IS DEATH THE END GAME?

...a tribute to Alou Badara and Bongani 'Bibo' Gama

Last week two people, who were close to me for different reasons, died suddenly.

These two acquaintances died in separate incidences. I have lost many relatives before; the list includes my own siblings, but never before have I been so rattled by death. After the demise of my two friends, I hardly slept; at some point I was jolted out of sleep by a dream where I had visions of my own death. In the vision, I saw myself in a situation where I encountered death and could not escape. The fear lingered on for days. I kept asking the question under my breath: what would become of my spirit if I died now? The passing on of my two friends in the manner they did made death almost palpable, so real to me – I felt weak and vulnerable. I realised I was

basically defenceless against death. Of course, I had always known that, but there was something different about my comprehension of death this time around.

But when I had nowhere to run, God's promises proved my only source of comfort. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." **Psalm 23:4 NKJV**. The truth of the matter is this: "We are people of flesh and blood. That is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death. But he also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying." **Hebrews 2:14-15**. It's interesting how this quote has remained so alive in my memory though I only spent a few months at law school. Sadly

departed law lecturer Bekithemba Khumalo loved quoting this famous line by English philosopher Thomas Hobbes: "No arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear, and danger of violent death: and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short." Even as he said it, Hobbes hoped for a better life outturn. I have always wanted to know what happens when we die; and the desire to find out was much stronger than the desire to live well. It is this burning desire to know about the after-life that led me to Jesus. The Holy Spirit, which comes by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, ushered me into a fountain of knowledge that remains hidden even to the most intelligent mortals of our time, including Hobbes. This fountain is the Holy Bible, the sacred scriptures that survived numerous attempts

by Biblical antagonists to eliminate it from public access. Apostle Peter wrote: "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory thereof as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower falleth: But the word of the Lord abideth for ever." (**1 Peter 1:24-25**). The Word of God is my strength, even in the face of death. I know that even as my friends could not defend themselves against death, which snatched their souls like a thief, they had a fair chance, as I do now, to get saved. "So our bodies return to the earth, and the life-giving breath returns to God." **Ecclesiastes 12:7. Acts 2:29,34** states clearly without ambiguity: "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day... For David did not ascend into the heavens..." But surely



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STANDARD BANK CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANKING TRANSACTIONAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

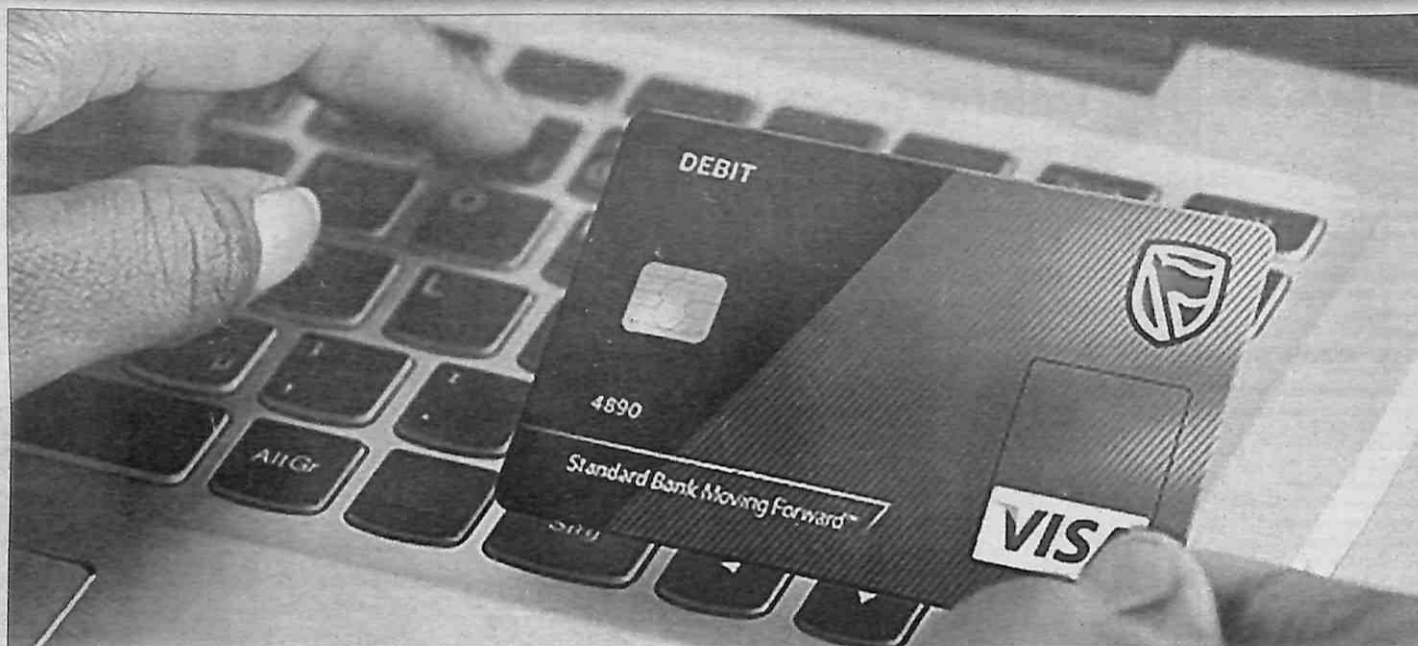
As the banking sector evolves with the rise of technology and the fourth industrial revolution it remains key for us to be "more than a bank" to our clients.

We cannot underestimate the impact of the new ways of delivering financial services and the main challenges facing the banking industry globally and locally. The main issues facing the banking industry include the rise of digitization, the emergence of Fintechs, embracing change and ensuring that we meet our clients needs in the everchanging banking environment. (Bowden, 2013) Speed is of essence as we face changes in technology, in regulations, in restructuring of businesses and the managing of businesses and balance sheets across multiple geographies.

The changes that are galvanizing payment systems and the current revolution in the regulatory landscape provide adequate evidence to confirm that we are in indeed in a "New World" for the financial services industry.

The fact that our landscape has fast changed with the emerging transformation and developments brought about by the ways in which we need to do business that to a certain extent competitors are no longer traditional banks but include other industry players that were not traditionally competitors. It remains key for us at Standard Bank Eswatini to stay ahead and understand the needs of our clients and how we can continue to provide.

Our Transactional Products and Services ensure that we continue to provide much need-



ed solutions to our clients.

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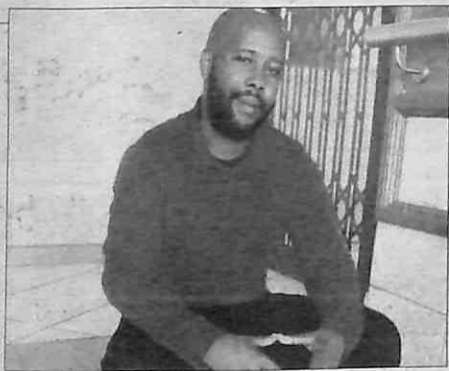
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death does not have to be the end. Jesus assures us of that, and His promises are yes and Amen. In **John 11**, Jesus assures Martha of His power over death, and Martha did not comprehend what the Lord was saying. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.' **John 11:25**. What Jesus said had forever been written: 'I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death...' **Hosea 13:14**. I look forward to seeing my loved ones in the after-life. That much the Bible promises us. My parents told me of an elder brother who

died in the early seventies. I get very excited at the prospect of meeting him in heaven. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, NKJV**: "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with

the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." I draw strength knowing that God's promises are unchangeable. He loves us so much and nothing will separate us from His love. "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39, NKJV. You who have lost your loved ones, grieve not. You who face chronic diseases, fear not.

There will come a time when there will be no more evil because God is good and He triumphs over evil. In the New Earth, death shall reign no more. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." **Revelation 21:4, NKJV**. Christ assures us of victory over death. "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a

Wilton Mamba is an Evangelist and founder of David Goliath Spiritual Solutions, a sanctuary that provides spiritual solutions to practical problems, counselling and life coaching, cutting-edge Bible study and spiritual exercises through works of faith.

If you have been blessed by reading this article, or seek clarification on some of the issues raised here, contact Evang. Wilton Mamba on 7677 9312 or 7977 0952 or 2404 5284.

You can send an email to mambawilton.multimedia@gmail.com. Fellowship with us today at 10am at Multimedia, Corner Somhlolo Road and Mbhilibhi Street in Mbabane opposite ICAP.

moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**.

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SUNDAY OBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

MNANGAGWA TO RESIGN?

HARARE - Vice President, Constantino Chiwenga is reportedly preparing to take Zimbabwe power either this year, or no later than August 2021, amid new reports that the military has agreed to a transitional takeover by the VP, to ease President Emmerson Mnangagwa out of office for his dismal economic failure, Spotlight Zimbabwe, can exclusively reveal.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), this week warned that 'a major humanitarian crisis' threatens Zimbabwe, together with 'a prolonged and severe food insecurity' situation, at a time the Bretton Woods Institution is forecasting almost zero growth in Harare's topsy-turvy economy.

According to high level military and diplomatic sources, the country's security chiefs under the auspices of the Joint Operations Command (JOC), recently agreed to elevate their former boss Chiwenga to the presidency, and expect him to run the country for about two to two and a half years on a transitional accord, before Zimbabwe's next presidential and parliamentary elections slated for around July 2023.

Under the brewing military dispensation designed to save the nation from utter economic and political disaster,



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

to usher in a civilian government post July 2023, Mnangagwa is expected to tender his resignation and pave way for Chiwenga to finish off his term, in a fashion reminiscent of how Mnangagwa himself finished former President Robert Mugabe's incomplete office tenure between November 24, 2017- July 30, 2018. The VP is also said to have received the political support and endorsement of three world powers namely: China, Russia and India.

In a symbolic gesture, the European

Union (EU) a fortnight ago suspended sanctions on Chiwenga, as it now looks increasingly a done deal that the former Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) Commander, might be taking power soon. This publication and reporter, was the first to report about VP Chiwenga's ascendancy to his current position on March 18, 2016, when he was still then the defence forces boss. Our same informants maintain that Chiwenga, is now poised to become president at a moment's notice.

Zim Eye

AU recalls observer team for Guinea vote

ADISABABA - The African Union has said it was recalling a team to observe a constitutional referendum and legislative elections in Guinea today that have been overshadowed by fears of violence.

The European Union also voiced its concern.

In a statement, the AU said it had decided to recall its observers in the light of 'recent pre-electoral developments' in Guinea.

It cited a 'major controversy' surrounding the country's electoral roll and the 'impossibility' of the West African regional bloc ECOWAS to be able to confer with President Alpha Conde ahead of the high-stakes vote.

Conde, 81, is staging a referendum to modify a constitution that, he says, needs to be overhauled and take into account pressing social issues, such as banning female genital mutilation.

But critics say the change is a ploy to enable him to stay in office beyond the maximum two five-year terms allowed under the pre-

sent constitution. The impoverished state, one of the most volatile in all of Africa, has been roiled by months of protests against Conde's plan. At least 31 people have died, including a gendarme.

The opposition has vowed to boycott today's vote, and fears of a return to Guinea's bloody past are high. Doubts about the credibility of the poll swelled this week when the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF), gathering French-speaking states, queried 2.49 million out of the 7.7 million names on the electoral roll.

They included duplicate registrations and people who had died, it said. The head of the electoral commission, Amadou Salif Kebe, said the register was not flawless but 'sufficiently credible'. President Conde became Guinea's first democratically-elected leader in 2010 and was re-elected in 2015.

But activists have accused him of authoritarian drift after arrests of opposition figures and the protest deaths. **AFP**

'We ready, capable of dealing with coronavirus'

LAGOS - The head of Nigeria's National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) says the country is more than capable of dealing with coronavirus as Africa's most populous nation records its first case.

"Nigeria is ready," Chikwe Ihekweazu said. "We successfully managed Ebola and we manage outbreaks all the time and are currently managing Lassa fever. We have a strong team that is used to doing this." An Italian citizen who travelled to Lagos, Nigeria's economic nerve centre, became the first confirmed case of coronavirus in sub-Saharan Africa, the

country's Health Ministry reported earlier. Ihekweazu told CNN the Italian patient who arrived in the country with the virus is currently stable and 'has mild to moderate symptoms.' "We are very hopeful for his full recovery," said Ihekweazu, an epidemiologist who was appointed CEO of the NCDC in 2016 and has been credited with transforming the organisation. According to Ihekweazu, the man was screened on arrival at the airport, however, he presented no symptoms at the time, which is why the temperature scanners at the airport did not detect he was ill. "Screening is not a fool proof

method as the virus has an incubation period of four to five days," he added. Earlier this week, Algeria confirmed the first case on the continent, another Italian passenger who entered the country on February 17. The patient was placed in quarantine, and under close supervision, according to health authorities in Algeria.

Nigerian officials say the patient who works in Nigeria arrived in Lagos on February 25 and became ill the next day but quick thinking physicians who examined him contacted the NCDC after asking him about his travel history.

CNN NEWS

Lesotho Constitutional Court gripped with question of criminal immunity of PM

MASERU - The rule of law principle concisely articulates that there should be a principle in governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the state itself are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated. These should be consistent with international human rights norms and standards.

This method of accountability is often negated in most African states. Cases involving people in government are usually exempt from both civil and criminal liability. Lesotho

finds itself in a position whereby the independence of the judiciary is tested on the matter of sitting Prime Minister Thomas Thabane following the murder of former first lady Lipolelo Thabane and attempted murder of her friend Thato Sebolla.

According to Amnesty International news, the late wife of the Prime Minister of Lesotho was murdered in a hail of bullets on 14 June 2017 while she was driving home in Ha Masana outside Maseru. She was in the company of her friend Thato Sebolla at the time of the attack, who was also shot and sustained injuries.

africanexponent.com

BRIEFS

No coronavirus in Uganda

KAMPALA - Uganda's health minister stressed that the country had no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Jane Aceng made the statement while updating the public on Uganda's preparedness to prevent the virus from reaching its shores. "To date 695 travellers, Chinese, Ugandans and others travelling back home have been isolated for purposes of follow-up. Of these, 488 are Chinese nationals, 64 other nationals, while 143 are Ugandan citizens. Two-hundred-and-eighty individuals have completed 14 days of self-isolation," she said. The minister said there were several precautions citizens could take to reduce their chances of being infected.

ANA

Security forces surround opposition leader's home

LOME - Togo's security forces on Friday surrounded the home of a main opposition challenger, after he called for protests against the reelection of President Faure Gnassingbe. Former prime minister Agbeyome Kodjo came a distant second in an election last Saturday that saw the incumbent claim a fourth term in power with 72% of the vote. The widely expected victory extends more than half a century of rule by Gnassingbe's family over the West African nation, after he came to office following the death of his strongman father in 2005. Kodjo appealed for protests on Friday after alleging widespread fraud during the ballot and insisting he was the rightful winner. **AFP**

Ruling party retains sweeping majority in Cameroon election

YAOUNDE - President Paul Biya's party has retained an absolute majority in Cameroon's parliament, the constitutional council announced after the controversial February 9 vote. His Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) won 139 out of 167 declared seats on 'moderate' turnout of almost 46 per cent, said the council's president, Clement Atangana. Elections were cancelled in 13 other seats, in Cameroon's troubled anglophone regions, and are to be held at a later date.

Reuters

Kenya warned of UN action for its 'destabilising' role

MOGADISHU - Somalia's United Nations envoy denounced Kenya as a "destabilising force" in his country and threatened to initiate UN action against the country. In a strongly worded speech to the UN Security Council that is sure to escalate tensions between the two countries, Ambassador Abukar Dahir Osman said Somalia has "exhausted all diplomatic means with Kenya". The ambassador accused Kenya of interfering in Somalia's internal affairs and violating the UN Charter by engaging in 'anti-peace actions'. Osman did not specify the Kenyan behaviour that he found objectionable but condemned its alleged breach of Somalia's 'sovereignty, independence and unity'.

Daily Nation



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

Kim Jong Un warns of 'serious consequences' if..

PYONGYANG - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for stronger efforts to guard against coronavirus, saying there will be 'serious consequences' if the illness spreads to the country.

During a ruling party meeting, Kim called for the country's anti-epidemic headquarters to strengthen screening and tests to seal off all "channels and space through which the infectious disease may find its way," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said yesterday.

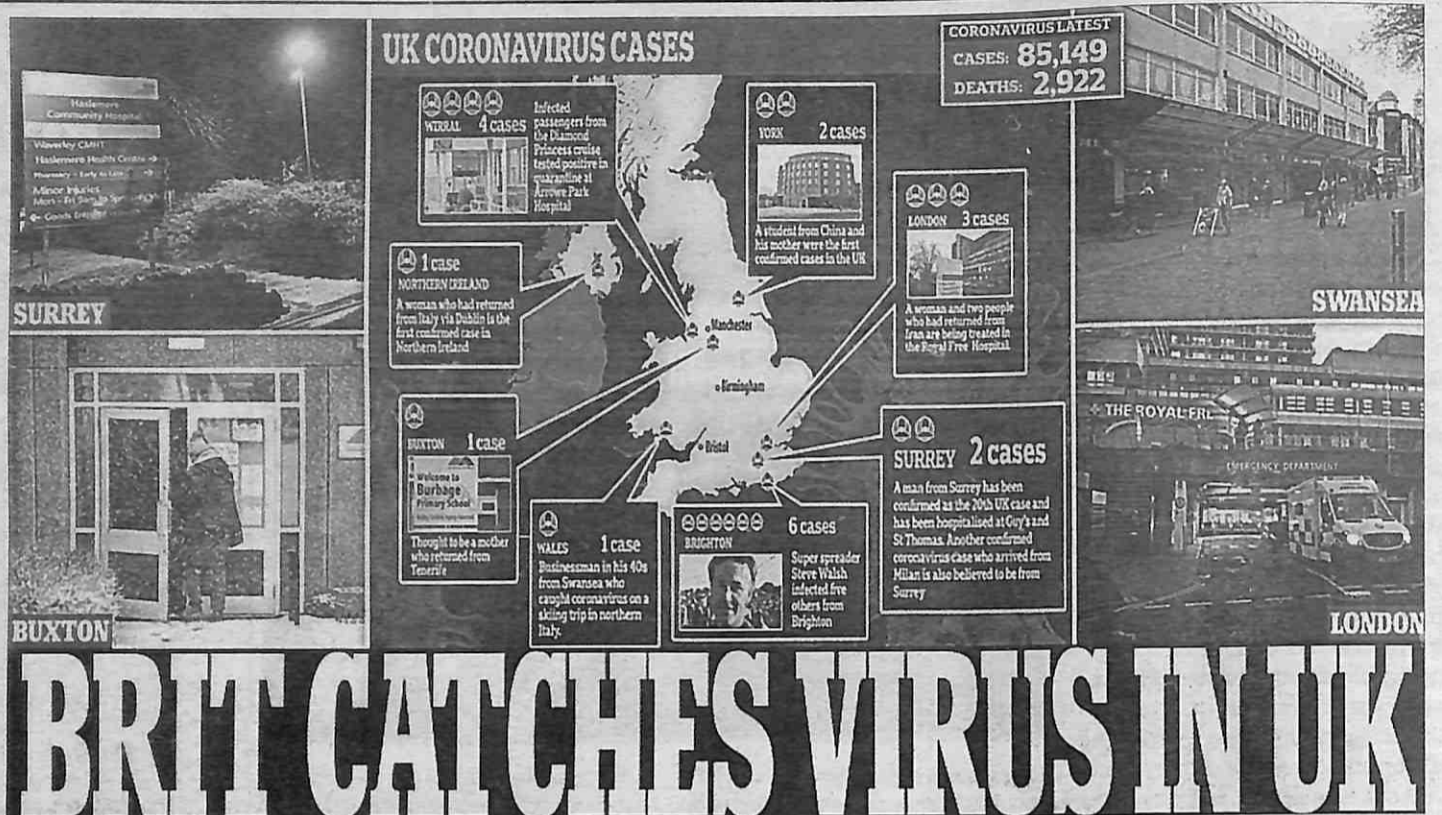
Kim emphasised that all fields and units of the country should 'unconditionally' obey quarantine instructions laid-out by the anti-epidemic headquarters. He called for the strict enforcement of preventive measures against what he described as a tricky virus that spreads rapidly. "In case the infectious disease spreading beyond control finds its way into our country, it will entail serious consequences," the agency quoted Kim as saying during the politburo meeting of the Workers' Party.

It came as South Korea reported 594 new coronavirus cases on Friday, raising its total to 2,931.

No new deaths were immediately reported - 13 people have so far been killed in South Korea, which has the largest outbreak outside of mainland China. The North has yet to report its first infection from the new coronavirus, but it has been pushing a tough campaign it has described as a matter of 'national existence.' *Daily Mail*



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.



BRIT CATCHES VIRUS IN UK

LONDON - The UK's 20th coronavirus case has been confirmed and is the first time a patient has caught the infection on British soil, marking a 'new chapter' in the country's spiralling health crisis.

The patient, from Surrey, is understood to be a man who was treated at Haslemere Health Centre before being transferred to Guy's and St Thomas' hospital in London.

He contracted the illness in England from an unknown spreader - who authorities are racing to track down to avoid them contaminating more

people. It is not known whether this spreader had arrived in the country from abroad, where many countries including Italy, South Korea, Japan and Iran are firefighting major outbreaks. There are also fears that a male GP, whose wife is also a GP, may have been infected with the virus and would have seen scores of patients before falling ill, according to *The Guardian*.

His diagnosis has yet to be publicly confirmed by Public Health England, NHS England or the Department of Health and Social Care. Yesterday morning, Health

Minister Edward Argar refused to comment on reports that the first person to contract coronavirus in the UK also passed it on to their doctor. He said: "It is a new development but the chief medical officer has also said we are still doing the contact tracing around that and we are still looking into the details of that case, so it is probably a bit premature to say more than that at the moment." Friday night's 20th confirmed diagnosis came after a flurry of cases sprouted up in the UK within 24 hours, including in Northern Ireland and Wales. One

of these cases is also believed to be from Surrey, having flown to the UK from virus-hit Milan, putting the southern county at the heart of Britain's steadily growing outbreak. Haslemere Health Centre was closed on Friday, with a statement on its website saying: "The surgery is temporarily closed today to enable a clean of the surgery as a routine precautionary measure." Nobody in the UK has so far died from coronavirus, but yesterday a British man quarantined aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship passed away in Japan. *Daily Mail*

Married couple drowns after being tied up inside suitcases

BANGKOK - A married Chinese couple were tied up, placed inside suitcases and thrown into a river while still alive in Thailand, police have said.

The body of Wang Jun was found in a black suitcase floating in the Ping river in Kamphaeng Phet, central Thailand, on Tuesday afternoon.

Police divers are still searching for

his wife Zhu Bing, 28, who is also thought to have been dumped into the river in a suitcase.

The pair had rented three villas with 13 other Chinese tourists in Pattaya, near Bangkok, after they arrived on February 12. The rest of the group have since returned to China.

Jun's body was found curled up inside the case with his arms and legs

bound by red wire. Fisherman Suthon Thapthan, who found the body, said he thought the case was loaded with 'rotten fish'. "It was hard to open," he said. "But when I opened it, there was a man curled up inside and I was frightened." Police Lieutenant Colonel Jittipol Polponprueksa said they were investigating the murder and preparing two arrest warrants.

"The victim arrived with his wife and she is missing. We are searching the river for her body, which we believe is also in a suitcase," he said.

"A driver said he saw cases being thrown in the river and villagers have also given witness statements that they heard heavy objects landing in the river.

The Sun

BRIEFS

Putin's daughter to run institute

MOSCOW - Katerina Tikhonova, the youngest daughter of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was appointed head of a new artificial intelligence institute at Moscow State University, her fund said. Tikhonova, 33, has held a senior position at the university for several years and runs publicly-funded projects, Reuters has previously reported. She has a Master's degree in physics and maths and is also an acrobatic rock-'n'-roll dancer. The new institute is dedicated to "artificial intelligence issues and intellectual systems" with a focus on "fundamental and practical cognitive research," Tikhonova's fund Innopraktika said. It provided no further details on the nature of the research. *AFP*

Pensioner used parrot to torture neighbours

LONDON - With their ability to mimic human speech, parrots would seem the perfect companions for lonely pensioners. But Catherine Searle, 81, used her pet as a weapon for years in a harassment campaign against her neighbours. She encouraged it to sing loud opera in her garden. She also threw dog faeces across the fence and placed tacks underneath the van of next-door neighbour Paul Appleton. The pensioner also scratched the bonnet of wife Lydia's Toyota and smeared grease over the bonnets of both vehicles in 2018 - something Searle denied. Her bizarre offences - which gave Appleton night terrors as a result - landed her a suspended prison sentence and a £779.77 (about R15 600) fine. *DPA*

'This a once-in-a-century' pathogen

NEW YORK - Philanthropist Bill Gates on Friday warned that the coronavirus is beginning to behave like a 'once-in-a-century' pathogen with the potential to kill more people than the 66 000 Americans who died in the 1957 influenza pandemic. "The data so far suggest that the virus has a case fatality risk around 1 per cent," Gates wrote. "This rate would make it many times more severe than typical seasonal influenza, putting it somewhere between the 1957 influenza pandemic (0.6 per cent) and the 1918 influenza pandemic (2 per cent)." The virus that caused the 1957 Asian flu pandemic was quickly identified, and vaccines were available by August 1957. The elderly had the highest rates of death. *Daily Mail*

Trump's immigration policy allowed to proceed temporarily

WASHINGTON - A US appeals court temporarily put on hold a decision to block one of President Donald Trump's signature immigration policies that reined in a surge of migrants on the southern border, forcing tens of thousands to wait in Mexico. A three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals granted a Trump administration request to pause its ruling from earlier on Friday, to allow the government to ask the Supreme Court to take up the issue. If it took effect, the ruling would be a blow for Trump, who has declared the policy a success in reducing the flow of hundreds of thousands of people from Central America into the United States as he campaigns for a second term in office. *DPA*



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'It feels like the first season with Pep'

LONDON - Kevin De Bruyne has admitted Manchester City's season has been below par ahead of their Carabao Cup final today.

The midfielder, who has been one of City's star performers this year, said the campaign reminds him of Pep Guardiola's transitional first season in English football. The champions are languishing 22 points behind runaway leaders Liverpool in the Premier League but are still fighting for trophies on three fronts, including the Champions League.

The 28-year-old told Sky Sports: "We're performing well but we've lost too many points. It feels a bit like the first season

with Pep where we were playing good football but we were making too many errors. "There are games where you think you are fully in control and then the last five or 10 minutes, we basically gave it away and in this period where Liverpool are not dropping any points, every point you drop is too much.

"Even if we did better, I think the way Liverpool are performing this year and winning basically everything, they deserve to win and be champions again."

De Bruyne, who has notched eight goals and 16 assists in the league this campaign, said mistakes have cost City but they cannot complain about play-

ing second fiddle to Liverpool.

He added: "The only frustration we've had is making too many mistakes and it's nothing to do with them [Liverpool], it's more that we know if we didn't make these mistakes, it would be closer.

"We also accept it because you know how hard you have to work to be that good and there's a lot of respect from both sides to each other. If they win it this way, that's how it has to be."

The playmaker went on to say he believes he is close to winning the Ballon d'Or.

He has the chance to win City's first silverware today against Aston Villa.

His stunning performance against Real



Kevin De Bruyne.

Madrid at the Bernabeu also gives the Manchester side an excellent chance of making it through to the Champions

League quarter final, and winning the trophy that has long evaded the club.

Sports Mail



A 'shambles', a 'capitulation'

MANCHESTER - For Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Manchester United's miserable defeat at Goodison Park last April was undoubtedly the lowest point of his first season in charge.

In December, as United prepared to face the Toffees for the first time since that humiliating 4-0 loss, the Norwegian described it as "more or less a shambles". On the day itself, he went over to the away end and apologised, later admitting that his side "were not worthy of a Manchester United team".

And ahead of their return to Merseyside

today, Solskjaer said: "That was a capitulation. We had absolutely nothing about us. Everything you didn't want to see you saw in that game."

Goals from Richarlison, Gylfi Sigurdsson, Lucas Digne and Theo Walcott gave Marco Silva's side a more than comfortable victory, leaving Solskjaer to question the desire of his 'sloppy' side.

Things were altogether more positive before December's 1-1 draw at Old Trafford, with the former Molde boss insisting he now had "a different group, a group that's ready for the fight and is ready for the football." He has contin-

ued the theme of positivity this week, vowing: "With hand on heart, I can say 100 per cent these boys will never give in and never give up like that team did. "These are the boys we want to build the next team around." Despite sitting fifth in the table, a whopping 38 points behind rivals and leaders Liverpool, United have made improvements since that nightmare day on Merseyside. As the two teams prepare to meet again at Goodison today, Sportsmail takes a closer look at their progress - and the problems Solskjaer still needs to fix. *Sports Mail*

Fans clash with police ahead of Brighton against Crystal Palace

LONDON - Football fans were involved in violent clashes with police ahead of Crystal Palace's match at Brighton yesterday.

Photos of the incident, which took place near the Brighton clock tower, have emerged and one man appeared to sustain a head injury as tensions rose ahead of the game.

The scuffle required the man to receive treatment on the pavement, with police

attempting to keep the peace.

Despite being situated almost 50 miles apart from each other, the two clubs have a fierce rivalry - and tensions mounted ahead of kick-off.

The Premier League game was selected for television coverage, and a heavy police presence converged on the Amex Stadium to monitor crowds.

Police and stewards were also present at Palmer railway station to prevent fur-

ther clashes breaking out in the city.

Both clubs are connected by the M23 motorway - which has handed the highly-anticipated derby its name - and the fixture is notoriously important for both sets of supporters.

The rivalry is believed to stretch back to the 1976-77 campaign, when Brighton and Palace faced each other five times, and unsavoury scenes at Stamford Bridge fuelled the grudge.

To add extra spice to yesterday's match, both Palace and Brighton are just above the relegation zone and facing a battle to retain their Premier League status.

Daily Mail

'I think the fight for Europe is still open'

LONDON - Everton Manager Carlo Ancelotti does not believe today's result against Manchester United will be decisive in their challenge for European football.

The Toffees are just five points behind their opponents, who began the weekend in fifth place, after a run of 17 points from nine league matches.

When the Italian took charge on Boxing Day at the beginning of that run, European football seemed a distant dream as caretaker manager Duncan Ferguson had only just hauled the side out of the relegation zone after a terrible spell under Marco Silva.

Now, however, the prospect is

tangible and, such has been the upturn in their form, Ancelotti does not see the game against a rejuvenated United as make-or-break for their ambitions.

"I think the fight for Europe is still open and it will be open after the game against United," said the Italian, whose side are unbeaten in six at home in the league and have won four of their last seven against United at Goodison, including a 4-0 victory last season. "It doesn't matter. To win against United will be important for our confidence and (position in the) table."

"Manchester United is a strong team in a good moment but... our house (Goodison Park) is important." *The Guardian*

'I would have liked an opportunity to show I was good enough'

LONDON - Wilfried Zaha has revealed the pain he felt after his failed stint at Manchester United as the driving factor behind his rise to becoming one of the Premier League's most prolific forwards.

Zaha became the final signing of legendary manager Sir Alex Ferguson in 2013, and was tipped to become a star name for the Red Devils in the future.

Things soon went sour however, after Ferguson retired and Zaha failed to make the breakthrough under his replacement David Moyes. Now, the Ivory Coast international says the United snub gave him the fuel he needed, and that one day soon he wants to step up to the elite level again.

"The only frustration was I would have liked to had more of an opportunity to show I was good enough for

Manchester United," said Zaha in an interview with the Mirror.

"But I feel like that period has pushed me to still be relevant now."

"There are so many people who have been in those predicaments when they've gone to top teams, haven't had chance to play and when they have left, you just don't hear

of them. That's what has driven me more to be like the

top players." Zaha was subject to heavy summer interest from both Arsenal and Everton at the start of the Premier League campaign, though ended up remaining at Selhurst Park despite late efforts to sign him from Merseyside.

Speaking openly about his future Zaha, now 27, admits Palace is his love and dedication, though he would find it hard to turn down an opportunity if one came up again. *Sports Online*



MARITZBURG BEAT STELLENBOSCH TO GO FOURTH

URBAN Maritzburg United recorded an impressive 3-0 win over Stellenbosch FC in an Absa Premiership match at the Harry Gwala Stadium in Pietermaritzburg on Friday night.

The victory took the Team of Choice to the fourth spot on the league standings, while Stellies remained ninth on the log.

Stellies saw most of the ball in the opening exchanges with former Mamelodi Sundowns utility player Asavela Mbekile pulling the strings in midfield.

However, it was the Team of Choice who broke the deadlock against the run of play 12 minutes into the encounter.

Bongokuhle Hlongwane netted with a header to make it 1-0 to Maritzburg after Thabiso Kutumela's shot was parried into his path by Stellenbosch goalkeeper Lee Langeveldt.

The hosts looked dangerous every time they pushed forward with former Orlando Pirates striker Kutumela causing havoc for the Stellies defence with his pace.

The diminutive attacker set-up Tebogo Tlolane with a low cross just before the half-hour mark,



Maritzburg United recorded an impressive 3-0 win over Stellenbosch FC.

but the latter's right-footed shot was deflected out from close range.

The visitors had a chance to equalise through Iqraam Rayners, but the striker placed his effort

over the crossbar and the score was 1-0 to Maritzburg at halftime.

The Team of Choice dominated the match after the restart and they deservedly doubled

their lead following a good move.

Hlongwane turned provider as he set-up Tlolane, who beat Langeveldt with a low shot to make it 2-0 to Maritzburg in the 57th minute.

Stellenbosch had a great chance to pull one back after Ryan Moon played a through pass for Alejandro Franco, but his effort was brilliantly saved by Maritzburg keeper Richard Ofori. Ghana international Ofori became a busy man in the closing stages of the match and he made a decent save to deny Lelethu Skelem, before denying Moon twice.

Stellenbosch were left to rue those wasted chances as Hlongwane sealed Maritzburg's 3-0 victory when he headed home Tlolane's corner-kick in the 85th minute.

Maritzburg: Ofori, Kunene, Sanoka (Shandu 90'+1), De Reuck, Morgan, Buchanan (Timm 81'), Claassen, Ntshangase, Tlolane, Hlongwane, Kutumela (Moseamedi 77')

Stellenbosch: Langeveldt, Mobbie, Van Heerden, Mthethwa, Robertson (Skelem 65'), Mbekile, Sinkala, Matsi (Scott 43'), Rayners, Franco (Isaacs 72'), Moon.

SuperSport

Latest deals encourage Ndulula in club search

JOHANNESBURG - Following a week that has seen some of the forgotten stars return to professional football, former Bafana Bafana striker Bongani Ndulula has also confirmed his readiness for a return to the game.

Earlier this week, experienced defenders Thabo Nthethe and Rooi Mahamutsa were confirmed as new signings for Glad Africa Championship sides TS Galaxy and Ajax Cape Town, respectively.

Ndulula, who previously played for both Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs, among other clubs in his career, says he is looking to follow suit by signing with a club either in the current campaign, or at the end of the season.

"I am still around and working hard in training in anticipation of the opportunities that may come up for me. I will be ready for any opportunity as I have been keeping fit by training and playing with some of the guys from my neighbourhood," Ndulula told the Siya crew.

Ndulula struggled in his search for a club since he parted ways with Chippa United in 2017. The 30-year-old forward was linked with third tier league side Polokwane City Rovers before the start of the season.

Kick-Off

PHALA READY TO WRITE OFF LEOPARDS STINT

LIMPOPO - Thuso Phala's Black Leopards adventure has not gone according to plan, and his future appears to be decided already.

According to a reliable source close to the former Bafana Bafana international, he is no longer happy at the club due to his lack of game-time and will not extend his contract beyond the current season.

The 33-year-old winger arrived at Lidoda Duvha at the beginning of the 2019/20 season as a free agent after parting ways SuperSport United but has only made 13 appearances in total.

"No, no, no, he's leaving. Remember he signed one year. Ja he only signed for a year," the source tells KickOff.com.

"You don't have to go to intelligence school, everything is written on the wall you know. The writing is there, he's leaving at the end of the season."

"It depends on Leopards. No one

knows. Remember, teams have their own policies. You can't change team's policies, you can't change chairman's minds, they have rights. Remember, they are the one who are paying salaries.

"Thuso won't quit the club, he's a professional player. He must honour his contract anyway. His contract expires at the end of the season. We don't see him on the bench, we don't see him in the starting line-up, but he is training every day. He honours his obligations, he trains with the team every day.

"Thuso still has two more years to offer you know, but the differences of personal things is what is killing our football today. When Leopards wanted Thuso, remember he had other offers, he had good offers but Thuso felt that he wanted to play where he would be able to play every day and up his game. He opted for Leopards.

"No one knew that after three, four

months tables will change [turn]. We didn't know that. But at the end of the day chairmen are the ones who are paying salaries, they are the ones who will fire coaches, who will instruct coaches to play this one and not play this one, you know."

According to Leopards General Manager Elijah Mulaudzi, it's the technical team who determines who plays in which matches. "I know nothing about that. I don't even attend some of the training sessions. The technical teams knows," Mulaudzi says.

"They are ones who have been given a mandate to deal with players, in terms of who to field, who not to field, we don't have any opinion. We just receive the team. They do whatever they want to do with the players, then they submit it to the office. That's how we operate at Black Leopards."

Kick-Off

Coronavirus blocks Tshabalala's next move

ISTANBUL - Former Kaizer Chiefs star Siphiwe Tshabalala is still searching for a club after his departure from Turkish club BB Erzurumspor.

Tshabalala revealed he was still looking to move to Europe with his agent Jazzman Mahlagane speaking to a few clubs in Europe.

The 35-year-old confirmed he could have moved to a team in China but the outbreak of the coronavirus put that plan on hold.

The Chinese Football Association

decided to suspend all football activities in the country because of the deadly virus.

"I am back home at the moment. I won't say much about my next destination but where my next destinations is," Tshabalala told MarawaTV.

"I was disappointed but I had to make peace with it (not moving to China); it's beyond my control; it happened, but one has to find other alternatives.

"I still have the desire and hunger. I am still positive that I will make it at

this age anywhere if the opportunity comes. I still get calls and texts with enquires if they can invite me, they still see value in me."

Tshabalala explained he had an injury which needed surgery to correct, which is why he couldn't move.

"I had an injury and I took it lightly but I later found out it was very serious. So I needed to go to hospital to take care of it. I am in a good space now and I am 100 per cent fit."

Kick-Off

'No favourites' as Polokwane host Leopards

POLOKWANE - Polokwane City will face their Limpopo rivals Black Leopards in an Absa Premiership match at Old Peter Mokaba Stadium today.

Kick-off is at 3:30pm CAT (SA, GMT+2).

Rise and Shine breathed a sigh of relief after they snapped their five-match winless run in the league with a 3-2 victory over Cape Town City at home two weeks ago. However, they are sitting in 15th spot on the league stand-

ings - two points behind 12th-placed Chippa United. "It will be very difficult. There is a new coach at the helm, who is trying to make a mark. He has been given an opportunity at this level. He wants to win just as bad as we do," Larsen said. "Both teams are on 20 points. I don't see an underdog. We are both fighting for the same concern. We are trying to get to 23 points then 26, 29 and so forth. I don't see a favourite."

Meanwhile, Leopards returned to winning ways when they defeated lower

division side Amavara FC 2-0 in the Nedbank Cup 16 match last week Friday.

Lidoda Duvha, who lost 1-0 to Orlando Pirates in their last league game, are placed 14th on the standings - level on points with 16th-placed AmaZulu FC.

Alan Clark, the Leopards coach, says the most important thing for the team is the league as they prepare for their clash with Rise and Shine. "Our priority is the league and to make sure that we keep the status in the PSL," Clark said. **Kick-Off**



Could coronavirus force El Clasico behind closed doors?

MADRID - Could today's El Clasico between Real Madrid and Barcelona be postponed or even played behind closed doors? Both options are on the table, according to La Liga President Javier Tebas, though the game will hopefully go ahead as planned.

The global virus has reached Europe in recent weeks and forced the postponement of several major events - including Serie A matches in hardest-hit Italy. However, La Liga is ready to take whatever action they need to, said Tebas at an El Clasico

event held at the league's headquarters in Madrid.

"We have set up an internal coronavirus group to monitor the situation," Tebas explained. "We have criteria when a game would have to be postponed or played behind closed doors. Thankfully [we have] not reached that situation in Madrid yet."

"We have not considered suspending El Clasico or any other matches across the divisions."

It is one thing to suspend a game and another is not to play it. We

are looking at the alternative of playing games behind closed doors, so that games would have been played behind closed doors, like any other, and if it could not be done then we need to look at suspension.

"We have sent that approach to UEFA so that it also takes into account the (European) qualifiers where there are Spanish teams. We work on the forecast and not upon improvisation. "Now, in Valencia, we have had a case of a journalist (catching the virus) and what has been done is to rethink the approach-

es in the press conferences. When someone is affected by this disease you have to isolate him with quarantine, but here we have not reached that situation."

The comments come after Valencia confirmed in a statement on Friday afternoon that all events would not be taking place until further notice on the advice of local health authorities. Los Che may even play their Champions League last 16 return leg against Atalanta behind closed doors at the Mestalla.

Backpage TXT



LOG

Pos	Team	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA
1	Barcelona	75	17	4	4	53	25
2	Real Madrid	73	15	5	2	39	15
3	Atletico	55	11	10	4	30	13
4	Sevilla	55	12	7	5	35	13
5	Real Sociedad	53	12	6	7	31	22
6	Real Betis	54	12	4	8	31	20
7	Villarreal	55	11	5	9	30	28
8	Valencia	55	10	5	7	32	26
9	Granada	55	11	3	11	31	36
10	Levante	55	10	2	13	25	32
11	Almeria	55	7	10	8	22	29
12	Osasuna	55	7	10	8	24	31
13	Eibar	55	7	9	9	25	30
14	Alaves	55	6	6	11	20	30
15	Widzew	55	6	11	8	25	29
16	Eibar	54	6	6	12	25	34
17	Castellon	55	5	9	11	22	34
18	Valencia	55	6	4	15	25	32
19	Leganes	55	4	7	14	20	39
20	Espanol	55	4	7	14	22	39

'I have huge respect for Messi'

MADRID - Sergio Ramos has revealed his 'huge respect' for Lionel Messi as the Real Madrid captain prepares his side for a mammoth clash against arch rivals Barcelona in La Liga.

The Spaniard had a game to forget in midweek as he saw red during his side's 2-1 defeat to Manchester City in the first leg of their Round of 16 tie at the Etihad.

Wednesday night's dismissal was Ramos' 26th of his illustrious career and he will miss the return leg at the Etihad Stadium next month. Domestically, the centre half has a big part to play in a nip-and-tuck title race in La Liga. Madrid host Barcelona today in what could be a decisive moment in the league this season, with the Catalan club sitting two points ahead of Los Blancos as it stands.

Ramos and Co will have to keep the imperious Lionel Messi quiet if they want to come away with a good result, and the 33-year-old spoke of his admiration for the diminutive Argentine. "I have huge respect for him," he told La Liga via Goal. "I think he's one of the greatest players in history and I have huge respect for him. I hope Sunday isn't his day, that would mean we've done our job, and if on top of that we can get a good result even better."

The Guardian

Barca, Madrid seek boost in El Clasico

MADRID - La Liga's most important Clasico for years might also be the most mediocre today as Barcelona and Real Madrid each fight to lift the gloom by deepening the other's sense of crisis.

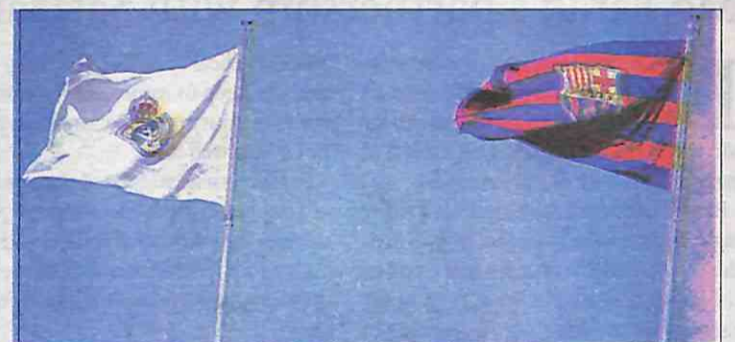
Two points separate the league's leading pair, making this weekend's meeting at the Santiago Bernabeu a potentially significant checkpoint in a back-and-forth title race, particularly if Barcelona win and extend their advantage to five.

It will be more significant than last season, when Barca kicked off the calendar's second Clasico nine points clear of Madrid, or the season before, when they were already 15 in front.

But while a tussle at the top

of the table is welcome in terms of intrigue, there is an unmistakable sense of decline hanging over what has become the world's most famous club fixture. "It's a race of two lame ducks, both of them are bad right now, that's the reality," former Real Madrid forward Jorge Valdano told Onda Cero on Wednesday night. "Barca's recovery is more down to Real Madrid than Barca themselves."

For both teams, the build-up has been bumpy, with Madrid particularly wounded after a 2-1 defeat at home to Manchester City which has left them on the brink of exiting the Champions League in the last 16 for a second year in a row. It might have been less concerning had it not come on the back of one win in four and



had City not appeared so superior. "Things really do look bleak," wrote Marca on Thursday. "The only takeaway can be that this Madrid side simply aren't up to it."

They might be about to feel the kind of frustration that has haunted Barcelona during a run of four consecutive years

without making it past the semis. Barca's own problems recently have largely been to do with their president and board, but the emergency signing of striker Martin Braithwaite from Leganes exposed muddled thinking that has affected the squad too.

AFP

'If Real Madrid don't win LaLiga Zidane will have failed'

MADRID - Zinedine Zidane and Quique Setien go up against each other today in La Liga.

Victory for either man will, not only condemn the other to a desperate attempt at catch-up between now and the end of the season, it could also mean the sack in the summer.

Clasicos can end coaching careers like almost no other game in football. Last season, Julen Lopetegui was only two months into the job of managing Real Madrid when he brought his team to the Nou Camp. He lost 5-1 and was sacked.

Rafa Benitez suffered the same fate when he lost 4-0 at the Bernabeu against Barcelona. Like

Lopetegui he did not make it to the halfway point of his first season in charge.

It's not just Real Madrid that take a Clasico defeat so badly they immediately start looking for a new coach. Ernesto Valverde might only have lost his job as Barca boss after being beaten by Atletico Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia but his card was well and truly marked by a stale 0-0 home draw against Real Madrid a month before.

Occasionally when Real Madrid and Barcelona meet each other, the coaches are on solid ground whatever the result but this is not one of those occasions. Both managers know a summer departure will be a lot closer if they fail tonight.

Zidane needs to win the league more than he needs another Champions



Lionel Messi was in inspired form last time out, scoring four times in the victory over Eibar.

League. He has already proved himself in Europe as a coach, it's the domestic crown that will justify his decision to have returned to the club as coach for a second spell. Real Madrid could be five points behind Barcelona if they

lose this one - and because goal difference is head-to-head in Spain and the first game between the sides ended goalless, Barcelona would also be assured of having a better goal average than Madrid if they win. AFP

'THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT'

...FIFA President Gianni Infantino insists international matches will be postponed if deadly coronavirus continues to spread

LONDON - England's pre-Euro friendly against Italy at Wembley next month may be called off thanks to the coronavirus crisis. FIFA president Gianni Infantino said he 'would not exclude anything' when it came to postponing forthcoming international fixtures, as the world of sport reacts to the spread of the illness.

Speaking ahead of today's annual International Football Association Board (IFAB) meeting to discuss the game's laws, Infantino added that a proposal to allow leeway over the offside rule is unlikely to gain his support, said that VAR is 'here to stay' and added that concussion substitutions may be trialled during the football section of the Olympics.

The Football Association is waiting on government advice before decid-

ing whether to look at whether the March fixture should be reviewed. More than 400 cases of the virus have been diagnosed in Italy, with 12 deaths reported. "I wouldn't exclude anything at this moment," Infantino said.

"I think we have to monitor the situation and those in charge, the government, the institutions they also take decision on what is allowed and what isn't." The offside rule was discussed at yesterday's meeting, where FIFA was told that marginal decisions triggered by the use of VAR are having a negative impact on the game's entertainment levels.

The FA, along with the Premier League, are backing a proposal which suggests individual competitions should be given some leeway when it comes to deciding what is a clear offside. *Sports Online*

Morkov cleared to race at Track Cycling World Championships

BERLIN - Danish cyclist Michael Morkov has been cleared to race at the UCI Track Cycling World Championships after two individuals suspected of having the coronavirus at the UAE Tour tested negative for the disease.

Morkov, 34, had spent 34 hours in isolation in Berlin after travelling to the German capital from the UAE Tour, where he contested the opening four stages before leaving the race early.

The final two stages of that race were cancelled on Thursday night when two members of staff on the race developed symptoms suggesting they could have the virus, and riders and staff on the race remain under lockdown in Abu Dhabi.

But, after the Abu Dhabi Department of Health issued a statement yesterday saying the first 167 tests had come back negative, the UCI said Morkov was free to race as normal in Berlin.

In a statement, cycling's world governing body said Morkov was 'in excellent health, with no suspicious clinical signs' and was now 'free in his movements and activities, including within the velodrome'.

Morkov had been in the velodrome on Thursday evening, celebrating Denmark's world record in the team pursuit prior to news of the coronavirus scare on the UAE Tour breaking, but then agreed with his coaches to go into voluntary isolation until further news came through from Abu Dhabi.

Though he was placed into isolation, Morkov was not tested for the coronavirus based on advice from the UCI's medical team.

"I arrived here on Thursday and just before going to bed I heard from my sports director in UAE that they would cancel the race due to suspicions of having the coronavirus there, so that of course was really unfortunate news," Morkov said. *The Sun*

WILDER DROPS BIGGEST HINT

LAS VEGAS - The Bronze Bomber was battered from pillar to post during a seven round onslaught before his trainer Mark Breland threw in the towel to hand Fury a famous win in Sin City.

The former WBC champion has since given interviews regarding the defeat, in which he blamed his 40 pound ring walk outfit for fatiguing his legs moments before the first bell rang out.

The pre-fight agreement stipulated that the loser of the highly-anticipated rematch would be given the opportunity to trigger a third fight should he so please, as long as that demand is made within 30 days of the bout. And it looks as though Wilder will look to inflict revenge

on the Gypsy King after the 34-year-old shared a video on social media reflecting on his loss and vowing to 'rise like a phoenix from the ashes'.

"Your King is here," he said. "And we ain't going nowhere, for the war has just begun. I will rise again. I am strong. I am a King."

"You can't take my pride. I am a warrior. I am a King that will never give up. I am a King that will fight to the death."

"Your King is in great spirits and we will rise like a phoenix from the ashes and regain the title. I will see you in a few months as the war has just begun."

Wilder had been critical of Breland's decision to throw in the towel 99 seconds into the seventh round, with the Alabama-born hitter insisting he was willing to 'die on his shield'. The future of Breland, a former Olympic and world champion, has yet to be decided, with head coach Jay Deas critical of his colleague's decision to stop the contest. A third fight would mean that plans for a mega-fight between Fury and Anthony Joshua in a unification bout will have to be put on hold in the short term. The Brits are both eager to face off in what would be the biggest fight in British boxing history, with talk of either a summer or winter bout this year.

A trilogy fight between Wilder and Fury is likely to take place no later than July, and it is hoped that, should Fury come through that one and AJ see of Kubrat Pulev, fight fans will get the bout they want before the year is out.

The Telegraph

Mo Farah's partnership with Salazar worried UK athletics

LONDON - UK athletics were worried about the medical practices Alberto Salazar was using with Sir Mo Farah at the Nike Oregon Project as early as July 2011, it has emerged.

BBC Panorama revealed on Friday night that Dr John Rogers, who was then the UKA medical officer, had emailed colleagues almost nine years ago to say Salazar had put Farah on high doses of iron.

He said he had discussed the 'dangers of iron overload' and in response, Dr Pollock, who is now chief medical officer at UKA, wrote: "That's concerning re Mo and Alberto...wonder how much

other medical stuff [Salazar] may drive and not keep us informed. Potential for issues re injury presentation when things not going well too."

Further emails suggested unnamed UK athletes based in the US were asking UKA doctors for information on thyroid medication for 'performance gains' because American athletes were allegedly taking it.

Dr Pollock wrote to a medical colleague at the British Olympic Association: "I've had a number of recent queries from several endurance athletes who are based in various US camps for low dose thyroxine for performance gain. Although

not on the [banned] list and I'm not sure if this is performance enhancing but...[it's] ethically dubious and as from a number of sources I thought I'd let you know."

"I'm pretty sure it's not something I want to be involved with but I know it's only a matter of time before I get specifically requested and asked why are we not doing [it] and the Americans are!"

UKA say concerns relating to Farah and medication oversight were addressed in July 2011 when Dr Barry Fudge, their current head of endurance, began liaising between the Oregon Project and UKA's medical staff. *Sports Mail*

'I'M CONVINCED HE WILL WIN IT AGAIN'

BARCELONA - Barcelona legend Carles Puyol has backed his former coach Pep Guardiola to win the Champions League again, after news that Manchester City could face a two-year ban from the competition.

Puyol, 41, explained how he is 'convinced' that Guardiola will add a third Champions League accolade to his already glistening trophy cabinet. However, he may have to wait a little time if City don't go all the way this year, as the Citizens face a possible two-year ban from UEFA to compete in the Champions League for breaking FFP rules.



The Spaniard, who spent his whole career playing for Barcelona, claimed that Guardiola is the best coach in the world and should easily lift the big ears once again. "For me, Pep is the best coach I had and the best coach in the world," Puyol said to Goal and SPOX.

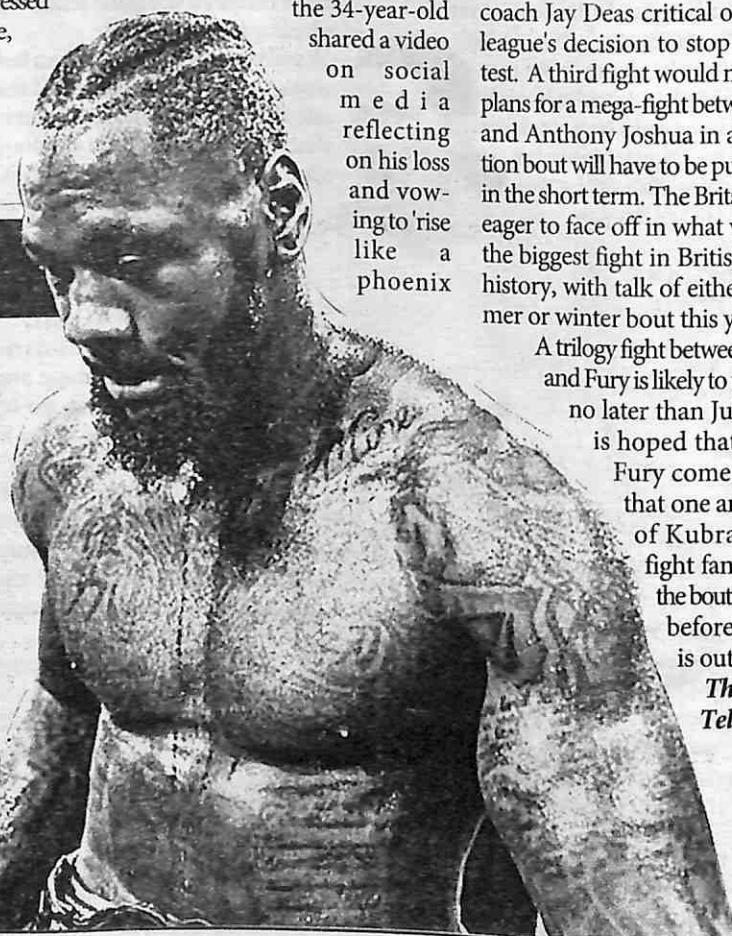
"You can immediately tell that a team is coached by Pep by the way it plays. That's why I'm convinced he will win that title again. "I can't say whether it will be with Manchester City, but they will focus a lot on that competition as it is practically impossible to catch Liverpool in the Premier League." Manchester City have been unsuccessful in their Premier

League title defence this season with Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool 22 points ahead after 27 matches. City beat Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League Round of 16 tie, but Puyol believes there are other strong contenders for this season's prize.

"Bayern are always among the favourites," he explained.

"They have an experienced team and will certainly be motivated to win that title again. In the knockout stage, the little details are decisive - I know that from my own experience."

Mail Online



CHELSEA LOSING GRIP ON FOURTH SPOT

LONDON - Chelsea once again missed the chance to cement fourth spot in the Premier League with a 2-2 draw against AFC Bournemouth yesterday evening.

The Blues started with just two changes from Tuesday's defeat to Bayern Munich, as Fikayo Tomori and Mason Mount replaced Antonio Rudiger and Ross Barkley respectively.

The Cherries made a bright start in the first three minutes after Philip Billing latched on to a cut back from Jack Stacey before seeing his attempt saved by Willy Caballero.

Mount soon managed to get the visitors going with a dipping attempt from an awkward bounce ahead of Aaron Ramsdale, who palmed the effort around the post.

The Blues hit the front 33 minutes in after Marco Alonso got over a bounce inside the left channel to find the top corner after Olivier Giroud's initial attempt cracked the crossbar.

Bournemouth went level 10 minutes after the halftime break when Jefferson Lerma reacted quickly to



Marcos Alonso scored twice as Chelsea had to fight back to secure a point when they took on Bournemouth away.

a corner kick to head home from a corner. King spearheaded the comeback 58 minutes in with a simple tap-in after poor timing from Caballero, who failed to gather a low cross from the right, with the Video Assistant Referee approving. Frank Lampard rang the

changes as Giroud made way for Michy Batshuayi on 72 minutes, as the Blues looked for more mobility.

Coming

Batshuayi had the ball in the net a minute after coming on with a fine strike off Alonso's pass, but

the effort was disallowed for off-side. Bournemouth's resistance finally seized when Ramsdale palmed Pedro's low shot straight to Alonso who headed home the rebound five minutes from time as the two sides settled for a share of the spoils.

Daily Mail

HIGHLANDS DENY ARROWS THREE POINTS

DURBAN - Golden Arrows and Highlands Park settled for a share of the spoils after playing to a 1-1 draw at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium yesterday afternoon. Both sides came into the encounter on a high after Highlands overcame Kaizer Chiefs in the Nedbank Cup while Arrows defeated AmaZulu in their last outing.

It was Steve Komphela's troops who got the early breakthrough as Divine Lunga's cross from the flank found Lerato Lamola, who nodded past Marlon Hough on six minutes.

The Lions of the North went in search of an equaliser but Arrows shot-stopper Sifiso Mlungwana popped up with a couple vital stops to thwart the visitors.

While there were a couple stoppages due to injury in the first half, the tempo was played a lively pace although clear-cut chances were hard to come by in the latter stages.

In an attempt to claw their way back into the contest, Highlands head coach Owen da Gama introduced Rodney Ramagalela for Banda just before the hour mark.

The decision paid off for the visitors as Ramagalela restored parity in the 64th minute with only his second league goal of the season.

Komphela responded with a change for the final 15 minutes as Michael Gumede came on for Lamola as the hosts pushed for a winning goal.

Arrows had a chance to snatch three points in the final four minutes after Knox Mutizwa did well to pick out Siyabonga Dube in the box, but the defender's effort was saved by Heugh.

In the end, 1-1 was how the encounter finished at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium, with both sides missing the chance to cement their top-eight spots.

Soccer Laduma

Chippa ease relegation fears with AmaZulu scalp

LONDON - Chippa United moved five points clear of the relegation zone after narrowly defeating AmaZulu 1-0 in the Absa Premiership yesterday afternoon.

The Chilli Boys brought back the regulars who rested in the Nedbank Cup loss to Bidvest Wits on Monday, with only goalkeeper Veli Mothwa, Gaona Modisane and Silas Maziya surviving.

Chippa came to the game on a back of three straight league defeats and were winless in their five matches while Uthutu were languishing rock bottom of the log after suffering their fourth loss in their last five games with defeat to Abafana Bese'thende.

It was no surprise to see the sides were cagey in the first stanza and could not create clear openings, as the opening 45 minutes went scoreless in Port Elizabeth.

However, Ruzaigh Gamildien



gave United a good start in the second stanza, as he broke the deadlock within three minutes from the break with a strike from the centre of the box.

Sphelele Maduna had a chance to level matters for Jozef Vukusic's troops five minutes later after going clear on goal but his low strike was saved by Mothwa.

As time began to tick, Uthutu top scorer Bonginkosi Ntuli also came close to snatching the equaliser just after the hour-mark but his header was par-

ried away by Mothwa. Vukusic gave youngster Bayanda Shangase his senior team debut in the last 20 minutes in place of Talent Chawapiwa adding firepower upfront.

Siyethemba Sithabe had a good chance to finally get the equaliser for AmaZulu in the last nine minutes after receiving a pass from Shangase from just outside the box but his strike sailed just wide as Chippa held on in the end to victory.

kickoff

West Ham boost survival hopes with win over Southampton

LONDON - West Ham United produced an excellent performance to beat Southampton 3-1 yesterday and provisionally climb out of the Premier League relegation zone.

The result lifted the Hammers one place to 17th on 27 points from 28 games, one more than 18th-placed Aston Villa who have a game in hand as they meet Manchester City in the League Cup final today.

Jarrod Bowen fired West Ham ahead with his first goal for the club since his January move from Championship side Hull City, with Sebastian Haller and Michail Antonio sealing the win after Michael Obafemi had equalised for Southampton. Bowen struck in the 15th minute with a clinical finish before Obafemi levelled in the 31st, sweeping the ball in with a first-time shot after James Ward-Prowse delivered a low cross from the right.

Haller restored the home team's advantage shortly before halftime as he beat Saints goalkeeper Alex McCarthy to a looping cross from the left and slid in to prod the ball home from a tight angle.

Daily Mail

Newcastle's barren run continues against stubborn Burnley

LONDON - Newcastle United's barren run of form continued when they largely dominated but still ended up being held to a 0-0 draw by Burnley in a sterile Premier League game at St James' Park on Saturday.

Steve Bruce's United have now won just once in their last 10 league matches after running into a stubborn Burnley side, who are enjoying their best season in the Premier League era as they moved up to ninth place.

The impressive Matt Ritchie, Dwight Gayle and the returning Jonjo Shelvey all had decent chances blocked by committed Burnley defending in a disappointing goalless first half.

Newcastle upped the pace after the break but Gayle's overhead kick from Miguel Almiron's cross and a Ritchie piledriver were the closest they came to breaking the deadlock. Chris Wood briefly livened up Burnley's challenge when he came on as a substitute but the man who had scored the winner in the corresponding fixture at Turf Moor in December was unable to earn Burnley their first league double over Newcastle for 59 years.

Daily Mail

Downs facing Champions League exit after loss in Egypt

CAIRO - Mamelodi Sundowns' hopes of reaching the CAF Champions League semi-finals suffered a blow after suffering a 2-0 loss to Al Ahly in the first leg of their quarter-final tie.

The South African champions were once again without a recognised striker as Lebohang Maboe, Gaston Sirino and Sibusiso Vilakazi led the attack in Cairo.

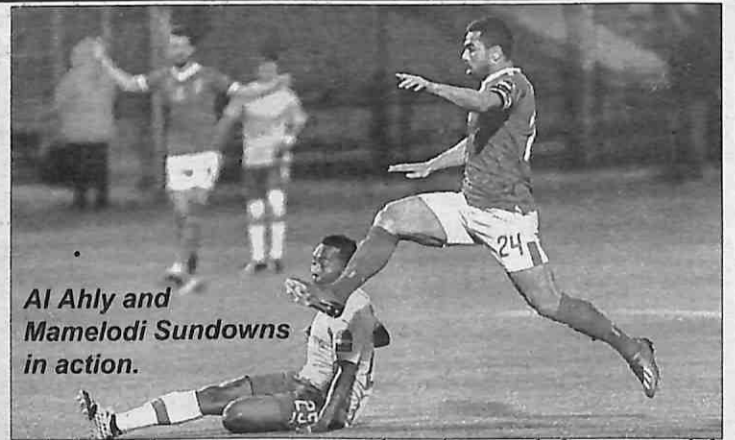
It was an evenly contested affair early as Denis Onyango was forced into a save after five minutes while Al Ahly's El-Shenawy was called up to deny Wayne Arendse a few minutes later. Sirino was proving a difficult customer for the Egyptians as the Uruguayan midfielder went agonisingly close with an effort

from distance that sailed just wide of El-Shenawy's goal.

The eight-time African champions did take control in the latter stages of the half, but the Sundowns defence did well to deny the hosts an opening in the final third, most notably Hlompho Kekana who popped up with a last-ditch tackle before the break.

The hosts eventually broke the deadlock 10 minutes into the second half as Ali Maaloul managed to slot past Onyango from close range after persistent pressure.

It got worse for Sundowns 10 minutes later when the hosts were awarded a penalty after Aliou Badji was brought down in the 18-yard area. Maalou stepped up and slotted home to get his and Al Ahly's sec-



Al Ahly and Mamelodi Sundowns in action.

ond of the night.

Prior to the spot-kick, Pitso Mosimane had withdrawn Sirino and introduced a more defensive player in Tiyani Mabunda to help defend the onslaught from the hosts. Themba Zwane was eventually

brought on with five minutes left in the contest in place of Tebogo Langerman, but the damage had already been done as the Egyptian giants will now take a two-goal lead to South Africa next week.

Goal



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PREVIEW'S

STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - It's yet another blockbuster Sunday in the MTN Premier league where two crowd pullers Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers during the yellow Sunday double header slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium.

The two title chasing security forces sides will have to overcome the two giants in their quest to keep their title hopes alive.

Defending champions Green Mamba are heading up to the north to face relegation threatened Black Swallows at their own backyard, the Killarney Stadium.

'Inyoka Eluhlazana' enter Black Swallows den

*Piggs Peak Black Swallows vs Green Mamba
(3pm, Killarney Sports Ground)*

The Correctional Services side will be hoping to record an away win when they face the Northern Hhohho based outfit in their own backyard.

A win will see the defending champions surge back into the top four bracket and they are coming into this encounter with their heads high following their mid-week win over Tambuti.

Former Malanti Chiefs player Mcolisi Mkhontfo will be the main man for the Caleb Ngwenya-led troops as they look to overcome the newcomers at their own fortress.

However, it looks like a mountain to climb to beat Pigg's Peak Black Swallows at home.

The black and white outfit are a hard nut to crack home as they previously frustrated top teams at home.

The home side's coach Tavaka Gumbo is expected to get the best out of his two strikers in Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze and Mbuso Mabuza to cause havoc against the fancied opposition.

Green Mamba

Coach: Caleb Ngwenya

Captain: Njabulo Thwala

Key Players: Mcolisi Mkhontfo, Mthunzi Mkhontfo, Sanele Tshawuke

Match Winner: Musa Dlamini

Black Swallows

Head Coach: Tavaka Gumbo

Captain: Siyabonga 'Msholoji' Mdluli

Key Players: Nody Manana, Jonathan Bafoe, Luaba Mbikay

Match Winner: Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze.

ANOTHER SUPER SUNDAY ACTION IN MTN LEAGUE

*Mbabane Highlanders vs Royal Leopard
(2pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

Mbabane Highlanders is one team that has recorded the highest number of draws in the league. Victory has been elusive even when it matters the most.

It's high time the black and white outfit convert their draws to wins.

A victory can boost the team's morale in the league and further improve their log standings.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati-led charges will be certainly be on a revenge mode against the police side who handed them a 1-0 drubbing during the first round encounter.

Vilakati will be pinning his hopes on his seasoned midfielder Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule to steer the team to an important victory alongside promising youngster Siboniso Lukhele.

The defence pairing of Jimoh Moses and Simphiwe Manana is so far doing a wonderful job as the team has conceded the least number of goals. Highlanders must tread carefully as they will be facing a tough side in Royal Leopard.

Weak

The police side usually has an upper hand on the capital city

Bull in Leopard test



outfit in the league and it is likely to be the same story this afternoon as Highlanders are expected to field a weak squad as they are setting their eyes on the Ingwenyama Cup final next weekend.

'Ingwemabalabala' will be playing a side whose focus is on the cup final more than the league.

All eyes will be on former Highlanders striker and new Leopard acquisition Thabiso Mokenkoane as the South Africa born striker has seemingly rediscovered his form in the police side after a disastrous time at Mbabane Swallows.

He has what it takes to destroy his former club this afternoon if left unchecked.

Former Mbabane Highlanders twins,

Lungelo and Fanelo Tsabedze are also expected to be on top form in this encounter against the 'Black Bull.'

Mbabane Highlanders

Coach: Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati

Captain: Jimoh Moses

Key Players: Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule, Menzi Mamba, Khanyakwezwe Shabalala

Match Winner: Siboniso Lukhele

Royal Leopard

Coach: Edwin Matsebula

Captain: Barry Steenkamp

Key Players: Sifiso Matse, Lungelo Tsabedze, Machawe Dlamini

Match Winner: Thabiso Mokenkoane

Buffaloes out to worsen 'Weslians' misery

*Manzini Wanderers vs Young Buffaloes
(4pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

Current log leaders Young Buffaloes will be all out to pile more misery to struggling giants Manzini Wanderers when the sides face each other this afternoon at the country's only football Meeaa.

'Amathole Ezinyathi' are also desperately in need of the maximum points in order to maintain their nine-point lead at the summit of the log table.

The Sabelo Mnisi-led side will be minus Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze due to suspension and they will rely on youngster Allie Matse to do the job this afternoon.

The former Manzini Wanderers player has a knack for goals.

He is also dangerous on set pieces.

Flying winger, Fanelo 'Order' Mamba is also expected to make those trademark runs from the flanks.

It won't be an easy task for Buffaloes to beat the hub giants who will be fighting for

their lives.

Despite the crisis in the team, Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe's charges are playing good football but mother luck is not on their side.

The players also need to be commended for putting behind the problems inside the field of play and they will be expected to put up a good fight against the log leaders.

They are also expected to display another five-star performance to give their supporters something to cheer about.

Ghanaian striker Johnson Mensah is expected to carry the hopes of the long suffering supporters against the ruthless opposition. The former Mhlume Peacemakers player has the zeal and energy to torment any defence on any given day.

Manzini Wanderers

Coach: Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe

Captain: Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya

Key Players: Mpendulo Ngidi, Mancoba 'Spider' Maseko, Chafiu

Match Winner: Johnson Mensah

Young Buffaloes

Caretaker Coach: Sabelo Mnisi

Captain: Nhlanhla Gwebu

Key players: Phiwa 'Silwabelwabe' Dlamini, Fanelo 'Order' Mamba, Mpendulo 'Mpetha' Dlamini

Match Winner: Allie Matse





INGWENYAMA CUP 2019/20



Shooting Stars' Senzo Mngomezulu and Manchester United's Thembisa Dludlu in a battle for the ball during the Ingwenyama Cup Regional final at Mayaluka Stadium yesterday. Manchester United won 2-1 in extra-time. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



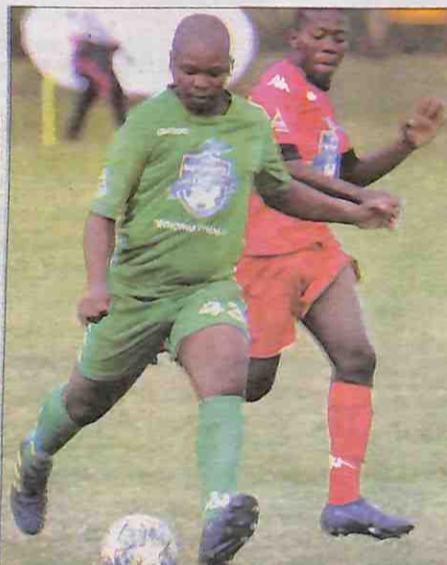
Ingwenyama Cup Board of Trustees Chairman Prince Hlangabeza with Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga at the stadium.



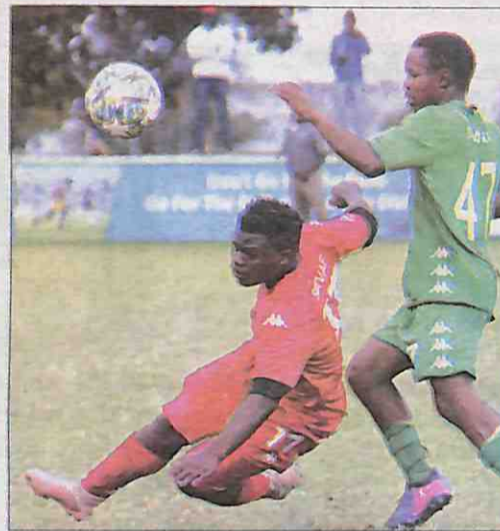
Ingwenyama Cup Regional champions Manchester United players and officials in jubilation after they were presented with the trophy.



Shooting Stars' Mandla Mngometulu leaves Manchester United's Lundi Dlamini on the ground.



Shooting Stars' Msimisi Ncanywa clears away the ball from his opponent.



Wandile Dlamini takes a shot while Linda Mhlanga closes in.



United players celebrate their winning goal.



United's winning goal scored in extra-time.



Shooting Stars players celebrate their lone goal scored by Sidumo Shongwe (23).



The runners-up Shooting stars receive their silver medals from Prince Hlangabeza and Minister Bulunga.



United players being decorated with gold medals.

Manchester crowned Ingwenyama Cup regional champs

STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSI

Manchester United ... (0)2
Shooting Stars ... (0)1

SOCCER- Hhohho Super League outfit Manchester United have claimed their second SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup regional crown after winning the third regional edition of the prestigious knockout competition yesterday.

The northern Hhohho outfit managed to beat Shooting Stars 2-1 during a final played at the Mayaluka Stadium.

The final was graced by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, Harries 'Madze' Bulunga. Ingwenyama Cup Chairman Prince Hlangabeza and other high ranking football officials.

It was a dull first half as the two regional sides struggled to create clear cut chances.

It was a tough final- Manchester coach

SOCCER - Manchester United head coach Jomo Dlamini says it was a tough final. Dlamini said they were not expecting to go to extra time. He made these remarks soon after guiding his side to a 2-1 win over Shooting Stars. "The match was tough and I wasn't expecting that we will go to extra-time."

Substitute

Wandile, who came as a substitute brought change, hence the win.

We will now going to fight to gain promotion into the first division." Meanwhile, Shooting Stars coach John Dlamini said they lost to a better side. "Our game plan was to be compact in the midfield. However, it didn't work for us."

We can't complain as we have lost to a better side," he said.



Ingwenyama Cup Regional champions Manchester United celebrate their victory over Shooting Stars yesterday at Mayaluka Stadium.

Siwakhile Shongwe could have done better in eight minutes when he shot wide at the edge of the box.

The Mhlatane High School pupil also saw his shot missing the target before the hour mark.

Shooting Stars nearly went ahead towards the end of the first half, however, Sambulo Mkhonta's glancing header hit the woodwork

with Banele Dlamini well beaten between the poles.

The match went for a break with both sides locked in a goalless draw.

Manchester United coach Jomo Dlamini introduced the experienced Wandile Dlamini for Lundi Dlamini.

The changes paid off eight minutes after the hour mark when

Muzi Tsabedze finished off a cross from Colani Nzalo to put his side on the front foot.

Shooting Stars equalised 10 minutes before fulltime via the boot of former Manzini Wanderers striker Sidumo Shongwe. The match went for extra time after the two sides were locked in a 1-1 draw. Manchester United stole the match in the first half of the extra time through Sicelo Mkhonta, following a cross from Mentiwa Dlamini.

Shooting Stars failed to equalise until the referee blew his whistle to end the match, allowing United to take home the E40 000 first prize money.

Teams:

Shooting Stars

Andile, Linda, Thethela, Mfanufuthi, Ayanda, Mandla, Ndumiso, Sidumo, Senzo, Msimisi, Sambulo

Manchester United

Banele Thembeisa, Sicelo, Sanele, Mentiwa, Muzi, Sicelo, Lundi, Siwakhile, Thabiso, Colani

IT WAS A BEST FINAL- 'MADZE'

SOCCER- Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga says the final between Manchester United and Shooting Stars was the best.

Bulunga said both teams had a good approach when attacking. "It was the best final. Both teams displayed good football. Even their approach when attacking was good. In fact, the score was not a true reflection of the match as more goals could have been scored," he said. Bulunga added that the teams have good players who are



Ingwenyama Cup Board of Trustees Chairman Prince Hlangabeza with Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga at Mayaluka stadium.

supposed to play in the premier league. Ingwenyama Cup Chairman, Johannes 'Ace' Soboza said the teams

were well prepared for the match. "We watched good football. The teams were well prepared for the final."

KFC pumps in 2.1 Million for Scara Thindwa Foundation

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - KFC - Alliance Foods has pumped in 2.1 million for the Scara Thindwa Foundation development programme.

The sponsorship was announced by Group's Chief Financial Officer Nigel England during a presentation yesterday at Mountain Inn.

The sponsorship will roll over for a period of three years with a payout of E700 000 per year for the boys under 15 and girls Under 17 soccer tournaments as well as drum majorettes.

England said the sponsorship was a way of giving back to the community and contributes towards the development of football in the country.

"We are happy to announce this year competition which will also cover the Girls Under-17 and drum majorettes for the first time. The aim of the sponsorship is to see massive improvement in the national teams hence we have committed ourselves with this amount."

"We also want to see children excelling in their academic work and we fur-



KFC - Alliance Chief Financial Officer Nigel England and Operations Lead Sonja Van Schalkwyk posing with Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza, Scara Thindwa Soccer Foundation Chairman David Matse and founder Scara Thindwa as well as Eswatini Schools Sports Association executive committee members and EOCGA CEO Sydney Simelane. (Pic: Colisile Sacolo)

KFC Sponsorship Package

Under 17 girls soccer tournament top 4

Uniforms, trophies and medals

1. E35 000 soccer kits, trophies and medals

2. E25 000 soccer kits, trophies and medals

3. 15 000 soccer kits, trophies and medals

Plus a trip to South Africa for top two players

Soccer boots for all top four schools

Under 15 boys

1. E15 000 soccer kits, trophies and medals

for this sponsorship, which will also cover the girls tournament and drum majorettes.

This shows that KFC does takes care of the community and we are short of words for what KFC has

2. E10 000 soccer kits, trophies and medals

3. E5 000 soccer kits, trophies and medals

Soccer boots for all top four schools

Plus a trip to South Africa for two players

Drum majorettes

1. E15 000

2. E10 000

3. E5 000

done for us today," he said.

The top two outstanding players in the boys and girls soccer tournaments will also get a trip to South Africa later this year, courtesy of the foundation.

Birds make light work of Pirates

BY COLISILE SACOLO

Moneni Pirates (0)0

Mbabane Swallows (2)3

SOCCER - The goals are back for Mbabane Swallows.

The capital city giants rediscovered their scoring touch when they floored Moneni Pirates by 3-0 in an MTN Premier league match at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

The victory also saw the capital city giants reducing the gap on log leaders Young Buffaloes. The 'Sea Robbers' failed to maintain their winning momentum following their mid-week victory over rivals Manzini Wanderers. As much as the scoreline screams dominance, it was not an easy match for Swallows as the 'Buccannars' created their own scoring chances but failed to convert them.

The visitors indicated their intention early in the match with defender Sifiso Mabila scoring six minutes into action. The red and white glamour side did not stop pushing as they continued in search for another goal through their front liners compromising Sandile Hlatshwako, Sizolwethu Shabalala, Wonder 'Samba' Nhleko and Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, who were all over Pirates defence.

It was no surprise when captain marvel 'TT' scored the second goal for Swallows in the 21st minutes with a sublime strike.

Pirates tried to come back to the match with Lizwe Zwane making a desperate attempt to score but the Swallows defence marshaled by Kingu Pemba was resolute.

The match had a strong first half with both teams coming hard at each other and Swallows enjoyed a healthy two goal cushion going into the breather.

The hosts came out recharged during the resumption of play as they attacking in numbers but they were kept at bay by the brave Sandanezwe Mathabela at Swallows goals.

Swallows increased the scoreline 11 minutes into the second half through a tap in from youngster Sizolwethu Shabalala - much to the delight of the vocal travelling fans.

Other results

Milling Hotspurs 0-2 Tambuti
Malanti Chiefs 1-0 Mhlume Peacemakers

Denver Sundowns 2-2 Manzini Sea Birds
MTN National First Division
Seven Dreams 1-2 Tambankulu Callies
Young Movers 2-3 Rangers
Hlathikhulu Tycoons 1-1 Tinyosi

Fixtures

Killamey Sports Ground

Black Swallows vs Green Mamba 3:30pm

Somhlolo National Stadium

Mbabane Highlanders vs Royal Leopard 2pm

Manzini Wanderers vs Young Buffaloes 4:05pm

MTN Premier League log

	P	W	D	L	GF	GAGD	PTS
Young Buffaloes	17	13	3	1	43	9	34
Mbabane Swallows	17	10	6	1	28	7	21
Royal Leopard	17	9	5	3	22	11	32
Moneni Pirates	18	9	4	5	25	17	31
Green Mamba	17	8	3	6	25	13	27
Denver Sundowns	18	6	7	5	19	20	25
Mbabane Highlanders	17	4	11	2	12	10	23
Tambuti	18	4	9	5	22	29	21
Milling Hotspurs	18	4	7	7	13	22	19
Sea Birds	17	4	5	8	18	25	17
Manzini Wanderers	17	4	5	8	18	29	17
Malanti Chiefs	17	5	0	12	13	27	15
Mhlume Peacemakers	17	3	4	10	14	25	13
Black Swallows	17	3	1	13	16	39	10

RESULTS

Premier League		
Bournemouth	2-2	Chelsea
Newcastle	0-0	Burnley
West Ham	3-1	Southampton
Brighton & Hove Albion	0-1	Crystal Palace
Watford	3-0	Liverpool

ABSA Premiership		
Orlando Pirates	0-1	Kaizer Chiefs
Golden Arrows	1-1	Highlands Park
Chippa Utd.	1-0	Amazulu



Akpeyi shines as Chiefs end Bucs' winning run

JOHANNESBURG - Soweto will be painted black and gold once again as Absa Premiership leaders Kaizer Chiefs handed Josef Zinnbauer his first league defeat as Orlando Pirates coach yesterday afternoon. Pirates recalled Mthokozisi Dube, Ben Motshwari and Fortune Makaringe as Pirates went in search of a seventh straight league win.

Meanwhile, Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp kept faith with Daniel Akpeyi in goal and the inclusion of Reeve Frosler and Kearyn Baccus saw talisman Khama Billiat start on the bench.

Josef Zinnbauer's charges came close to getting the opener in the 14th minute after Gabadinho Mhango received a pass from Luvuyo Memela in the six-yard box but his close range shot was saved by Akpeyi.

The Buccaneers looked the liveliest going forward but it was the Glamour Boys who drew first blood on the half-hour mark, thanks to a stunning low strike from Lebogang Manyama that found the bottom corner.

Pirates were working their way back into the game and Mhango came close to finding the equaliser three minutes before the break but the league's top scorer somehow guided his header wide with only Akpeyi to beat. Chiefs were under pressure early in the second stanza although Middendorp was forced to make a change just before the hour-mark after bringing on Billiat in place of the injured Leonardo Castro.

Billiat had a glorious chance to give Amakhosi a two-goal lead a few minutes later after beating the offside trap to go clear on goal but instead of taking a shot, he threaded a pass to Manyama, which was intercepted by Nyauza.

Kick-Off

SundayObserver SPORTING

March 1, 2020



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Birds close in on Buffaloes

EUDF dominate Tuff One race



MANCHESTER UNITED CROWNED INGWENYAMA CUP REGIONAL KINGS

PAGE
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● *Hhohho side clinches second title after beating Shooting Stars*

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