

ESWATINI Observer

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2020

PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

MISSION YEAR CANDLE:
Fathers Jechonia Mahazule and Christopher Maseko leading the congregation during the feast day of the presentation of the Lord and receiving of the Extraordinary Mission year Candle that was held yesterday at Mater Dolorosa Church in Mbabane. (Pic: Nonduduzo Kunene)



'COPS THREATENED TO KILL ME'

PAGE 2

20 DIE IN CHURCH SERVICE STAMPEDE

PAGE 23

The truth will take some time to be revealed...

NHL-SICUNUSA UNFINISHED ROAD AUDIT STALLED

- Three ministries did not know who was supposed to carry out the audit
- Later claim there was no budget to undertake the exercise

STORY ON PAGE 3

SUPER SPECIALS!!

REINFORCE Y10 x 6m E49.⁹⁰	REINFORCE R12 x 6m E69.⁹⁰
	REINFORCE Y12 x 6m E69.⁹⁰
	REINFORCE R8 x 6m E32.⁹⁰
	REINFORCE R16 x 6m E49.⁹⁰

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Cold to hot week with thunderstorms

NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE first week of the month of love is predicted to be sunny and hot; thunderstorms are expected as the week progresses.

Temperatures are expected to be between 12 and 36 Degrees Celsius.

Today it will be sunny and hot in the Lowveld. Temperatures will range between 13 and 33 Degrees Celsius.

Tomorrow morning, fog is expected in the Highveld becoming sunny and hot in the Lowveld. Clouds are expected in the evening with showers or thunderstorms. A slight drop in minimum temperatures is predicted and a slight rise in maximum temperatures.

On Wednesday, morning fog is expected in the Lowveld becoming partly sunny and hot to very hot in the Lowveld with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in spots. An obvious rise in temperatures is expected as they will reach 36 Degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, increasing cloudiness with a shower or thunderstorms around the afternoon is predicted while during the day it will be hot to very hot in the Lowveld.

Today	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 13/28	14/29	16/31	15/30	17/32	18/33
Tomorrow	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 12/29	13/30	15/32	14/31	16/33	17/34
Wednesday	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 15/31	16/32	18/34	17/33	19/35	20/36
Thursday	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 16/30	17/31	19/3	18/32	20/34	21/35

Botswana confirms five cases of suspected Coronavirus

GABORONE - The Coronavirus has now hit Botswana with thousands of people suspected to have already been affected.

The ministry of health confirms five suspected cases of Coronavirus presenting with flu-like symptoms since January 30.

All the five suspected cases arrived at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (SKIA).

The five cases were picked at different times and are isolated at a designated health facility whilst waiting laboratory results.

The public is advised to continue exercising precautions towards the prevention of coronavirus such as personal hygiene.

Yesterday morning, the Minister Lebogang Kwappe and the WHO country representative visited the designated isolation health facility in Gaborone to assess the level of preparedness and motivate staff.

The ministry continues to monitor the situation closely in consultation with World Health Organisation (WHO) and will keep the public updated.

zimeye.net

Sanele May finally speaks

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

FIELDS Hill truck driver Sanele May has finally broken his silence after being released from prison.

May, who was released from Umzinto Correctional after serving six years, shared his story in an interview with East Coast Radio.

He said after all that happened, he was happy to be back home. He could not take back what happened but he was excited to be home.

May said he was welcomed warmly back in Eswatini and there were a lot of people he missed while he was away.

Explaining life in prison, May said life was not easy.

"Life was very hard in prison, I don't know hell but I think hell is

.. I won't forget that a lot of innocent people passed away that day through a vehicle that was driven by me

better than prison," May stated.

He said what kept him going was that there were people who were supporting him while he was in prison.

He added that what also gave him hope was that he knew that eventually he will be out of prison one day. He said he kept on praying and believing that one day he will be free.

Speaking about the tragic accident that claimed the lives of 24 people, May stated that he thinks about that everyday.

"Although I am out now, I won't forget that a lot of innocent people passed away that day through a vehicle that was driven by me,"

May stated.

He said thinking about that fateful day was very hard for him; what he thought of the most were the families who lost their loved ones. He also wondered how the families coped because he knew most of them lost breadwinners during that accident.

He also thought about those who were left disabled after that accident.

He said the scars left on some victims remind them what happened during that accident and that hurt him.

Adding, May said it hurt him because nothing happened to him. He said there were times when he

wished he had died too during that accident as he remembers crashing into a car and then everything went blank but when he saw the video, he asked himself how he survived such a horrible accident.

He said at the end of the day, not everyone forgave him as some even went to the extent of accusing him of coming all the way to South Africa to kill their relatives. He said in their eyes he is a murderer. He said this hurt him so much, which is why sometimes he thought he should have died.

"Some of the family members who lost their loved ones came to pay me a visit and said they forgive me and I mustn't blame myself for what happened as it was an accident." Knowing that some of those who were affected forgave him was like a heavy load was lifted off his shoulders.

"I wrote to the affected families while in prison asking for forgiveness and telling them that I am very

EO.5BN NHLANGANO-SICUNUSA UNFINISHED ROAD AUDIT STALLED

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE forensic audit into the construction of the unfinished Nhlango-Sicunusa (MR13) road which has already cost E576 101 574.86, has been stalled and the ministry of public work and transport blames it on lack of funds.

According to the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), three government departments were supposed to submit a report of the audit within six months after the committee's report was adopted by Parliament.

This followed that the PAC could not get answers on the project and a site visit conducted on June 20, 2019 raised more questions than answers.

"Since the committee could not gain access to a key witness who had deep knowledge about the project and also due to the fact that the committee does not have enough technical capacity to investigate all aspects of the project, the prime minister's office, ministry of public works and transport as well as the ministry of finance should institute a forensic audit into the project and submit a report to the honourable House within six months after adoption of this report failing which they (controlling officers of the three ministries) will be charged with contempt of Parliament," reads one of the recommendations by the PAC.

The report was adopted by Parliament sometime in September, which means the audit report is expected by March.

However, the three ministries had not been able to engage a consultant to carry out the audit.

Sources close to the matter alleged that part of what caused the delay was that none of the three ministries had taken the initiative to institute the



probe.

"The ministry of public works had no idea that it was expected to engage the consultant to conduct the audit as they believed they were being accused of mismanagement of the funds, hence they were expecting that the audit was going to be instituted by the prime minister's office. All along they have been waiting to appear before the consultant but the probe was not forthcoming," said the source.

On the other hand, the prime minister's office and the ministry of finance are believed to have also been expecting the ministry of works to institute the probe. As though confirming the allegations by the sources the ministry of finance and the prime minister's office directed questions to the ministry of public works ministry of public works and at first directed questions to the prime minister's office. "Kindly refer questions to the ministry of public works" is the same response that was given by both Ministry of Finance Communications Officer Setsabile Dlamini and Deputy Government Spokesperson Sabelo Dlamini.

When the press secretary was informed that the ministry of public works had also referred question to the prime minister's office, he said this publication was not the first to inquire about the same matter from his office and no one had indi-

cated knowledge about the audit.

"Governments' projects are normally audited, it is procedure. I cannot be specific about this one. Two things are important in this matter; one is that government projects are audited. Secondly, if a matter was brought out in Parliament as a motion, we may be charged with contempt of Parliament if we respond to you," he said.

Ministry of Public Works and Transport Under-Secretary Naniki Mnisi, on the other hand, said after consultations with the ministry of finance and the prime minister's office, they concluded that the three ministries should work together to ensure that the audit is eventually instituted.

"We will wait for funds. We will let you know as the media when we have the report. We are going to employ an auditor once we have received the budget. It is impossible to conduct it without the budget because the consultant fees are high. The budgets are itemised I think it was a shortfall that there was no budget allocated for the audit. With the help and support of the finance and the prime minister's office, we expect to get the budget then we will be able to engage the consultant," she said.

The audit is one of the five recommendations of the PAC on the finding of the auditor general.

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Magistrate's Court

AN employee of the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT) has accused police officers based at Mbabane Regional Headquarters of torturing him to compel him to make a confession.

Sabelo Kunene has made damning allegations to the effect that while maintaining his innocence, police officers threatened him with death, and further assaulted and hurled insults at him in order for him to give them

Cops threatened to kill me for confession - LUCT employee

their 'desired' evidence.

While testifying in the on-going case involving the robbery of E600 000 in cash at LUCT in 2018, Kunene stated that although he was arrested along with the other suspects, he was released after police officers failed to find concrete evidence to connect him to the crime.

"After I was arrested along with my colleague, Vusani Mhlanga

(one of the accused persons), I was taken to the police station where I was interrogated.

Evidence

They threatened to kill me if I did not produce evidence that I was involved in robbing the university of E600 000. The police officers literally forced me to make a false statement, implicating myself with the robbery," Kunene alleged.

He added that although he was compelled to make a statement implicating himself, he maintained his innocence that he did not commit the offence with Mhlanga and three others.

"There is a reason why the police officers could not charge me in connection with the robbery. It seemed as if the police officers were desperate to produce strong

evidence against Mhlanga, and it seemed that they wanted to use me to do it because Mhlanga and I were friends. However, they failed to do so as before I left the police station the day they threatened me, a police officer commented that I barely gave them any evidence to go on and that he would punch me out of me if he had to," Kunene added.



SPEAKS OUT: Sanele May.

sorry for what happened. Most of the families also wrote back telling him that they had forgiven him. "The most important thing was to forgive myself before seeking forgiveness from others. I don't blame those who did not forgive him because after all that has happened, it is very hard to come to terms with it. I pray to

God that one day they find the courage to forgive me," he said. May said for now he was still enjoying being home with his family and he was grateful that they were still alive because that was worried him while he was doing time.

While in prison he was insulted by other offenders and accused of killing South Africans. At some point, he was even told that those who were supporting him while in prison were the ones who had sent him to kill the innocent people.

Further, he explained that he was accused of practising Satanism and that at night he drank blood from the people he killed.

May said he wanted to go back to South Africa but he is scared.

May was very grateful for the support he got from those who came to visit him while in prison and those who supported him in anyway.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S FINDINGS

THE auditor general reported that, at inception, this project was supposed to cost E465 990 202.85 and take only 24 months to complete but over 60 months later it was still not complete yet payments made had already exceeded E576 101 574.86.

He further noted that, before the project stopped, there were a number of irregularities noted like loan requirements, contractual obligations and construction standards.

Below are some of the irregularities:

- Irregularities during pre-qualification of suppliers where the main contractor, Kukhanya/Gabriel Couto Joint Venture was recommended for tendering despite failing to meet pre-qualification requirements twice

- The contractor was appointed without being approved by the funding agencies, yet this was part of the loan agreement (that the funders would have to pre-approve the contractor)

- Gabriel Couto, who was a major shareholder in the joint venture, pulled out of the joint venture after the funders indicated that they would no longer finance the project yet they (Gabriel Couto) are the ones who were the leading partners as they had capacity to do the work.

- An interest amounting to E14 457 18.15 was paid due to late payments

- An amount of E16 444 660.00 was paid by government to consultants, MZCK Consultants, as consultancy fees despite the fact that the loan agreement between government and the funders stated that the funders would pay the consultancy fees. The consultancy fees were supposed to be E10 million but government added E5 million more to the fees without any explanation.

- A farm owner who was supposed to be compensated with E191 132.88 for a portion of his farm which was affected by the construction was eventually paid E3 000 000.00 without any justification.

PAC RECOMMENDATIONS

THE committee could not get answers on the project and a site visit conducted on 20 June 2019 raised more questions than answers.

While the ministry had earlier stated that the project was 75 per cent complete before it was halted, the situation on the ground painted a different picture.

There were big gullies (*tisele*) in the road, trees had sprouted in the middle of the road, homesteads near the road were affected by dust and had cracked walls, material was found lying idle and residents could not access shops due to trenches dug on the road. The damage to the road was also getting worse due to rains and when it rained, water was directed to the nearby homesteads.

The committee, therefore, recommends the following:

- Government should immediately terminate the contract with the contractor as the state is allegedly attracting monthly penalties in the region of E5 million while the project is stalled.

- The ministry of public works and transport should calculate how much it would cost government to complete the project and submit a copy of the figures to the committee within 30 days after adoption of this Report.

- Government should complete the project to boost economic activity in that corridor and follow procurement procedures.

- Government should safeguard all the material that is lying idle on the site.

Mankayane cop arrested for alleged corruption

STOPRIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

CONSTABLE Eric Motsa (37), who was stationed at Mankayane under general duty, was arrested and slapped with four counts of breaking the law.

Motsa has been taken to task for corruption.

It is alleged that on October 6, 2017 while at Mankayane, Motsa contravened the Corruption Act 3 of 2006 by intentionally and unlawfully demanding and accepting a sum of E1 000 from one Sibusiso Hlanze as an advantage for his own benefit.

It is alleged that the police officer did this for the purpose of not effecting a lawful arrest on Hlanze for illegal dagga possession.

Also, Motsa also faces a theft charge in that on the same day he allegedly stole a sum of E5 000 cash that was in the legal possession of Hlanze.

Further, the officer of the law is accused of defeating the ends of justice in that being a law enforcement agent who was entrusted with the duty to arrest and formally hand over exhibits into lawful custody, he failed to arrest Hlanze who was found in possession of dagga without a permit, and further failed to forward the dagga exhibit to safe police custody.

An additional extortion charge was added to Motsa's counts because he unlawfully instilled fear in Hlanze's mind by threatening to arrest him for the crime of possessing the illicit drug unless he paid him a sum of E1 000.

The matter was before Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo, and three witnesses have been paraded by the Crown.

According to evidence brought forward

...officer partner who witnessed alleged crime turned State witness

by Hlanze; a taxi driver from Luve, before the crime was committed by the police officer, he was driving one Ndoda Tsabedze who is a member of the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) and a South African man identified as Sithole from Manzini to Mankayane where the two were to buy some dagga.

Hlanze said he was merely a driver who was commissioned by his boss to transport Tsabedze and Sithole.

The taxi driver said they went to a certain homestead where a bucketful of dagga was bought. After packaging the illicit drug into three black refuse bags, Hlanze said they went on their way and the destination was Luve.

Passengers

However, while still in Mankayane, Hlanze said his two passengers asked to go via Mankayane town where they were to buy some liquor.

He estimated the time to have been around 9pm by then. Upon reaching Mankayane town, the taxi driver said he saw a police van and a male officer alighted and headed towards his blue Honda Fit.

Hlanze further informed the court that Constable Motsa was clad in full uniform and he introduced himself before requesting to see his driving documents.

Meanwhile, the soldier and the South African man requested to go to a nearby bar. After they had left, Hlanze and Motsa were alone, and the officer opened the car boot where he saw the bags of dagga.

Just then, Motsa's partner for the night officer Buhle Siphiwe Khumalo, also arrived at the scene where Motsa was already inspecting the bags of dagga.

Police partner turned witness spills beans

THE female police officer who was working with Constable Motsa on the night he broke the law was turned an accomplice witness.

The officer Buhle Siphiwe Khumalo, now based in Mbabane under general duty, told the court that her partner confiscated the dagga, cellphones and other documents belonging to the men who boarded Hlanze's car.

Khumalo is one of the witnesses paraded by the Crown in Constable Eric Motsa's matter. She further told the court that she was paid by her partner for 'releasing' Hlanze who was supposed to be arrested for breaking the law.

In her evidence, Khumalo said their attention was drawn to the Honda Fit by that it entered the town through an exit point. She said Constable Motsa first went towards the car with the purpose of questioning the driver about his entry

point. However, after hearing the two speaking in hushed tones, Khumalo said she also went to the scene where she witnessed Hlanze informing Motsa that the dagga did not belong to him.

The female officer said she then informed the taxi driver that he was under arrest and he would have to follow them to the police station. Khumalo claimed to have then left the two alone and could not gather the rest of their conversation.

A while later, the female officer said her partner returned to the police vehicle where she was waiting for him. Khumalo said she noticed that Motsa was carrying a cellphone unknown to her and kept receiving calls from the same gadget.

"He told me that the Honda Fit driver gave him E500 and apologised. He said the money was the driver's token of appreciation for releasing him," said

The lady officer reportedly told Hlanze that he was under arrest for the illegal possession of dagga.

In his defence, Hlanze said he told the officers that he was only a driver, and all that was in the car belonged to the two men who had disappeared into the bar.

After several appeals not to arrest him, Hlanze told the court that Constable Motsa called him aside saying he would release him only if he paid E1 000. Since he had not much cash on him, Hlanze claimed to have given Motsa E600 before he (Motsa) demanded that Hlanze asked for the balance from his boss.

Subsequently, the taxi driver informed his boss about the incident and that he needed E400 to pay Motsa. The taxi owner and Motsa communicated through Hlanze's phone and they agreed that the vehicle owner would transfer E400 into Motsa's Mobile Money account.

However, before letting Hlanze free, officer Motsa demanded that the taxi driver offloaded everything that was in the car, including the dagga bags, liquor and a bag that belonged to the South African man.

Since the soldier and the foreigner never came out of the bar, Motsa allegedly ordered Hlanze to drive back to Manzini alone.

"The police van followed me from Mankayane until Mhlabubovu. I continued driving until I reached Luve where I found Tsabedze and Sithole," Hlanze said.

In the bag that Motsa took is claimed to have been E5 000 cash that went missing, the bag contained personal items, including a travel document and the South African man's car registration documents.

Khumalo.

The officer claimed that Motsa received another call from the new phone, and she heard him telling the caller to deposit some money into his Mobile Money account. "Motsa took the dagga bags and some beer bottles and went with them behind a waiting room, but when he returned he was not carrying anything," Khumalo added. After releasing Hlanze, the female officer claimed that Motsa informed her about E400 that had just been deposited by the taxi man's boss. This, according to Khumalo, meant that Motsa was paid a total of E900, and she was given a share of E400. Further information in the court's record is to the effect that when asked why he had requested the money to be paid through Mobile Money as this could leave a trail of the transfer, Motsa allegedly told those who asked him that he would defend himself by saying he thought the money was erroneously deposited into his account.

HOSTILE

KUNENE was paraded before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi yesterday as the prosecution's accomplice witness.

He was said to have taken part in the commission of the offence in 2018.

However, after Kunene gave a vague recollection of the day in

question, and vague rendition of the statement he recorded before police officers, the prosecution turned him into a hostile witness.

Revealed

It was further revealed that Kunene was omitting valuable evidence, which almost made the prosecution to make an application for him to be prosecuted along with Mhlanga and the other accused persons. Mhlanga, along with Thembele Simelane and Kwanele

Ngcamphalala, were charged with robbery in that during the month of September 2018 at Mbabane Linkokwing University, the accused persons, each or all of them acting jointly and in the furtherance of a common purpose, did unlawfully and with intent to induce submission to the taking of money valued at E600 000, assaulted and threatened Fisokuhle Nkambule that unless he consented to the taking and refrain from offering any

resistance, they would shoot him. Using force and violence, they allegedly assaulted and threatened him with a pistol and did steal from him money in cash valued at E600 000.

Prosecution

The matter was postponed to February 16, as the prosecution informed the court that its sixth witness had been bitten by a snake two days prior to the trial date and was unable to come to court.

Relaying his version of events before the court, Kunene recalled that a day before he was taken into custody for questioning, he received a phone call from Mhlanga inviting him to his home.

"Mhlanga and I loved sharing avocados, so he invited me to collect a few that had fallen from his trees.

When I arrived at his home, we spoke about work and he then offered me E1 200, which he stated would assist me in buying groceries.

I did not think anything of his gesture as we were friends and were used to helping each other out," Kunene stated.



STRESSING A POINT: Ingwenyama Cup Chairman Senator Prince Hlangabeza joined by Prince Bukhosi as he addressed the gathering during the Manzini Regional eliminations of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture competition on Saturday. This was the last of culture competition regional eliminations where the last group of finalists was announced. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



LUTSANGO: Lutsango from Ngculwini celebrate after receiving their prize money.



Kwaluseni Ingadla in a happy mood as they were presented with the cash prize by Chairman Prince Hlangabeza while Prince Bukhosi looks on.

Ngculwini Lutsango, Indlamu qualify for finals

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU
Manzini

NGCULWINI groups will represent Manzini region in the finals of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture Competition after they emerged winners of the Lutsango and Indlamu categories.

This was during the Manzini Regional eliminations held at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre on Saturday. Other winners were Mahlangatsha, who won the Emajaha category; Kwaluseni the Ingadla category while Sibonginkosi Thwala scooped the Imbongi category.

All the winners will now represent the region during the finals of the competition to be held at Somhlolo National Stadium at a date yet to be blessed by His Majesty King Mswati III, who is the patron of the competition. The finals of the culture competition will be on the same day with the soccer finals of the MVA Fund sponsored contest. The winning groups were told to prepare for the finals as the first prize comes with hefty cash prize packages, including trophies to be presented by His Majesty. The standard of the competition is improving annually as the numbers of the groups keep increasing over the years.

There were also no dominating groups as witnessed the past year, with drastic changes in the winning groups wherein the defending champions were mostly booted out by the groups that were runners-up in the competition last year. The regional eliminations were attended by Prince Mbuyisa, Prince Lonkhokhela, Prince Hlangabeza, who is Chairman of the Ingwenyama Cup Board of Trustees, Prince Bukhosi, who is a member and Chairman of the culture committee. Chiefs present were Prince Jiwako of Mahlangatsha, Prince Lembelele of Luyengweni, Prince Bonginkhosi of KaBhekinkhosi and Chief Sotunwane Sacolo of Ludvondvolweni, among others. Also present were Ministers Moses Vilakati of Tourism and Harries 'Madze' Bulunga of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs. Manzini RA Chief Gija and Regional Secretary Samkeliso Dlamini were also part of the event.

Emajaha Category:
Mahlangatsha
Ludzidzi loludzala
Nyakeni
Gundvini

Timbongi Category
Sibonginkosi Thwala

Mpumelelo Nkambule
Temasotja Dlamini
Sicelo Dlamini

Lutsango Category
Ngculwini
Mbelebeleni
KaBhekinkhosi
Ntandozi

Ingadla Category
Kwaluseni
Ngculwini
Mantshonga
Mphankhomo

Indlamu Category
Ngculwini
Mbelebeleni
Velezizweni
Mantshonga

Timbongi juniors
Melokuhle Mavuso
Tandzile Motsa
Mkhuleko Shabalala

Ingadla juniors
Nsuka
Mambatfweni
Nsingweni
KaNdinda

OVERALL FINALISTS:

● Lutsango Region	Finalists	Lubombo	Maphungwane	Hhohho	Ekuvinjelweni
	Gucuka	Manzini	Mahlangatsha	Shiselweni	Dvumbe
	L avumisa	● Ingadla		Lubombo	Mkhweli
	Kalanga	Hhohho	Maphalaleni	Manzini	Ngculwini
● Emajaha	gculwini	Shiselweni	Buseleni	● Timbongi	
		Lubombo	Phuzamoya	Hhohho	Nkosingiphile Dlamini
	Mkhuzweni	Manzini	Kwaluseni	Shiselweni	Bheki Matsenjwa
	Buseleni	● Indlamu		Lubombo	Sibusiso Mahlalela
				Manzini	Bonginkhosi Thwala



SUPPORT: Emalangeni joined by some of the chiefs who came through to witness the performances by the culture groups.

IT'S BUGANU FESTIVAL WEEKEND

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

ALL roads lead to Buhleni Royal Residence on Friday for the Baganu ceremony.

The Baganu ceremony will be held in the Northern Hhohho region this coming weekend. It is expected to proceed to Hlane Royal Residence in the Lubombo region for the second edition of the song and dance festival in two weeks.

According to an announcement in the national broadcaster Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services (EBIS), Lutsango regiment from Hhohho is expected to deliver Baganu and gifts before Her Majesty the Queen Mother on Friday, which will

mark the commencement of the weekend long ceremony.

Normally, the presentation of gifts to Their Majesties proceeds until Sunday when the women regiment is dispersed.

"On Saturday, there will be dancing festivities. *Engomeni yakhe* Lutsango. On Sunday February 9, the regiment will be dispersed by Their Majesties," stated the announcement.

The jovial songs and dance ceremony is normally graced by the presence of His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Indlovukazi, Emakhosikati, Sigodlo, royal family members, emabutfo and the entire Eswatini nation.

International guests from neighbouring countries and abroad also partake in the ceremony. Nonetheless, Emaswati will have a chance to hear words of wisdom

from His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Majesty the Indlovukazi.

The Baganu ceremony is known among Emaswati as the celebration of the 'first fruit' which comes after the Incwala ceremony.

Essentially, this is about cleansing and renewal in a new year. Every year, Emaswati celebrate their tradition through colourful ceremonies and Baganu ceremony is one of those that unite Emaswati through culture, values and traditions.

The Emaganu (marula) fruit is a source of those Emaswati and is regarded as magical healing ingredient used for skin care products because of its massive fertility properties.

As part of Her Majesty the Indlovukazi's job creation and poverty alleviation initiatives for the Kingdom of Eswatini rural woman, marula fruits are used to make beauty products, as a result huge numbers of Emaswati have benefited from this initiative.

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CHAMPS: Emajaha from Mahlangatsha joined by Prince Jiwako as they receive their prize money from Prince Hlangabeza after they were crowned champions.



SIBHACA: Sibhaca team from Ngculwini were crowned champions in the category to represent the region in the finals.



THE BEST: Junior champions in the Ingadla category from Nsuka receiving their prize money from the prince.

E50 000 for champions

THE groups that have qualified for the finals now stand a chance to pocket E50 000 for winning the Lutsango and Emajaha categories.

The Ingadla and Sibhaca champions will pocket E40 000 while the champion of the Timbongi category will walk away with E22 000. The figures, as confirmed by the culture PRO Sandile Nxumalo, will be accompanied by trophies for the champions.

Runners-up in the four categories will walk away with E20 000, E15 000 and E10 000. In the solo performing Imbongi category, the runner-up will pocket E15 000, E10 000 and E5 000 for the last man. The competition is gaining popularity among communities as numbers keep increasing by the years.

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NUMBER EWSC 17 OF 2019/20
NGWENYA WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE



The Eswatini Water Services Corporation hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Upgrade of the Ngwenya Water Treatment Plant. The scope of works shall include construction, project management, commissioning and handover of completed works. The bidders scope of works as further enunciated in the Scope of Works will be to supply and install pressure filters, pumps, pipework and ancillaries.

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the Eswatini Water Services Corporation website www.swsc.co.sz. Bid documents must be accompanied with a proof of payment of E 500.00 bid price. This will be in the form of a cash deposit made at any Eswatini Water Services Corporation revenue offices.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of E 10 000.00 and delivered to;

The Managing Director
Eswatini Water Services Corporation Headquarters,
Emtfonjeni Building,
Corner MR3 & Cultural Village Drive
Ezulwini

on or before **12.00 noon, 07 February 2020**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of bidders who elect to attend.

A compulsory site inspection will be conducted on **Tuesday, 28th January 2020**. Prospective Bidders must meet the Employer's Representative at the Ngwenya Glass Entrance at 10.00am.

Late, telegraphic, Emailed and faxed tenders shall not be accepted. The Corporation does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Enquiries may be emailed to: procurement@swsc.co.sz

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Over 1 000 Catholics gather for Extra-ordinary Mission Year Candle

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

OVER 1 000 members from eight Roman Catholic churches under the Mater Dolorosa Parish yesterday gathered in Mbabane for the feast day of the presentation of the Lord and receiving of the Extra-ordinary Mission Year Candle.

The crucial event of the Roman Catholic started in the morning when St. Mary Parishioners at the main gate presented the candle which symbolises the light of Christ.

Father Jechonia Mahazule said the ceremony



MISSION YEAR CANDLE: Father Jechonia Mahazule and Christopher Maseko leading the mass during the feast day of the presentation of the Lord and receiving of the Extra-ordinary Mission year Candle held yesterday at Mater Dolorosa in Mbabane. (Pics: Nonduduzo Kunene)

was observed every year in October by every Catholic Church. Mahazule said each and every year, the Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio) issues out a theme of the Extra-ordinary Mission.



MASS: Congregants receiving holy communion from Father Christopher Maseko.

Last year the Pope themed the mission 'Baptised and sent'. Mahazule stated that as a parish they decided to continue observing the mission until October this year. "He said it should last for a year which is from October 20, 2019 to October 20, 2020," he said. "Through the theme 'Baptised', our church has dedicated that throughout the year they will be reviving and strengthening their faith in the Lord," he said.

The candle that was handed over to the Mbabane Parish symbolises Christ as the light.

The ceremony started in the morning which saw children accepting the candle from St. Mary's Parishioners. The reason the candle was carried by the child and further accepted by the church chairperson and Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was because Jesus Christ was once presented as a child in the Temple," Mahazule explained.

Father Mahazule added that the ceremony was also a remembrance of Jesus Christ being presented to the temple as a child, which is called the presentation of Christ in the temple according to the Roman Catholic Church. The reason children took the centre stage and wore white outfits was to show that they are also baptised and sent at their age as Jesus Christ was presented at the temple at a relatively young age.

Meanwhile, the St. Mary's Parishioners which was represented by committee members that included Sandlasenkhozi Ndlela, Vice-Chairperson, Vice-Secretary Machawe Motsa and Sijabu Dlamini said they were grateful for Mater Dolorosa for being the first church to accept the light of Christ. "As you receive the light of Christ, take it to your brothers and sisters; take it to your families as well as the community," Ndlela said.

"This is because when everyone displays the light of Christ to society, everyone can see the goodness of the Lord and win many souls to come to the Lord," he added. The ceremony that drew over 1 000 Catholics was marked by singing of Catholic songs and reading of verses as well as prayers. Messages from St. Mary were read as well as the holy mass or Eucharist was taken.



GREETINGS: Fikile Hlatshwako and Lindiwe Dlamini shaking hands.

ECAS ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION ESWATINI EST. 1985

ECAS FIVE-YEAR RESEARCH AGENDA

PROPOSED THEMES AND INDICATIVE AREAS

The Economics Association of Eswatini (ECAS) is an independent membership-driven knowledge institution incorporated as a not-for-profit company. It is gearing up to coordinate research and analysis which will deliver professional evidence-based conclusions to inform economic policy choices as well as undertaking rigorous engagement in seminars and inclusive stakeholder consultations.

Economic Policy Research Stakeholders Consultation and ECAS Seminar

The Stakeholders' Consultation and Seminar will be held on 3 February 2020 at the SRA Auditorium (opposite new ICC) Ezulwini. The consultation will focus on themes to guide economic research over the next five years; whilst the Seminar will focus on selected dimensions of the Eswatini Strategic Roadmap (ESR). Invited are members of ECAS and economic role-players in different sectors of the economy with an interest in economic policy - including academicians, scholars, independent consultants, legislators and members of civil society.

RESEARCH THEMES	INDICATIVE AREAS OF RESEARCH
Eswatini Strategic Roadmap (ESR) 2019-2022.	ESR Priority Areas: Ease of Doing Business; Fiscal Consolidation & Arrears Management; Infrastructure, Investment & Innovation; Culture of Excellence; Social Safety Net. ESR Definition of Government: Rapid policy response to deliver the ESR; Collaboration and response to deliver a social safety net; Promotion of ICT; Accountability to citizens; Outcome Orientation; Private sector growth; Streamlining & prioritizing Government expenditure. ESR Growth Sectors: Education & ICT; Mining & Energy; Agriculture; Tourism; Manufacturing & Agri-Processing.
Macroeconomic Imbalances, Structural Reforms & Sustainability.	Internal Imbalances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply factors – optimal use of production factors (capital formation, labour, land and digital technology); productivity growth; expanding potential growth; land and labour policies. Sustainable production – green energy; green economy; equity in sharing benefits among primary & secondary producers. Demand factors – fiscal & monetary policies. Macroeconomic stability – prices, job creation, exchange rate policies. Enhancement of foreign & domestic investment. Promoting women entrepreneurs. Addressing fiscal imbalances – structural fiscal deficits; fiscal & debt sustainability; structure & sustainability of social spending; quality & effectiveness of public expenditure. Tax reforms. Linking resource mobilization to service delivery. Financial regulation & intermediation. External vulnerabilities – trade policies; dependency on SACU. SME & informal sectors. Terms of trade – competitiveness of Eswatini export products. Efficient and competitive regulatory framework. Institutional barriers & necessary reforms – global competitiveness indicators, industrial policies, privatization versus state-owned enterprises. Bringing success to anticorruption efforts.
Implications & Impact on Eswatini of Regional Economic Blocs & International Trade Relations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACU, CMA; SACU-Mercosur Agreement; SACU-EFTA Agreement; SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement; AfCFTA; AGOA; Brexit. Regional/International Value Chains. Trade & Growth. Special Economic Zones.
Eswatini Performance under Agendas 2030 & 2063.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking Performance. Policy Options for Accelerating Performance. Trends & Causality.
Poverty & Inequalities (Income, Gender, Regional) in Eswatini.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender & Inclusive Growth. Contribution from SME & informal sectors. Human Development Index. Challenges & Opportunities for Eswatini under the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

SESSION II (SEMINAR): Discussions under the theme "ESR: Opportunities for Economic Growth and Implications of the Millennium Challenge Corporation". Presentations will be as follows:

"The ESR and National Turnaround Prospects" by Mr Victor Nxumalo, Principal Secretary, Cabinet.

"Implications of International Partnerships for Economic Turnaround": Qualifying for the Millennium Challenge Corporation" by Mr Mich Coker, USA Embassy Representative.

The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion and open discussion from the floor.

To confirm participation contact: Kunenesive@gmail.com 7608-1707 or Jabu.Matsebula@gmail.com 7911-8070

ECAS/21.01.2020

Swarm of butterflies mean bad news for Eswatini

STORIES BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

LUDZIDZINI Royal Residence Governor Lusendvo Fakudze and President of the League of Churches Bishop Samson Hlatshwako have both expressed concern on the current swarm of butterflies in the country, stating that it's a bad omen.

The two were commenting on the white kaleidoscopes of butterflies which have swarmed the entire country over the past few days.

Fakudze said the current swarm was unprecedented, adding that whilst it was hard to figure out the exact denotation of the butterflies, what is certain is the fact that it is bad news for the country.

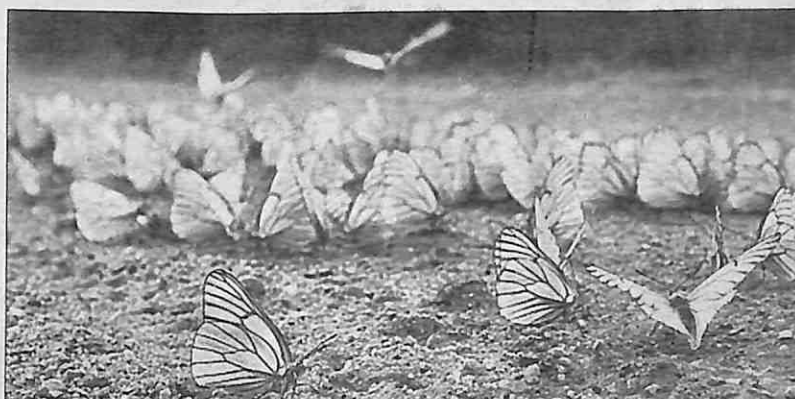
"I haven't seen this in a very long time. I last saw this before *zamcolo* (referring to Cyclone Domoina, a heavy cyclone which ravaged all of Eswatini from January 28-30 in 1984. The cyclone caused severe damage to property, bridges were washed away, roads were severely damaged, telecommunication services disrupted and many citizens left homeless).

Whatever the meaning is this time around, all I can tell you is that its bad luck because this shouldn't be happening at this time of the year. It could be famine or illnesses or a natural disaster, but it's a cause for concern," he said.

Bishop Hlatshwako echoed Fakudze's words, adding that he was also worried having noticed the swarm over the last few days.

"I also noticed this abnormality and what we know about this is that they mean famine and bad news for a country.

I have never seen such, and this is scary to me because these butterflies



BAD NEWS: Ludzidzini Royal Residence Governor Lusendvo Fakudze.



WORRIED: League of Churches President Bishop Samson Hlatshwako.

are all over the country, in both rural and urban areas. This can't be good for us in any way, so we have reason to be concerned," he said.

Hlatshwako further added that even the Bible hints that during the last days, there would be different insects that would swarm the world, stating that the swarm of butterflies might as well be another indication.

"The Bible also speaks of this in

Revelations when it describes the events that will come with the end-times.

I am pretty sure we can all see that these are the last days because as you can see, children have lost respect, people are killing and causing all sorts of harm to each other willy-nilly, so yes, I do fear that we are seeing a manifestation of that and we aren't even noticing. The whole world is now a scary place," said Hlatshwako.

We need to consult ancestors – Traditionalist

A traditionalist, who preferred to comment on condition of anonymity, said the swarm of white butterflies was an indication that the country needed to consult the ancestors to understand what they are trying to warn the country about.

The traditionalist said the colour of butterflies had different meanings, and since the ones in Eswatini were white, it was a message from the deceased now watching over the nation.

"All types of butterflies have different meanings. For example, black ones are an ill omen. A black butterfly is a harbinger of bad energy,

coming with storms, thunders and lightning.

If a black butterfly is spotted, sudden change should be anticipated. An end of an era – it could be a break-up, or maybe a change of hearts, or a relocation.

White butterflies, on the other hand as the case with us this time around, imply the presence of your deceased loved ones who are here to protect and guide you.

These amazing creatures that are butterflies symbolise life and death, and in our tradition, it's a message that tells us that there's a need to consult our ancestors for what they are trying to tell us," he said.

We used to have rituals for such – Bishop Hlatshwako

PRESIDENT of the League of Churches Bishop Samson Hlatshwako says in previous days, the country would have rituals performed when faced with a swarm of insects, or anything of that sorts.

He made an example of the time when the country was faced with the problem of labours of moles.

A group of moles is called a labour. "Well back in the days, I can't really recall the specific year, but we were faced with the issue of moles and what happened is that the country performed a ritual where young girls went naked and only covered themselves with grass.

They would then run to the fields

and root out maize from each household and go throw it out in the river. This worked, but I was quite young and I'm not really sure who even initiated it so I don't know how I could advise that this one be solved too," he concluded.

What happened is that the country performed a ritual where young girls went naked and only covered themselves with grass

Government has already deliberated on issue

IT seems the Government of Eswatini has been proactive with the swarm of butterflies in the country.

There was a meeting on Tuesday amongst the upper echelons, where the issue was widely discussed.

Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula acknowledged the meeting, but was quick to state that there weren't any immediate health risks.

"What you are talking about is something we also noted because just a few

days back, we had a meeting with our authorities where this issue was extensively conferred.

But what I can confidently say to the public is that on our side, there's no danger that they come with this as of yet.

The one ministry that showed concern, however, was the ministry of agriculture and the rightful person to tell you all about that field is my colleague Nelson Mavuso (Director of Agriculture)," he said.



ACKNOWLEDGES: Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula.

Farmers should not panic - Agric. director

MEANWHILE, Director of Agriculture Nelson Mavuso explained that it was pretty much normal for the swarm of butterflies since they were flying from South African farms to Eswatini due to the greenhouse effect.

He said they were harmless until they

turn into African earthworms.

"So, once maize is at knee height, this is when these butterflies come out mostly. Farmers should not be worried at all because they can only cause harm once they have developed into African earthworms and that's if they fall on an environment where their natural

enemies (ants, birds, etc) aren't there to help deal with them.

All in all, there's nothing that farmers can do in terms of pesticides and all and they should be worried with their maize because it's at the stage where the earthworm could be problematic," he said.

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FACTORY MANAGER

A Factory Manager is required for our Matsapha based Company

Job Summary

• Lead, manage and control the day-to-day activities of the plant by optimizing efficiency of the operation. Responsible for, plant maintenance, manufacturing facilities, quality control, engineering, raw material supply and logistics, fleet maintenance and factory security.

Essential Functions:

- Manage the coordination and manufacturing process of raw material to final product
- Manage the efforts to improve and optimize production and manufacturing processes
- Maintain relationships with outside suppliers and vendors that are essential in carrying out manufacturing strategy
- Attract, develop, and motivate staff to create a talent pipeline for succession planning
- Management reporting to Managing Director

Minimum Requirements

- Tertiary qualification in manufacturing/mechanical engineering is essential
- Good manufacturing skills in packaging related field are preferred, but not essential
- Minimum of 10 years experience in the manufacturing/processing industry are required
- Good computer literacy
- Good knowledge of the electrical/electronic, mechanic and hydraulic fields
- Good knowledge of plant-specific technologies
- Basic knowledge of "best practices" (TPM, 6S, OEE) is desirable
- Good communication, interpersonal and leadership skills are essential
- Swazi work permit, if applicable.

Remuneration:

The Company is offering a competitive remuneration package with excellent fringe benefits, compatible with qualifications and experience.

Applications

CVs and references must be faxed to +268 25186542 or emailed to: pss.co@swai.net attention for The Managing Director not later than 10th February 2020

The Company reserves the right to continue searching thereafter for suitable candidates and the right not to make any appointment.

If applicants have not received a reply by the 15th March, 2020, must consider your application to be deemed unsuccessful.

HIS MAJESTY MEETS DIPLOMATS



WELCOME: Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini Radha Venkataraman joined by her father Kerela-Chembai as she meets His Majesty King Mswati III. The diplomats had a meet and greet session with the King after the opening of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



ALL SMILES: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi sharing a light moment with Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland.

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BAYETHE: Scotland extending warm regards to the King.



CONGRATULATIONS: United Kingdom High Commissioner John Lindfield having a conversation with the King.



PRESENT: Ghana Consular to the country Kobla Quashie was among the diplomats who came through to congratulate the King.



THANK YOU: Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Jeremy Liang extending congratulatory remarks to His Majesty.



Ambassador of Indonesia Salman Al Faris meeting His Majesty while Consul Karim Ashraff looks on.



HELLO: South African High Commission First Secretary Refilwe Ndou greeting His Majesty.



ALL THE BEST: US Ambassador Lisa Peterson congratulating His Majesty on the success of the state opening.



AN HONOUR: Director of Ramashka Architects and Interior Designers Elena Dlamini also got an opportunity to greet the King.



IN ATTENDANCE: Diplomats following the proceedings of the day.



YOUTH ENTERPRISE REVOLVING FUND (YERF)

YOUTH ENTERPRISE REVOLVING FUND LOAN APPLICATION PROCESS

The YERF is making a 5th (fifth) call for loan applications from the Eswatini Youth (18-35 years) on the **03rd February 2020** and shall be closed on the **02nd March 2020**. The application process shall be as follows:

1. A call for applications will be made on a quarterly basis

The application process includes the following steps:

- Advertisement (call for applications) on various media houses
- The application period is opened for a period of one month.
- Forms are available on YERF website as well as distributed to among other stakeholders, Tinkhundla Centres, and Eswatini National Youth Council, Junior Achievement, ENACTUS, IDCE, SEDCO, etc.

2. Filling of Application Forms

The applicant fills in the forms providing information which shall among others include:

- Information about the applicant(s)
- Form is taken to Umphakatsi or Zone Leader for vetting where they append their signature and stamp the form
- The form is taken for further vetting at Inkhundla through signature and stamp
- The form with all the attachments is submitted to The Fund offices, ENYC Offices or left at Inkhundla centre where it shall be collected.
- Applicants should ensure that before submission, attachments are included as guided in the requirements checklist found in the last page of the application form.

3. Attachments

The following attachments shall be necessary to accompany the submission of the application form:

- Certified copy of ID
- Certified copy of Certificate of Incorporation (for a registered company)
- Certified Copy of Form J
- Certified Copy of Memorandum & Articles of Association
- Premises / Land right (Chief's Letter, Title Deed, Lease Agreement, etc.)
- Business Plan (include relevant CV)
- Market Contract/Letter of Intent as proof of market
- Trading Licenses (where applicable)
- The applications received shall not be interpreted as deserving for funding.

Only relevant requirements shall be attached by the applicants, i.e. not all the above requirements will be applicable to all applications.

4. Loan Appraisal Process

The appraisal process shall be as follows:

- Stage 1** - YERF pre-screening to ensure; compliance, eligibility and feasibility
- Stage 2** - Pitch up for qualifying applicants to present their business proposals.
- Stage 3** - Qualifying applications are referred to the Intermediary for viability analysis including site visits.
- Stage 4** - Viable applications are recommended to YERF by the Intermediary, where the Board of Directors shall approve projects deserving funding.
- Stage 5** - Feedback is sent to applicants. Those that are not successful shall be given reasons for non-approval and they will be assisted to improve them and re-submit in the next cycle.
- The process between receipts of loan applications to approval stage is

expected to take about one (1) month.

5. Funding

The disbursement of funds shall follow the process below:

- The successful applicants shall undergo and intense business training
- Those that have previously undergone training from a reputable institution shall be exempted from the training.
- The successful applicants shall proceed to sign loan agreements
- All applicants will be expected to open bank accounts for their businesses.
- A mentor/advisor shall be assigned to the applicants before disbursement of funds. The mentor shall also be co-signatories to procurement or expenditure requisitions.
- Disbursements shall be made direct to suppliers as much as possible.

5.1 Lending maximum limits:

- Sole traders/Individuals - E50,000.00
- Companies - E100,000.00
- Cooperatives - E150,000.00

5.2 Loan terms to be provided:

- Seasonal term- 12 Months
- Short term- 24 Months
- Medium term- 36 Months

5.3 Interest rates

The fund will endeavour to price loans below market rate due to developmental mandate. Interest rates shall be categorized into the following three market segments subject to risk assessment.

- Market 1 - Prime +2% = **12.0%**
- Market 2 - Prime +1% = **11.0%**
- Market 3 - Prime +0% = **10.0%**

Currently the prime rate is **10.0%**

6. Deferred Loans

- YERF shall engage applicants with deferred loans with a purpose to assist them improve and re-submit in the subsequent cycles.

7. Loan repayments

- All loans to be granted shall be repaid in full with interest.
- Loans shall be repaid with the Intermediary through bank accounts.
- The onus is upon all fund beneficiaries to repay their loans within the agreed terms. The Fund will make all possible means to recover all granted loans to ensure sustainability of the Fund.

The above lending conditions are subject to review in due course in response to risk assessment, economic outlook, etc.

Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund, Rhus Office Park, Karl Grant Street, Mbabane, +268 2404 8369, +268 2404 1433, +268 7606 4002, +268 7906 4002, P.O. Box 6557 Mbabane, Info@yef.co.sz, www.yef.co.sz, Facebook Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund - YERF.

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FOCUS on DD cases



BUGANU TASTING LEAVES WOMAN DEAD-DRUNK

STORIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

THE marula season is here and the drink is driving motorists to the accused's dock.

One of these motorists is Nonhlanhla Sibandze who was nabbed for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Sibandze was arrested on Saturday along the MR4 public road while driving a Toyota Tazz. Her breath specimen reading was recorded at 1.18mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Nonhlanhla told the court that she had met someone selling the marula drink, and she was interested in buying it. However, the condition for supporting the business person was that Nonhlanhla should first taste if it was good. Although she did not state how much 'tasting' she did, but the woman said she ended up drunk over the legal limit. Over and above this, Nonhlanhla said she made a mistake of getting



TASTING: Marula brew (buganu). This is not to say the marula brew in this image was the one being tasted by the said person in the story.

behind the steering wheel and breaking the law.

Response

When Magistrate Lukhele asked why she wanted to taste the drink before buying, her response was, "bengifuna kubuva kutsi ngibo mbamba yini."

In mitigation, Nonhlanhla said she could not sleep on the night she was

arrested as she was thinking about her arrest for breaking the law, and where she would get money to pay the fine for the offence. "I couldn't sleep and I cried all night as I was thinking about what I had done," she said in a sombre mood. She was sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

YOU'RE A CHURCH-GOER, A DRUNK - MAGISTRATE

"YOU'RE a church-goer and a drunk."

This was a conclusion made by Magistrate Lucia Lukhele who presided over traffic road offences yesterday.

The magistrate made this utterance after one offender, Bongani Mdluli, gave explanations that did not satisfy her.

Mdluli was in the accused's dock after he was arrested in the wee hours of yesterday for being found in the driver's seat of a Nissan sedan while intoxicated. His breath specimen reading was 1.00mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Mdluli was clad in a green and white Zion church gown.

When explaining how he was arrested, he told the court that he was with others, including a mechanic, when the car owner called to ask to be helped with it since it was faulty.

According to Mdluli, the plan was to go to a garage in Logoba where the car was to tow it away but the mechanic he was accom-

panying failed to get a car at around 9pm on Saturday.

Since they had walked to where the car was, the Zionist said they then decided to sleep inside the car until the morning where they hoped to get a car to tow the Nissan.

Magistrate Lukhele asked what all five of them were going to do at the garage, especially because they did not have a vehicle to tow the faulty car.

Mdluli tried to explain the story to the magistrate but she was not convinced, and she felt that he was being dishonest. She then asked about the church gown and Mdluli said he had a vision that he should wear it more often (a prophecy). He further informed the court that he was a Christian attending the Zion denomination.

Magistrate Lukhele wondered how he observed church prophecies while also being a consumer of alcohol even when wearing church gear. Mdluli was sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

UNLICENCED TEEN, UNCLE ARRESTED

A driving lesson went horribly wrong when a teen and his uncle were arrested.

The teenager, Mduduzi Dlamini (18); a Form One pupil was arrested together with his uncle Beef Velaphi Manyatsi on Saturday.

Mduduzi and Manyatsi appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at the

Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday. The pupil was charged for driving a motor vehicle, a Mazda sedan, while unlicensed to drive any type of car.

On the other hand, the uncle, Manyatsi was charged for allowing an unlicensed person to drive his car.

When asked by the court why he was driving while unlicensed, Mduduzi said

he had asked his uncle to teach him how to drive so on the day they were arrested, they were going to fetch someone from Khamlamazu.

When Manyatsi was asked why he had permitted his nephew whom he knew was unlicensed to drive his car, his response was that Mduduzi had asked to drive. "We were from hospi-

tal when he said *ucela kuyiva*," said Manyatsi.

The conversation between Manyatsi and the court was impeded by the fact that the elderly man could not get what was being said.

It then transpired that he had hearing challenges so the magistrate had to raise her voice to enable him to hear what was being said. Magistrate Lukhele then asked whether Manyatsi was also

a driver, to which he responded positively. The magistrate asked if he was able to hear hooting cars, and he said he could not hear them.

"Then how do you drive in your condition because it means you cannot hear hooting cars that might signal something to you on the road?" Magistrate Lukhele asked. The two were each sentenced to six months imprisonment with the option of E800 fine.

MANZINI OFFENDER'S LIST

Other offenders:

1. Zakhale Dlamini	16 months imprisonment/ E2 500 fine
2. Zandile Matsenjwa	10 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
3. Sandule Sonnyboy Dlamini	10 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
4. Ntobeko Pennwell Dlamini	24 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
5. Tikhontele Ngcamphalala	10 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
6. Charlie Mbongeni Ndlovukaz	10 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
7. Bonginkhosi Dlamini	6 months imprisonment/ E800 fine
8. Happy Dlamini	24 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
9. Sibusiso Mkhathshwa	10 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine

121 motorists nabbed for DD

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

POLICE nabbed 121 motorists for drink-driving over the past weekend.

The numbers of drunk motorists increased as compared to the previous weekend. Last weekend, the police nabbed 95 motorists for dri-

ving while under the influence of alcohol.

Worth noting is that in the last two weekends of January, the number of drunk motorists has increased. In a space of two weeks, the service nabbed 216 motorists for contravening Section 91(1) as read with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

According to the act, the legal

limit stands at 0.38mg/l for every driver and any motorist found with more than the stipulated legal content will be charged for contravening the Act.

Responsibly

Most of the motorists have appeared before Magistrate's Courts in the country. The maximum fine for DD is E5 000.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer

Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the figures and urged motorists to use the road responsibly. She further pleaded with pedestrians to be mindful and observant as they use the road.

She urged motorists to refrain from driving after taking alcoholic beverages since alcohol reduces driving ability, hence causing accidents that may lead to loss of life and damage to property.

SLEEP-DEPRIVED MOTORIST CAUSES ACCIDENT

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A sleep-deprived man received the court's fullest mercy after he explained that he spent sleepless nights taking care of his sick child.

Mbongiseni Mavuso (35) of Holneck was driving a Toyota Hilux when he lost control of his vehicle, causing it to veer off the road and crash into a drainage system. His car then further knocked against a concrete median.

Mavuso was charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act after he was found to have been driving at an unreasonable speed, while disregarding the wet road surface. He also failed to apply his brakes, and further failed to avoid an accident.

Mavuso told the court that he hadn't slept in weeks, after his child became sick.

"I have been taking care of my sick child since she got sick a couple of weeks ago. I know that I should not have been driving when I had been so

sleep-deprived, but my child is counting on me to survive and I had to run errands that day," Mavuso explained.

He added that he did not realise he was in trouble until he was inside the drainage system.

Desist

Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati advised Mavuso to desist from driving when he had not rested, as his daughter needed him to be alive and well, so she could be too.

"Please, take care of yourself so that you can take care of your sick child.

She needs you now more than ever, and I urge you to go home and rest," the judicial officer pleaded.

Mavuso was amongst four negligent drivers to appear before the court yesterday.

Mphumelo Shongwe was sentenced to serve 10 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 000 after he was found to have been driving an unroadworthy vehicle, which later caused an accident at Malagwane.

Shongwe attempted to explain to the court that he was driving his friend's vehicle, and he had no idea that the car had faulty brakes.

"I promise that the next time I borrow a friend's car, I will check to see whether it has faults. I have learnt a lesson as I am not used to driving," Shongwe explained.

On the other hand, 29-year old Neamiso Nhleko had his sentencing suspended after he made an undertaking to repair Geina Matse's vehicle.

Nhleko reportedly knocked Matse's Ford Everest from behind, as he failed to keep a safe following distance.

His sentencing was postponed for February 28, as he claimed Matse was driving a company car and needed to return to him for insurance claims.



FOCUS on DD cases



MOTORCYCLIST ARRESTED FOR DRINK-DRIVING

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A motorcyclist was disappointed after he discovered that he could not bypass traffic laws by riding his motorcycle while under the influence of alcohol.

Sakhile Dlamini (31) of Pine Valley told the court that before he was arrested for riding while under the influence of alcohol yesterday morning, he was not aware that he was breaking the law.

"I thought that it was only motor vehicle drivers who were arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. I really did not think that the law would apply to me as well. I was only taking my motorcycle home after it developed mechanical faults, when I was apprehended by police officers at the Golf Course," Dlamini explained.

Dlamini had been riding a Suzuki motor cycle when he was nabbed by police officers at 0019 hours.

When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, Dlamini was found to have exceeded the legal alcohol limit of 0.38 mg/l, as he recorded 0.59mg/l.

Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati explained to Dlamini that the fact that he was on



LAW AND ORDER: Mbabane Magistrate's Court.

a public road and was posing a potential risk to motorists and pedestrians, meant that he was committing an offence.

Cautious

"Please make sure that you know the traffic laws before you ride your motor cycle on the country's roads. You have

a licence to ride the motor cycle, so surely you know the rules of the road. Please, be cautious next time," the judicial officer warned.

After Dlamini pleaded for leniency, he was sentenced to serve one year in a correctional facility, with the option to pay a fine of E1 000.

SA MAN LEADS WITH HIGHEST ALCOHOL CONTENT

AFTER several weeks of Mbabane residents' so-called 'good behaviour', most of the motorists who appeared before the court recorded high alcohol contents.

Of the 14 motorists who appeared before the court on drink-driving charges, 12 of them exceeded the alcohol content reading of 0.38mg/l with the highest alcohol content reading of 2.00 mg/l recorded from 36-year-old Dumsani Makhanya of South Africa.

It is worth noting that the legal alcohol limit is 0.38 mg/l, which means that the 12 motorists exceeded the limit by over 0.12 mg/l in variation.

Makhanya was nabbed by police officers at the Mbabane Total Gardens traffic lights late on Saturday evening. When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, he was found to have a blood alcohol content of 2.00 mg/l.

In his mitigation before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati, Makhanya explained that he was from a friend's party when he was nabbed by police officers.

"I was not aware that I had exceeded the legal alcohol limit, which I am still not aware of. I had only a few alcoholic beverages at my friend's party when I saw that I could drive myself to my hotel. I did not intend breaking the country's laws. I apologise for having done so," Makhanya pleaded.

Makhanya added that he had back home in South Africa, a family which depended on him to survive. "I was hoping to return home today (Sunday), only to be apprehended for this offence. I do not know how I will obtain money as I have already spent it on the alcohol I drank at the party," he said.

Magistrate Vilakati subsequently warned Makhanya to make better life choices, as his family had to bear the brunt of his poor choices. "Next time, please educate yourself on the rules of the roads of the country you will be visiting, we do not take kindly to drink-drivers," the judicial officer warned.

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

Goodwill nabbed near Chinese Embassy

A man whose name gives off 'good' connotations was nabbed for having been found driving while under the influence next to the Chinese Embassy.

With the second highest alcohol content recorded of 1.76mg/l, 30-year-old Benele Goodwill Myezi had been driving his BMW sedan when

he was nabbed for driving while under the influence of alcohol on Saturday evening.

Apologised

Myezi apologised for being behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol, stating that he would never do anything like this again.

"I do not know what I was thinking when I got behind

the wheel, knowing fully well that I was intoxicated. I did not intend on putting motorists and pedestrians at a potential risk with my actions," Myezi said.

After finding him guilty as per his own plea, Goodwill was sentenced to serve 16 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 600.

MBABANE OFFENDER'S LIST

Name	Alcohol Content	Sentence
Dumsani Makhanya	2.00 mg/l	E2 000/ 2 years imprisonment
Benele Myezi	1.76 mg/l	E1 600/ 16 months imprisonment
Ndaba Gama	1.35 mg/l	E1 500/ 15 months imprisonment
Bheki Ngozo	1.07 mg/l	E1 500/ 15 months imprisonment
Thamsanqa Sibanyoni	1.03 mg/l	E500/ 5 months imprisonment



Tubungu residents cry foul over under development

BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A number of Tubungu residents are crying foul over the delay of the development of plots they purchased in Tubungu under phase 4.

The aggrieved people said they purchased the land in 2017 and there is nothing that has been done so far. One of the residents who wanted to remain anonymous said they were promised that the infrastructural development was going to begin soon and they had been patiently waited for almost three years now. She said the plots that were on

sale then ranged from over E270 000 up to over E2.8million depending on the size of the piece of land.

The aggrieved parties said the land that was owned by the Figueredo family is now lying idle and there is nothing that is happening.

Communication

She mentioned that the plots of land that needed the development were under phase 4 and there was a lot of communication breakdown between all the parties involved. The property agents that sold the land on behalf of the Figueredo family were Ekhasya Properties while the developers are alleged to be Sun Star

Properties.

It also transpired that the aggrieved buyers of the land have engaged the Matsapha Town Council over the issue, Ekhasya Properties and Sun Star properties but there is nothing that has come out.

They claim that they have asked the town council to give clarity on the issue and the response they received was not convincing enough as the council did not want to commit itself in the mess.

"We have been also getting rumours that the Figueredo family have been eating the money that we used to buy the plots and now they are finding it hard to go ahead with developing the phase 4," she added.

PIGG'S PEAK

TOWN COUNCIL

P.O. Box 479, Pigg's Peak, Swaziland
Tel: 437 1720 Fax: 437 1720

IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES AND
QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH UNITY

NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 32(3) (a) OF THE RATING ACT OF 1995

KINDLY NOTE that the under listed are indebted to the Pigg's Peak Town Council in sum as stated on the category of "amount owed". The amount owing are in respect of arrears rates and charges as at the financial year 2019 preceding year.

The listed owners of the described properties must take notice that if they do not make payments of the judgment amounts, as stated and in respect of the listed properties within a period of two months counting from the first day of this publication of this notice, application will be made in court to have these properties sold by public auction in terms of Section 32(3)(b) of the Rating Act of 1995. The proceeds of the sale should satisfy the judgment debt accruing penalties (or interest) costs of collection and other costs.

PIGGS PEAK TOWNSHIP

ITEM	CASE NO.	NAME	Property Description	Amount SZL
1.	192/19	Michael V. Shongwe	Lot no. PP 491, Pigg's Peak Township	63 734.73
2.	176/19	Margaret Westcott	Lot no. PP587/1, Pigg's Peak Township	12 436.57
3.	186/19	Robert Malindzisa	Lot no. PP555, Pigg's Peak Township	39 961.49
4.	187/19	Joseph N. Vilakati	Lot no. 465, Pigg's Peak Township	26 288.14
5.	194/19	Gideon Mnisi	Lot no. PP 510, Pigg's Peak Township	43 952.71
6.	181/19	Joyce T. Dlamini	Lot no. PP 478, Pigg's Peak Township	16 885.48
7.	183/19	Santa Lucia Funeral Services (PTY) LTD	Lot no. 489, Pigg's Peak Township	63 003.59
8.	165/19	Estate Late Mandla Mavimbela	Lot 509, Pigg's Peak Township	34 217.79
9.	166/19	Estate Late Kate S. Dlamini	Lot no. 97, Pigg's Peak Township	16 515.30
10.	185/19	Estate Late Sinaye L. Mamba	Lot no. 26, Pigg's Peak Township	13 032.68
11.	191/19	Estate Late William A. Dlamini	Lot no. 318, Pigg's Peak Township	14 894.09
12.	164/19	Estate Late Joseph M. Vilakati	Lot no. 468, Pigg's Peak Township	16 680.43

BY: COLLECTOR OF RATES
PIGGS PEAK TOWN COUNCIL

DOC20998

AMI FAKU MEETS, GREETES FANS

BY ANDILE DLAMINI
Mbabane

AMI Faku is humbled at how far her music has reached.

The musician said this at her CD signing ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Ocean Basket in Mbabane.

The signing ceremony was a build-up to her show to be hosted on February 23 at Mega Lounge.

"People know me hey, I wasn't aware that so many people know me considering the fact that a year ago people didn't know me," Faku said.

Faku also said the country was quite peaceful and it reminds her of her hometown, adding she would like to collaborate with a few artists from the country.

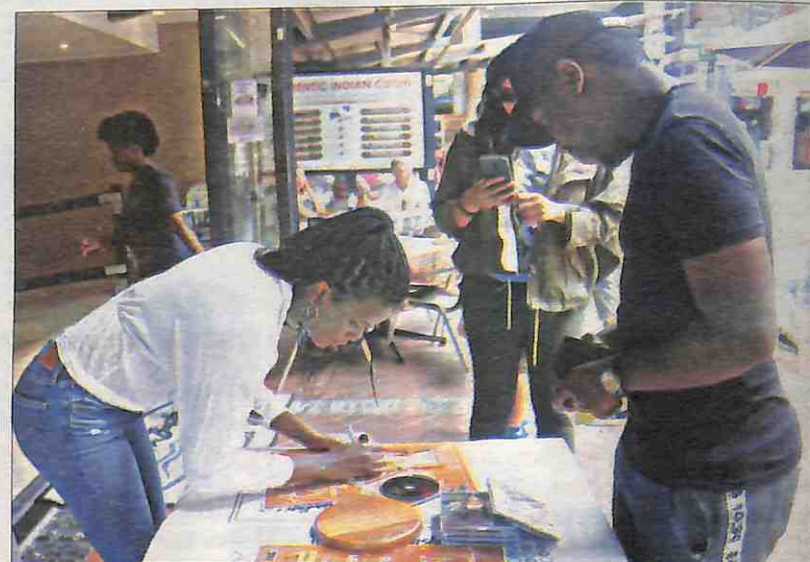


STRIKE A POSE: Ami poses with fan Sukoluhle Simelane.



ALL LAUGHS: Banele Mkhathshwa with Ami Faku after she signed his CD copy at the signing ceremony yesterday afternoon at Ocean Basket in Mbabane. (Pics: Andile Dlamini)

NUMBER ONE FAN: Lungelo Kunene looks on as Ami signs his CD.



THERE YOU GO: Ami Faku signs a fan's CD copy.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES


CPS EEA -TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS PLANNER - R-38646

For further information and how to apply
The detailed open vacancy announcement can be viewed at

<https://coke.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/coca-cola-careers>

- Log onto the site above
- Under Search for Jobs text box type R-38646 & Click on Search
- Locate Transport & Logistics Planner position and Click on apply & follow further prompts to complete your application

NB
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not be contacted within 20 days of the deadline (**Friday 14th February 2020**), please consider your application unsuccessful.



ESWATINI GOVERNMENT

A PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - SITEKI CTA

- Public Auction Sale of Government vehicles is to be held at Siteki CTA sale yard Lubombo Region 5th February 2020 starting at 09:00hrs.
- Viewing and Registration Dates: 3rd & 4th February 2020 registration will be conducted at Mbabane CTA Ndianubeka Building 4th Floor corner of Mdada and Lalufadiwane Street. Registration starts between 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Payment for bought items will be allowed from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Terms and Condition of Auction Sales**
 - All items shall be sold on "as is basis"
 - A refundable deposit of Five Thousand Emalangeni (5000.00) if bid is not successful.

The registration fee per vehicle per bid to be paid in cash before auction starts. No bidder will be allowed to bid without the registration card with full bidders' particulars and bid number. No refund for a bidder who fails to pay full bid amount after fourteen (14) working days
- Items purchased must be paid in cash or Bank Guaranteed Cheque by local Banks and be removed within fourteen (14) working days from auction premises, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- No repairs are permitted within auction premises.
- Items purchased and paid for in full shall be the responsibility of the Purchaser.

D Items to be sold

- Sedans: 1998 - 2009
Kia, Toyota, Peugeot
- Pickups: 1999 - 2010
Toyota, Ford, Isuzu
- Double Cabs: 2001 - 2009
Toyota, Isuzu, & Nissan
- Trucks: 1998 - 2003
Nissan, MAN

WASHINGTON M. KHUMALO
GENERAL TRANSPORT MANAGER

PROCURING ENTITY	TENDER TITLE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
WORKS		
Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM)	Earthworks for Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) Head Office Development at Ezulwini	14-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Railways (ESR)	Automation of Siphofaneni Level Crossing	06-02-2020 15:30pm
Eswatini Railways (ESR)	The Installation of Yard Lighting at Mpaka and Sidvokodvo Railway Stations	06-02-2020 15:30pm
Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC)	Upgrade of Sibhowe Raw Water Pumping Main	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC)	Ngwenya Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Malkerns Town Board	The Proposed Installation Of Solar Street Lighting	28-02-2020 12:00pm
Micro Projects	The Upgrade of Buhle Belizulu Rural Potable Water Supply Scheme Phase 1	21-02-2020 10:00am
Services		
Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM)	Request for Proposal: Proposed Piling for ESCCOM Head Office Development at Ezulwini	14-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Development and Savings Bank	UPS Maintenance	14-02-2020 10:00am
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Civil & Structural Engineering Services for Depot Refurbishment Projects	07-02-2020 14:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Information/Cyber Security Audit	28-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Consultancy for the provision of Website Revamping, Hosting and Maintenance Service for the Eswatini Electricity Company	11-03-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Request for Proposal Conducting a Quality Assurance Review Exercise Of EEC's Internal Audit Function	11-03-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Environmental Authority (SEA)	RFP for Conducting a Market Profile Assessment of Alternative Technologies and Developing Strategies that Promote the Availability and Adoption of Low Global Warming Potential Technologies	12-02-2020 14:10pm
Eswatini Environmental Authority (SEA)	Request for Proposals for Conducting a Legal Review of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations (2003) as Amended to Include Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	12-02-2020 14:10pm
Eswatini National Housing Board (EHB)	Request for Proposals for External Auditors	07-02-2020 11:00am
Eswatini National Petroleum Company (ENPC)	Business Plan Development Consultancy Services	28-02-2020 14:00pm
Eswatini Posts & Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC)	Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Services	14-02-2020 11:00am
Eswatini Posts & Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC)	Security Services - Guards	19-02-2020 11:00am
Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA)	Request for Proposal SRA Legal Representative Services	14-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Request for Proposals for Consultancy Service for LUSIP II Afforestation Plan	06-03-2020 11:30am
Lavumisa Town Board	Request for Proposals for the Preparation of the 2020/2021 General Valuation Roll for Lavumisa Town Board	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Preparation of the Lavumisa Town Board 5 - Year Integrated Development Plan (IDP)/Strategic Plan & Yearly Implementation Plan	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Provision of Security Services	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Mankayane Town Board	Request For Proposal For Upgrading, Operation & Management Of Mankayane Abattoir Through Public Private Partnership (PPP)	28-02-2020 10:30am
Matsapha Town Council	Designing and Printing Council Documents	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Small Plant Maintenance and Servicing	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Electrical Material (Domestic and Street Light Fittings)	18-02-2020 10:00am
Micro Projects	Provision of Skilled and Unskilled Labour for the completion of C512/18222, C512/18429 and C512/18668	21-02-2020 10:00am
Municipal Council of Manzini	Streets and Public Spaces Cleansing Services in The Manzini Central Business District	21-02-2020 10:00am

PROCURING ENTITY	TENDER TITLE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA)	Request for Proposal for The Electronic Logistics Management Information Systems for Central Medical Stores	07-02-2020 10:00am
Ngwenya Town Board	Request for Proposals Tender Evaluation and Supervision for the Construction of Low-level Crossings	13-02-2020 16:30pm
University of Eswatini (UNESWA)	Provision of Security Services	21-02-2020 12:00pm
Supplies		
Eswatini Development and Savings Bank	Supply and Installation of Audit Management Software	14-02-2020 10:00am
Eswatini Development and Savings Bank	Supply of Bank Motor Vehicles	25-02-2020 10:00am
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Supply of Tools and Material	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Supply of Tools and Material	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Request for Proposal: Supply and Delivery of EEC Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	12-02-2020 14:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Request for Purchase of Fencing Material for Edwaleni Staff Villages	14-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Supply of Gym Equipment for Hluthi Depot	21-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF)	Designing, Installation Of Road Signs And Lightboxes on all ENPF Buildings	14-02-2020 16:30pm
Eswatini Railways (ESR)	Supply of Operational Motor Vehicles	06-02-2020 15:30pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Supply and Installation of Banana Handling, Packing and Storage Equipment for Lomveshe Packhouse at LUSIP - Additional Works	06-03-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Supply of Protective Clothing & Equipment	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Supply of Office Furniture and Equipment	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Supply of Computer Hardware, Software & Servicing	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Supply of Cleaning Materials & Consumables	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Lavumisa Town Board	Supply of Office Stationery	07-02-2020 12:00pm
Malkerns Town Board	Supply and Installation of Digital Audio Conference System	05-02-2020 12:00pm
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Office Furniture	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply and Maintenance of Air Conditioners	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Street Signs and Symbolic Safety Signs	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Refuse Bags	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply, Designing and Branding of Council Goods	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Brush Cutter and Consumables	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Pre-fabricated Material, Kerb Stone, Pavers blocks	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Gravel, River & Plaster Sand	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Protective Clothing	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply & Fit Tyres & Tubes	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Stationery	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Cleaning Material and Toilet Paper	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Computers and Computer Supplies	18-02-2020 10:00am
Matsapha Town Council	Supply of Building Material and Hand Tools	18-02-2020 10:00am
Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Buildings Department)	Supply and Delivery of Building Materials	14-02-2020 09:00am
Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Buildings Department)	Supply and Delivery of Electrical Materials	14-02-2020 09:00am
Expression of Interest		
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Registration of Canteen Services Contractors	04-02-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini National Housing Board (EHB)	Supply of Commonly Used Items	17-02-2020 12:00pm
National Maize Corporation (NMC)	Pre-Qualification Document for Open Prospective Suppliers of Goods, Works and Services	07-02-2020 16:00pm
Nkonyeni Pre-Cast (PTY) LTD	NPC Reselling Agents	17-02-2020 12:00pm

The Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) hereby invites suitably qualified and registered suppliers, eligible to participate in public procurement to submit tenders to the above listed Government departments, local Governments and state owned enterprises. Visit www.sppra.co.sz to view or download latest tenders.

SHISELWENI NEWS

Nhlangano office

Tobacco Complex, Cnr King George Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
Email: Starsky@realnet.co.sz

...With

Starsky Mkhonta



NHLANGANO TOWN COUNCIL ISSUES STERN WARNING

WITH the marula season already here, the Nhlangano Town Council has issued a stern warning on how people should behave, especially the guzzlers who end up being a nuisance in public.

The town council's Mayor Deon Anderson said they won't hesitate to deal with those found drinking the marula anyhow around town.

He said rangers, with police assistance, were already patrolling to make sure that no one abused the fruit by drinking it anyhow.

The Nhlangano mayor said they were on the lookout and wanted to make sure that the marula season

was accident and crime free. He said history taught them how some people behaved during the marula period.

Responsibly

"It is an important period where the fruit is enjoyed and it is during this period where we also see some people failing to drink this fruit responsibly. Some people tend to abuse this fruit and we want to make it clear that in any area around town, we are not going to tolerate anyone who is seen misbehaving and causing trouble. Drinking marula to get drunk is unacceptable but doing it for enjoyment, that can be

tolerated as long as one does not cause problems," the mayor told Shiselweni News.

The mayor said it was also during this period of the year when crime shoots up, some criminal acts caused by people imbibing in marula are witnessed with some engaging in fights.

"It is our plea that anyone who is drinking marula, he or she should behave.

It's advisable to drink at home than coming to town as it's where some start harassing innocent people. Others after drinking marula, they see people as punching bags.

Others have the tendency of provoking anyone they come across. Marula period has its own episodes. As a town, we are advising those using and drinking this fruit, to conduct themselves like adults," said Anderson.

Anderson said marula was and would never be a problem but it is the people who drink it irresponsibly who are a problem.

"Like any beverage, if you drink it to be drunk, then you become a problem.

Let's hope this year people will conduct themselves well," said Anderson.



NOT BENEFICIAL: Driver Ntokozo Ndaba.

Short distance kombi drivers complain of poor business

OPERATORS and drivers of short distance kombis servicing routes around Nhlangano feel they were no longer making money.

Some of the drivers say as they were employees, they were taking nothing to their employers as at times they cash nothing.

Others complained that their routes were serviced by many kombis which results in some making one or two trips per day. Kombis affected include those servicing Nhlangano/Ndubazi, Nhlangano/Machobeni and Nhlangano/Makhosini routes.

"Some of us are lucky as we have understanding employers. They are aware how bad things are these days.

It's quiet these days and you find that you only manage one or two trips for the whole day. You find kombis parked the whole day. You then imagine how much we cash and given that we are talking of short distance kombis, even those that manage one trip, they don't cash much," said Ntokozo Ndaba of Malinga Transport which services Nhlangano/Ndubazi route.

Ndaba said even with schools having opened, that has not helped their case. He said as they also had families, dwindling of the transport business was impacting badly even to them (families).

"We thought opening of schools would see the situation improving but seemingly, things have become worse. We are not sure when are things going to return to normal," Ndaba explained to Shiselweni News.

For commercial use, get permit

NO one will be allowed to sell marula brew in any of Nhlangano town's streets or anywhere within the town's boundaries without a licence or permit.

Nhlangano Mayor Deon Anderson said marula season was also where some people made money. He said it was, however, advisable to all those planning to sell this beverage to adhere to the law. He said just like any business operated within the town boundaries, permits and licenses were requirements.

"It is business opportunities for

others during marula season. It is during this period where some people make money.

License

We are advising aspiring entrepreneurs to obey trading laws. Even with the 'umcombotsi', which is Swazi brew, a license or permit is required. So even with the case of *buganu* or marula, one should be issued with license or permit to sell it. That is the procedure with any other business in town and anywhere else," Anderson explained.

Adding, he said apart from being

served as a drink, marula was also used for producing other goods, including lotions.

He said to some families, marula season was a blessing as it was where they made money to assist in meeting some of their needs.

"Our advice is that the law has to be followed and no matter that the marula season does not last for the whole year but people using this as business opportunity, need to get a temporary permit as it is what everyone in business is expected to do," said Anderson.



WARNS: Nhlangano Town Council's Mayor Deon Anderson.

WITH Nhlangano Town Council treasurer Thulani Mabuza having departed, a search for his replacement has begun.

Mabuza left late last year to join Matsapha Town Council where he was recruited for the same position, leaving Nhlangano Town Council without a treasurer. It has

New treasurer search begins

since been established that a process to have the vacant post filled at the Nhlangano Town Council has since started. According to Nhlangano Mayor Deon Anderson, they have engaged Kobla Quashie as a recruit-

ment agent in finding the suitable candidate to fill the position.

"It is true that we have since started the process of recruiting a new treasurer.

Kobla Quashie is handling the

process and soon we will be announcing our new treasurer.

The departure of Mabuza has left us with no option but to find a replacement.

It's a crucial position as it is part of the town council engine's body in order to function properly," Anderson stated.



PLEASED: Former Bucopho Celane Gamedze.

Former bucopho pleased with progress of projects

FORMER Bucopho of Ondiyani Umphakatsi under Hosea Inkhundla Celane Gamedze is impressed with progress of some projects initiated during his time.

Gamedze said having not made it in the 2018 elections did not mean he should not oversee the projects he initiated.

He said one of the projects which he desired to see completed was the construction of a high school

known as Dlume. He said this was a project which was proposed in 2017. He has been following closely the progress of the project as someone who was part of the people who initiated it.

"This is a project which received the blessings of the area's authorities as well as the Land Management Board (LMB). It's unfortunate that it could not be finished during our time in office but what is encour-

aging is that those who have succeeded us are continuing from where we left off," Gamedze told Shiselweni News.

Gamedze said initially, the plan was to have the high school fully operational by 2021. He said by the look of things, the target would still be met judging from the progress made. "Construction of three classrooms for a start was what we planned initially plan and I am

happy that nothing has changed. The foundation for these classrooms it was long prepared and soon we will see the next phase beginning," said Gamedze.

Gamedze said the feeder of the high school would be Patmos Primary as well as other nearby primary schools.

"As we speak, some parents are still looking for space for their children who need to proceed to high school. Shortage of high schools remains a challenge in our area," said Gamedze.

Farmer arrested, fined for late father's bullet

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

FARMER Lesley Botha was fined E500 after police found him in illegal possession of an unused 12 inch shot gun bullet that allegedly belonged to his late father.

Botha was arrested at Emvembili last Tuesday.

After his arrest, Botha was brought to the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court where he said the bullet belonged to his late father who left it in his old wardrobe.

"I am guilty.

The truth of the matter is that my late father owned a 12 inch shot gun so I believe the bullet in question is for the aforementioned firearm. The police found the bullet inside my late father's wardrobe, unfortunately for me I only saw the bullet late because I never actually searched through my late father's possessions," he said.

Botha added that he was currently in the process of seeking a licence to legally own his late father's rifle.

"I have applied for a licence because I want to legally own and use my late

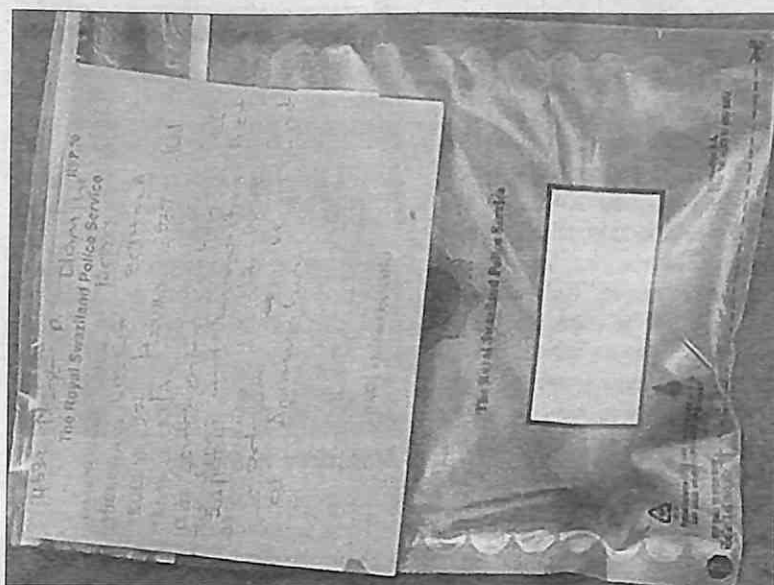


EXHIBIT: The bullet that was discovered by the police at Emvembili. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

father's rifle," he added.

Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe told Botha to peruse his late father's estate just in case other bullets are located on the farm.

"You should search through your late father's estate to make sure that no other bullets are located on the

property. I will sentence you to two months in a correctional facility if you fail to pay the E500 fine for illegal possession of this live bullet. However, I will fully suspend your sentence for a period of three years provided you don't commit a similar offence," he said.

Minor arrested after blinding, hospitalising girlfriend

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak



A female high school pupil (16) saw her left eye permanently damaged after being assaulted by her teenage boy friend (17) for speaking to another boy (18).

The assault was so gruesome that the victim was hospitalised after her boyfriend strangled her before banging her head on the road several times. After the assault the teenage boy friend blinded the victim's left eye. The senseless assault took place at Ka-Ncesi last Sunday.

Due to the fact that the incident involves two minors, their names have been withheld.

Speaking yesterday, sources said the teenagers were both sexually active.

"Information we have suggests that the accused was dating the victim for about six months. Both pupils are at the same high school which is well-known in Pigg's Peak. The accused was jealous that his girlfriend would speak to other boys so he would often warn her against such on WhatsApp social network. However, on Sunday the accused allegedly found his girlfriend speaking to another male classmate.

After seeing the two chatting the accused called his girlfriend outside

Emachegwini Primary where he first interrogated her before brutally assaulting her," they said.

The sources added that the accused first slapped his victim before strangling her. "The accused first slapped his victim on the face multiple times before pulling her hair. During this time the victim tried to scream for help but the accused strangled her to muffle her screams. The accused proceeded to thrust his fingers in the victim's mouth and nose. In a desperate bid to escape, the victim fell to the ground.

After she fell, the boyfriend trampled on her head multiple times before sticking his finger into the victim's eye blinding her," they added.

After the assault, the victim's neighbour phoned Emergency Medical Services (EMS) who rushed her to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital for treatment. Hours after the assault, the boyfriend was arrested.

Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe released the accused to his mother's custody until the date of trial.

Mysterious fire burns uniforms for schoolboys

BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A mysterious fire burnt down a house at Ka-Zenzile belonging to two school going boys.

According to Flora Nkambule, the grandmother of the owner of the home, the fire was seen at around one in the afternoon. She said the incident was still a mystery because the boys claim that the candle was put out in the morning when they left for school on Friday.

Nkambule said everything that was inside the house was burnt. She said there were school uniforms, beds and blankets belonging to the two boys who are doing Grade Two and Grade Seven, respectively.

Nkambule stated that she was away when the incident occurred and she received a phone call from home that a mysterious fire had burnt her grandsons room to ashes.

Although she could not ascertain the amount of damage caused by the fire, she pointed out that some of the uniforms and shoes were new. She said even the stationery that they just received from the school was burnt.

"As we are talking, I am very stressed my son because the fire burnt everything in the house, leaving them with the uniforms that they were wearing on Friday," she said.

Nkambule said not only that there is a herdboys at the homestead who was also using the same room and his belongings were burnt too. She said the herdboys usually leaves at seven in the morning and the school going boys leave earlier than him.

She stated that there is no way they could have left a candle on because by the time they leave, it is daylight as it is now summer.

She was confused at the moment and she had contacted the parents of her grandsons.

Skills centres will open soon - ministry

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THERE might be a glimmer of hope for aspiring skills centres students as the ministry of education and training has indicated that these would open soon.

The institutions include the Manzini Industrial Training Centre (MITC) and Siteki Industrial Training Centre (SITC), to name a few.

Over the years, the skills centres were faced with mammoth challenges which resulted in them being closed.

The institutions reportedly shut down in May 2018, as a result of disagreements between government and the Swaziland Skills Centres, the holding entity of SITC. During the Form Five results release press conference, the Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza announced that as a ministry, they would like to see more high schools and pupils taking on pre-vocational classes.

However, this left many unanswered questions as there were currently vocational institutions that were non-operational since they were shut down two years ago. The centres were forced

to shut down after their coffers ran dry due to government withholding its annual subvention. Since then, the institutions which offered several programmes in agriculture, sewing, motor mechanic and welding, ceased to operate.

Staff members, who were on the institutions payroll, were forced to stop reporting for work since there were no funds for their remuneration. Then Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Education and Training, Dr Sibongile Mtshali, confirmed that disagreements between government and the Swaziland Skills Centre were

the reason behind the shutdown of the institutions. Last year the closure of the institutions became topic for debate in Parliament as legislators voiced their concerns regarding their closure.

The ministry of education portfolio committee toured the institutions and urged the ministry of education to address the matter.

Ministry of Education Bertram Stewart they were currently in the process of finalising a few logistical issues following which the institutions would be opened.

"We are currently finalising minor details regarding this matter and the institutions would be open as soon as everything was finalised," he said.

Man gets suspended sentence after assaulting brother's lover

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man who allegedly assaulted his brother's lover is walking on figurative clouds after the court suspended his sentence on Wednesday.

25-year old Mbongweni 'Brown' Dlamini assaulted Portia Dlamini two weeks ago, and was facing assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm charges when he appeared before Magistrate Temantimandze Shongwe.

Portia revealed that she was visiting her boyfriend Wakhile at his parental homestead, and was in the process of cooking him supper when Mbongweni arrived.

"Brown" knocked on the door and entered and since I wanted to give them privacy, I left the house to attend to some chores outside. After a few minutes, 'Brown' exited the house and headed straight towards me," Portia recalled.

According to Portia, 'Brown' start-

ed hurling insults at her and proceeded to question her about text messages she had allegedly sent to his father.

"I asked him what kind of messages I had sent as I had only received one message from their father, who had requested me to lend him my charger.

Assaulting

'Brown' then ordered me to stop sending messages to their father and that was when he pulled my breasts and started assaulting me with an unknown object," she stated.

Portia recalled that the last thing she remembered before she lost consciousness was 'Brown' assaulting her with the object behind her ear. "I do not recall what happened thereafter as I lost consciousness.

When I regained consciousness, I was surprised to find that I was bleeding from the back of my head and I was in severe pain. My boyfriend and some of his relatives took me to the police station to report the matter and thereafter I was taken to the hospital

'Brown' allegedly troublesome as...

According to impeccable sources, the matter concluded by Magistrate Shongwe on Wednesday was not 'Brown's first assault case, as he is alleged to have two pending assault cases before two courts of law.

The impeccable sources stated that of their knowledge, 'Brown' was already out on bail for having assaulted several other victims. "Brown was already out on bail for two matters when he was arrested for having assault-

for examination," she stated.

Portia told the court that after examination by the doctor at Mbabane Government Hospital, she discovered that she had sustained injuries behind her ear, jaw, had loose teeth and her forehead was swollen. She further told the court that the day after the incident, she woke up with a swollen face.

Having practiced his right to legal representation, through his attorney, 'Brown' pleaded for leniency acknowledging that he should have thought

of a better alternative to communicate his issues to Portia. "My client understands that there were words spoken between Portia and his brother and himself and he admits that he should have thought his actions through," the attorney pleaded.

After hearing his mitigation, Magistrate Shongwe sentenced 'Brown' to serve three years in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E3 000. His sentence was suspended for a period of two years, on condition that he was not to commit a similar offence.



FOCUS ON FORM V

RESULTS

EBHS top pupil thankful to God

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlengano

BONGUMUSA Nkambule from Evelyn Baring High School, who got aggregate 9 in Form Five results, believes God is behind his sterling performance.

Nkambule said prayer made him strong when he sat for the exams. He said when he got the news that he was among the best performers in the class of 2019, he did not believe it.

"Everyone wants to be counted among the best. I am thrilled and excited. God is the one I should thank as without Him, one cannot achieve anything. Prayer is the only weapon that makes the impossible possible."

"As long as you have faith in Him, you get whatever you ask Him to provide you with. The same thing applies to me, I kept praying to Him and this is how He rewarded me," the God-fearing young man said.

Nkambule who kept referring to the Scripture on anything he was asked, said his teachers made the best out of him, and was thankful to them in particular the administration.

"The teachers have been marvelous as they made us to believe



Bongumusa Nkambule.

in ourselves. The administration never got tired of advising us how we can make it. I must say they (teachers and administration) were also used by God to direct us to the way to success," said Nkambule.

Nkambule said now that he was done with schooling, his focus was to enrol at a tertiary.

He said he was proud of his achievements as he has a better chance to be admitted in any of the higher learning institutions.

Nkambule said he was not expecting anything from his parents as giving him education was the most precious gift he got from them.

"If I can be admitted at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA), that will also be a best present for me," said Nkambule, whose dream is to become a doctor.

I'm overwhelmed with excitement – Nyamane's best

MALCORSE Mmeli Kunene (21) from Nyamane High, who got aggregate 10 in Form Five said he no words could express his happiness.

Kunene said he was thankful to his parents for all the support they gave him. He said his parents were always praying for him and also taking care of his academic needs.

"I am overwhelmed. The fact that I got an aggregate that made me one of the best performers such that I got the attention of the media, is special on its own. I am over the moon and I don't even know where to start," said the shy looking young man.

Kunene said he was also thankful to one of his teachers, Victoria Ginindza, stating that she encouraged him to work hard. He said the teacher advised him



Malcorse Kunene.

to focus on his studies.

"Here I am today as I took all her advice. She played an important role in achievement. That, however, does not

mean the other teachers did not play their part but I am singling her out because of the way she kept pushing me.

"In actual fact, that school has best administrators who know how to shape the future of young people to be able to conquer obstacles out there. I am pleased that I am the product of that school."

Asked what he was expecting as a gift, Kunene said the school promised that all those who would excel would get something.

The school is known for giving incentives to excelling pupils.

"For me, obtaining aggregate 10, I think I deserve to get something from the school. It's only that gift I am expecting," said Kunene, who wants to study medicine.

It's something to cherish for a long time - Nontethelelo

NONTETHELELO Lusanda Nyawo (18) from Nyamane High, who got aggregate 11 in Form Five, said she was over the moon.

It is something she would cherish for a long time to be counted among the best. Nyawo said people who have been instrumental in seeing her becoming the best pupils were her teachers. She said she was also thankful to her mother and other relatives. She stated she was now looking forward to enrol in any of the higher learning institutions where she would be admitted.

"It's not yet over as I still have a long journey to achieve my goal. It's the beginning of the long journey and passing my Form Five is just one of the phases

I have to go through before calling myself a conqueror," said the young woman.

Nyawo said her mother motivated her and she listened to all her advises, some of which were motherly advice a child needed from a parent.

"I think she contributed immensely to what I have achieved and she deserves the glory more than I do. My teachers have been also great to me as they monitored my performance in class and they had their own way of motivating all of us. I have done it for them but I must say, is not over yet. There is a lot I need to accomplish. Excelling in Form Five does not mean I have to relax, but it's game on and I have to make sure I don't



Nontethelelo Nyawo.

disappoint all those who contributed to what I have achieved in Form Five," said Nyawo. Asked what she expected from her parents as a gift for her performance, Nyawo said she would be happy to have a cellphone of her choice.

"A cellphone of my choice will do," said Nyawo who wants to study nursing or teaching.

I knew I would excel - Philiswa

PHILISWA Bulunga (17) from Evelyn Baring High who got aggregate 7 in Form Five said she knew she was going to make it.

Bulunga, who said excelling was in her veins, stated that she never expected anything less than aggregate 10.

In Form Three two years ago, Bulunga was among the best in the country. She said she wanted to prove that excelling in Form Three was not a fluke hence her wish to do even much better at tertiary level.

"Excelling is what I was born for. I'm not bragging, but it's what was instilled in me. However, the person behind my success is my father who has always been my inspiration."

The girl's father, Selby, is a teacher at Nyamane High, one of the best performing schools in the Shiselweni region.

Philiswa thanked her teachers for motivating her and her classmates for keeping the competition tight in class.

"Above everyone, it is God I should thank as He is the one who makes everything possible. It is not studying only, but His grace made me to shine," she said.

The whizzkid wants to study engineering and as a gift, she said her father promised her an expensive cellphone.



Philiswa Bulunga.



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ESWATINI INCORPORATED: 2022 & BEYOND

'MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION'

ISSUE NO. 114



His Majesty King Mswati III addressing the nation during the State opening of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament on Friday. His Majesty's Speech from the Throne gives direction for the new year.

HIS Majesty King Mswati III on Friday reiterated the importance of dialogue, peace and unity for Emaswati when delivering his Speech from the Throne.

The King's warning and reminder may have been informed by recent events, wherein political groups are agitating for multi-party democracy and have taken to the streets to make that call.

Without being direct, His Majesty the King took a broad view to discuss the issue, the same way he did in 2013 when he addressed the 68th United Nations General Assembly, where he took his time to explain the country's political system.

Speaking before the world leaders then on dialogue and peace, the King said: "It is important for leaders and governments to maintain contact and be in constant consultations with their people at all times, to avoid situations where leaders do not understand the aspirations of the people."

"It is imperative to create forums where people will have access to government to express themselves because a lack of such communication and detachment leads to either governments or the people reacting in a violent manner towards the other."

"The Kingdom of Eswatini is committed to a process of consultation with the people at the People's Parliament, (Sibaya), and other dialogue forums. This practice is democratic and participatory in that everybody is involved in key decision-making processes."

The King revisited this subject on Friday, this time speaking directly to Emaswati saying dialogue, peace and unity are critical for development and stability.

He said Emaswati, since time immemorial, are known globally as a nation that embraces dialogue, peace

KING WANTS PEACE, UNITY

... the founders of this kingdom had an amicable way of addressing national differences through our traditional forums which allow all citizens, irrespective of age, religion or gender, to voice their ideas on how best we can take this country forward.

and unity.

"These key tenets are what distinguish us from the rest of mankind. These values are enshrined in our ethos and have been passed on from generation to generation, so we need to protect and guard them for the benefit of those coming after us. As the nation is aware, our unity as Emaswati remains critical because it yields handsome dividends in terms of sustainable development initiatives and economic growth."

"The founders of this kingdom had an amicable way of addressing national differences through our traditional forums which allow all citizens, irrespective of age, religion or gender, to voice their ideas on how best we can take this country forward," the King said.

Addressing the challenges of slow economic growth and lack of employment opportunities, the King said the country's social and economic challenges are not unique to Eswatini.

He said these are driven by the global phenomenon that currently prevails.

"This has had a negative effect on many sectors of our society because economies of the world are intertwined," His Majesty the King said. He reminded Emaswati to always respect those entrusted with leadership positions in all the spheres of the nation.

"This begins from family level, community, chiefdom up to national lead-

ership. *Maswati asibeke embili inhlonipho nekuthula eveni*," the King said.

When dealing with the issue of political systems, he said God gave each nation its unique culture to practise and pass on to future generations.

"There is no culture or ideology that is supreme which has to be imposed on other nations of the world. Likewise, democracy is tailored towards the cultural norms and beliefs of each nation."

Interest

"We call upon all Emaswati, including those living abroad, to remain true to their identity. They should place the interest of our nation above their own. We should cherish our unity and family relationship that has existed since our predecessors founded this great nation so many years ago," he said.

Speaking to the UN in 2013 about the country's political system, His Majesty had said: "We are aware that many countries of the world do not understand how our system of governance works. We are happy to define our system as a Monarchial Democracy."

"Monarchial Democracy is defined as the marriage between the monarchy and the ballot box. The ballot box is the will of the people. People provide advice and counsel to the King that ensures transparency and accountability."

"It means that the monarchy of Eswatini guarantees the continuity of stability and the democracy of Eswatini,

guarantees the shared power of the people," he said.

He said the monarchy is married to the trust of the people who believe that the King does everything in their best interests.

He said it is home grown, it easily accords with the norms and values of Emaswati and is, therefore, easily understood by all Emaswati.

"To those who proclaim that democracy is the answer to all nations and their development, we present ourselves as testimony to a new democratic ideology that works. It has a place in modern day democracy and it complies with all structures of the United Nations family."

"The Kingdom of Eswatini is committed to the ideals of the United Nations in just as much as it is dedicated to protecting its history, its legacy, its dignity, while at the same time embracing the opportunities and the possibilities of cooperating in the community of nations. It is, therefore, the Kingdom of Eswatini's position that it believes in democracy as an idea but not as an ideal because things that are ideal to you may not be ideal to other people."

"The Kingdom of Eswatini will, however, continue to embrace the opportunities, the technologies, the mechanisms that create a modern society."

He concluded by reminding Emaswati of *inhlonipho* and re-stated: "I hereby invite every citizen to rise up and

draw from the rich reserves of our *bunfu* to rediscover *inhlonipho*, both of which are essential for us to take on the enormous task that lies ahead. We have a nation to build, an economy to revive and social obligations to fulfill."

"Let us tap into the enormous potential that our collective attributes provide to mould an impenetrable circle of trust in our capabilities to create a society of visionaries, optimists, entrepreneurs and active citizens with First World mindsets and out of the box thinkers. Let us not be stalled in our journey towards 2022 by non-developmental issues as this would be to surrender ourselves to poverty, hunger and disease. This is not the Eswatini we want."

This begins from family level, community, chiefdom up to national leadership. *Maswati asibeke embili inhlonipho nekuthula eveni*

ON THIS DAY

... FEBRUARY 3

1488 - The Portuguese navigator Bartholomeu Diaz landed at Mossal Bay in the Cape, the first European known to have landed on the southern extremity of Africa.

1690 - The first paper money in America was issued by the Massachusetts colony. The currency was used to pay soldiers that were fighting in the war against Quebec.

1783 - Spain recognised the independence of the United States.

1809 - The territory of Illinois was created.

1815 - The world's first commercial cheese factory was established in Switzerland.

1862 - Thomas Edison printed the 'Weekly Herald' and distributed it to train passengers travelling between Port Huron and Detroit, MI. It was the first time a newspaper had been printed on a train.

1869 - Edwin Booth opened his new theatre in New York City. The first production was "Romeo and Juliet".

1874 - A patent was issued to Samuel W. Francis for the spork.

1900 - In Frankfort, KY, gubernatorial candidate William Goebels died from an assassin's bullet wounds. On August 18, 1900, Ex-Sec. of State Caleb Powers was found guilty of conspiracy to murder Gov. Goebels.

1913 - The 16th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It authorised the power to impose and collect income tax.

1916 - In Ottawa, Canada's original parliament buildings burned down.

1917 - The US broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, which had announced a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

1918 - The Twin Peaks Tunnel began service. It is the longest streetcar tunnel in the world at 11,920 feet.

1927 - The Federal Radio Commission was created when US President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill.

1941 - In Vichy, France, the Nazis used force to restore Pierre Laval to office.

1945 - Russia agreed to enter World War II against Japan.

1946 - The first issue of 'Holiday' magazine appeared.

1947 - Percival Prattis became the first black news correspondent admitted to the House and Senate press gallery in Washington, DC. He worked for 'Our World' in New York City.

1951 - Dick Button won the US figure skating title for the sixth time.

1951 - The Tennessee Williams play, 'The Rose Tattoo', opened on Broadway in New York.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



MICHELE DOMINGUEZ GREENE
(February 3, 1962)
(58 years).



DENNIS EDWARDS JR.
(February 3, 1943)
(77 years).



WHAT THE LAW

Utsini umtsetfo

LAW

SAYS

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2013

16. Additional obligations pertaining to licensee holding licence for provision of publicly available electronic communications networks. In addition to the obligations provided for under section 15, a licensee holding a licence for the provision of a publicly available electronic communications network shall —

(a) negotiate and grant interconnection to the network of that licensee under reasonable terms when requested to do so by another licensee holding a licence for the provision of a publicly available electronic communications network;

(b) ensure that the capacity, quantity and features of the network are sufficient for providing and maintaining an efficient communications network;

(c) ensure that the network is sufficient for and compatible with such international electronic communications services as the Commission may specify;

(d) ensure the security of the network and an extension of that network;

(e) ensure that the network is capable of providing calling-line identification facilities as specified by the Commission; and

(f) ensure that the network does not cause harmful interference with the lawful use or operation of an electronic communications network or services.

17. Additional obligations pertaining to licensee holding licence for provision of publicly available electronic communications services.

In addition to the obligations established under Sections 15 and 16, a licensee holding a licence for the provision of publicly available electronic communications services shall —

(a) provide such services efficiently, complying with the standards for quality generally accepted in the industry or as may be specified by the Commission;

(b) notify the Commission and publish by notice in the media when the services are to be interrupted for the installation or repair or the changing of apparatus;

(c) establish an efficient mechanism for receiving complaints and repairing failures in the networks of that licensee and in the services provided;

(d) provide an end-user subscribing to services with a written contract containing the specifications, terms and conditions of the service and shall provide those services to end-users in accordance with that contract; and

(e) ensure that a change to the terms and conditions of the service is subjected to the prior approval of the Commission, and implemented subject to conditions laid down by the Commission.

18. Obligations pertaining to licensee holding licence for provision of publicly available telephony services.

In addition to the obligations provided for under Sections 15 and 17, a licensee holding a licence for the provision of publicly available telephony services shall —

(a) ensure that the service is capable of originating and receiving national and international calls;

(b) ensure that the service is capable of giving end-users access to emergency services through a number in a national or international telephone numbering plan; and

(c) abide by number portability obligations as may be specified by the Commission.

19. Additional obligations pertaining to licensee holding licence for provision of international gateway.

LICENSEE OBLIGATIONS

An international gateway operator shall at all times —

(a) adopt appropriate measures to safeguard the integrity and resiliency of the network elements utilised to provide international connectivity; and

(b) secure the availability of capacity, or have in place alternative measures, sufficient to ensure an adequate level of uninterrupted international connectivity.

20. Decisions, guidelines and regulations of Commission relating to rights and obligations of licensee. The Commission may issue decisions, guidelines or recommend regulations to the minister in relation to the rights or obligations provided for in Sections 15 to 19, making further specifications to those rights and obligations.

21. Breach of obligations of licensee.

Failure by a licensee to comply with a condition relevant to that licensee as provided for in Sections 15 to 19, or a decision of the Commission relating to that condition, shall constitute a contravention of this Act and shall be investigated in accordance with Section 36 of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act, 2010, and sanctioned in accordance with Section 42 of that Act.

PART V

LICENSEES HOLDING A DOMINANT POSITION ON THE MARKET

22. Obligations of dominant licensees.

In addition to the obligations provided for under Part IV, a licensee holding a dominant position on the relevant market may be subjected to specific regulatory obligations arising out of the nature of the dominant position of that licensee, as provided for under this Part.

23. Market definition, analysis and determination of dominance.

(1) The Commission shall, in accordance with the principles of competition law, periodically define relevant markets appropriate to national circumstances, in particular relevant geographic markets, and the Commission shall carry out an analysis of those markets.

(2) Where the Commission determines that a market is effectively competitive, it shall not impose or maintain the regulatory obligations provided for in this Part.

(3) Where the Commission determines that a relevant market is not effectively competitive, the Commission shall identify and designate licensees with a dominant position in that market and shall impose upon those licensees the appropriate regulatory obligations provided for in Sections 24 to 28.

(4) An obligation imposed by the Commission under this Part shall be —

(a) based on the nature of the problem identified;

(b) objective, transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory; and

(c) implemented in accordance with the consultation procedure provided for under Section 32 of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act, 2010.

24. Obligation of access to and use of specific network facilities.

(1) The Commission may, in accordance with

Section 23, impose obligations on licensees to meet reasonable requests for access to, and use of, specific network elements and associated facilities, in particular, in situations where the Commission considers that denial of access or unreasonable terms and conditions having a similar effect would hinder the emergence of a sustainable competitive market at the retail level, or would not be in the interest of the end-user.

(2) Operators may be required, among other things —

(a) to interconnect networks or network facilities;

(b) to give third parties access to specified network elements or facilities, including unbundled access to the local loop;

(c) to negotiate in good faith with other licensees requesting access;

(d) not to withdraw access to facilities already granted;

(e) to provide specified services on a wholesale basis for resale by third parties;

(f) to grant open access to technical interfaces, protocols or other key technologies that are indispensable for the interoperability of services or virtual network services;

(g) to provide co-location or other forms of facility sharing, including duct, building or mast sharing;

(h) to provide specified services needed to ensure interoperability of end-to-end services to users, including facilities for intelligent network services or roaming on mobile networks; and

(i) to provide access to operational support systems or similar software systems necessary to ensure fair competition in the provision of services.

(3) The Commission may attach conditions covering fairness, reasonableness and timeliness to an obligation imposed under subsections (1) and (2).

(4) When considering whether to impose the obligations referred to in subsections (1) and (2), the Commission shall, in particular, take into account the following factors —

(a) the technical and economic viability of using or installing competing facilities, in the light of the rate of market development, taking into account the nature and type of interconnection and access involved;

(b) the feasibility of providing the access proposed, in relation to the capacity available;

(c) the initial investment by the facility owner, bearing in mind the risks involved in making the investment;

(d) the need to safeguard competition in the long term; and

(e) where appropriate, relevant intellectual property rights.

25. Obligation of non-discrimination.

(1) The Commission may, in accordance with Section 23, impose obligations of non-discrimination, in relation to interconnection or access.

(2) Obligations of non-discrimination shall ensure, in particular, that the licensee —

(a) applies equivalent conditions in equivalent circumstances to other licensees providing equivalent services; and

(b) provides services and information to others under the same conditions and of the same quality as the licensee provides for the services of the licensee, or those of the subsidiaries or partners of the licensee.

LUANDA LEAKS AND THE POLITICS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION

BY PETER FABRICIUS

IS Angola's Lourenço going after Isabel dos Santos to fight corruption or to boost flagging support?

It's clear to just about everyone but herself that Angola's Isabel dos Santos became Africa's richest woman not through hard work and business acumen, but mainly through all the jobs, contracts and other breaks her father illicitly gave her when he was president.

Even so, is his successor President João Lourenço going after her and her brother out of a sincere desire to clean up Angola's notorious corruption? Or does he have less honourable motives?

After Dos Santos Sr stood down in 2017 and Lourenço took over, he fired Isabel from her job as chairperson of Sonangol, the state oil company.

He later fired her half-brother José Filomeno dos Santos from his position as head of Angola's sovereign wealth fund. Since then Lourenço's administration has pursued them in court for alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars and tried to recover the assets. Isabel steadfastly protests her innocence, accusing Lourenço of a politically motivated witchhunt against her and her family. She insists she made her fortune – estimated at over US\$2-billion – by skill and industry.

She persisted with this narrative even after the recent Luanda Leaks, the publication by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) of some 715 000 documents detailing her business dealings.

They reveal how her father launched and bolstered her career by awarding her companies public contracts, tax breaks, telecom licences and diamond mining rights.

This undercut her persistent claim to be a self-made businesswoman. The leaks also show how many Western consultants, banks and other businesses clandestinely supported Isabel's ventures, including by moving vast amounts of money off-shore to tax havens.

Unabashed, she issued a statement saying the ICIJ revelations were 'completely unfounded'.

"This is an orchestrated and well-co-ordinated political attack by the current regime in Angola, which sees me as a threat," she added – the last an apparent reference to her previous vow to run for president against Lourenço.

Her brazenness suggests she believed her munificent father would hand power to someone who would protect his family's fortunes. And for a time it looked like that would happen.

According to Angola expert Paula Roque, just before elections to replace Dos Santos Sr, ruling party elders agreed to wipe the slate clean of all graft up to that point, provided no further corruption occurred. This meant no prosecutions for past corruption and no recovery of stolen assets.

But then the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) did worse than expected in the elections and Lourenço's legitimacy was questioned by widespread allegations of rigging.

The Angolan economy was doing badly, mainly because of a plunge in the international oil price and the fact that the corrupt Dos Santos regime had done nothing to shield the country from such fluctuations.

JLo, as Lourenço is nicknamed, decided he needed to go after the hugely unpopular Dos Santos family members and their cronies to shore up his support and that of the MPLA, some analysts believe.

Even with the recent Luanda Leaks revelations, questions about Lourenço's motives and



RICH: Isabel dos Santo.

game plan remain valid. Is he really pursuing a vendetta against his predecessor to bolster his own fragile political position?

Is he perhaps creating space at the trough so that his own cronies can enrich themselves? Or is he really cleaning out corruption as a basis for rebuilding the crippled Angolan economy to the benefit of all its people, who remain among the poorest worldwide?

Former journalist and now anti-corruption activist Rafael Marques de Morais, for many years a fierce critic of Dos Santos, told AFP recently that: "There is a real will to take back the country ... because the state has been privatised by the Dos Santos family and their friends."

But he believes Lourenço is mounting a lonely crusade, frustrated by an MPLA riddled with corrupt old guard politicians.

Alex Vines, head of the Africa Programme at Chatham House, is more sceptical.

"There are folk around the president that deserve judicial scrutiny and Isabel is correct that there is an arbitrary element to these actions," he told ISS Today.

"Over the last year, as his honeymoon has thinned out, there are also signs that JLo is becoming more reliant on family – especially his brother General Sequeira João Lourenço."

Vines is by no means sympathetic to Isabel dos Santos's profession of innocence.

When Dos Santos Sr stepped down in September 2017, the state of Angola's economy required JLo to move against the Dos Santos regime's vast business interests, he says.

"Angola has been in recession since 2016 and turning around the economy is joint priority No 1, as is ensuring that the MPLA is regenerated and positioned for the next general elections in 2022."

Nor does Vines believe Lourenço is intent on simply replacing one set of snouts at the trough with another.

"JLo's Angola is different. The primary moves against the Dos Santos family were to help JLo consolidate power, reform the economy and renew the party."

This explains why the original case against José Filomeno dos Santos was dropped once the expatriated funds were repatriated.

Vines says; "economic recession has stunted the honeymoon for JLo.

"Many Angolans (especially urban dwellers) are frustrated and want to see progress.

JLo has shown himself to be much more sensitive to public opinion than his predecessor and putting the Dos Santos family central in his reform crosshairs plays well".

Roque agrees that Lourenço has been strategic in his approach.

"JLo took on the anti-corruption fight to rescue the MPLA and consolidate his own power base. The economy is in a shambles and the country had no international credibility ... JLo really had little choice and the anti-corruption mantle served many purposes."

But hounding the Dos Santos family isn't enough. Lourenço has also opened up Angola's political space which was tightly closed under Dos Santos.

Unless he can revive the flagging economy, even his political reforms will count against him, giving greater freedom to his opponents to attack him. DM

Peter Fabricius is an ISS Consultant

Isabel steadfastly protests her innocence, accusing Lourenço of a politically motivated witchhunt against her and her family.

Wit and Wisdom

Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right. **Henry Ford**

Dreams don't work unless you do. **John C. Maxwell**

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does. **William James**

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

To understand all is to forgive all. **French saying**

We tend to get what we expect. **Norman Vincent Peale**

A skunk is better company than a person who prides himself on being 'frank'. **Robert Heinlein**

Never try to have the last word. You might get it. **Robert Heinlein**

Never miss a good chance to shut up. **Will Rogers**

Arguing with a fool proves there are two. **Doris M. Smith**

The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend. **Abraham Lincoln**

The only way to have a friend is to be one. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Friends are those rare people who ask how you are and then wait to hear the answer. **Unknown**

Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say. Best friends listen to what you don't say. **Unknown**

Friends are like melons; shall I tell you why? To find a good one, you must one hundred try. **Claude Mermet**

A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else. **Len Wein**

A true friend overlooks your failures and tolerates your success! **Doug Larson**

I love you not because of who you are, but because of who I am when I am with you. **Roy Croft**

It takes a long time to grow an old friend. **John Leonard**

My best friend is that one who brings out the best in me. **Henry Ford**

One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory. **Rita Mae Brown**

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. **Dr. Seuss**

I don't let go of concepts – I meet them with understanding. Then they let go of me. **Byron Katie**

I don't miss him; I miss who I thought he was. **Unknown**

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	1.6%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	6.5%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.65 per litre
Replacement	E13.70 per litre
Diesel	E13.65 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 31 JAN 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.7437	14.7937
British Pound/SZL	19.3120	19.3775
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.3748	7.3977
Swiss France/SZL	15.1934	15.2402
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3490	1.3625
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9078	9.9428
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.1661	11.2031
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.2542	16.3093
Gold	1,571.7679	
Oil	58.31	

For more information contact:
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Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

LET US AIM FOR BETTER BUSINESS RANKINGS - KING

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

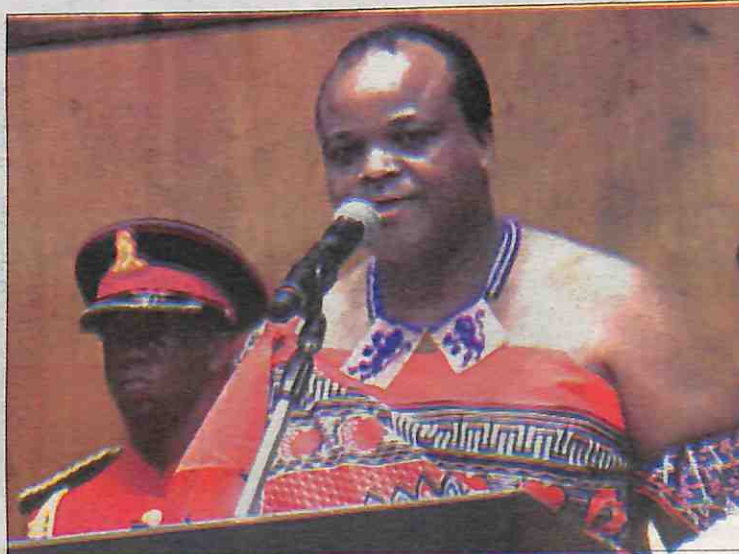
HIS Majesty King Mswati III has urged the country to maintain its good business ranking and aim for even better towards building investor confidence for the kingdom.

The King made this known during his speech from the Throne at the opening of the 11th Parliament on Friday.

"Last year we called for increased support for our SMEs to strengthen our domestic resource mobilisation.

"Government has declared 2020 the year of the SMEs and will develop this sector focusing on key themes namely, access to finance and markets; empowerment of citizens and identifying incentives for SMEs.

The King noted that trade agree-



BUSINESSWISE: His Majesty King Mswati III makes his address during the 11th Parly opening.

ments have been established with international markets and a national quality infrastructure set up to

strengthen Eswatini's capacity to provide globally accepted best practices and standards.

He added that on investment, Eswatini had created special economic zones to leverage export potential through attracting export oriented manufacturing projects.

"Investors must find the ease of doing business with us a practical experience with all our systems and procedures.

"What we promise must be what we deliver," he said.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo had stated earlier on that there were a number of other programmes that the ministry would be rolling out to benefit MSMEs as espoused in the MSME policy.

He stated that it was also clear that there was a need to step up in terms of ensuring that all MSME-related challenges are addressed, hence the need to launch an aggressive MSME development drive this new year.

Govt to address need for value addition facilities

GOVERNMENT will address the need for value addition facilities that will enhance and promote the penetration of agricultural products in both local and international markets, His Majesty said.

The King said this was expected

to result in both export-oriented and import substitution industrialisation.

Expansion

"Opportunities for the expansion of markets will be derived from increased local production of targeted products such as dairy, fruits

and vegetables.

"Improving and adherence to quality standards is of paramount importance in sustaining the markets," he said.

Plant

He stated that farmers would be pleased to know that government

had embarked on the construction of a dairy processing plant to be completed before the end of this year.

Processing

He said the facility would source raw milk from local producers for processing into various products.

Madlopha new ETA Marketing Manager

BY BAHLE GAMA

FORMER JA Eswatini Executive Director Siboniso Madlopha has been appointed the new Marketing Manager at the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA).

Madlopha, who will be taking over the reins from Bongani Dlamini, is expected to assume his new duties today.

ETA CEO Linda Nxumalo confirmed Madlopha's appointment, stating that he had already signed his contract.

She said they were pleased with their choice as he was from the private sector and they hoped he would apply all the knowledge and experience gained at JA.

"As a person who comes from the private sector, we look forward to seeing him apply transformational strategies at ETA as a public entity," she said.

Experience

She further stated that with his experience, she hopes that his contribution would be beneficial not only to the entity but the entire country and its economy. Madlopha's main task will be to market the country to both local and international tourists to ensure that it remains a destination of choice.

Efforts to get a comment from Madlopha proved



NEW BROOM: ETA CEO Linda Nxumalo and new Marketing Manager Siboniso Madlopha.

futile as his phone rang unanswered when contacted.

Responsibilities

Madlopha, who resigned as the JA leader this past week, had been with the organisation for over four years having joined as the executive director in May 2016.



His responsibilities as the executive director entailed overseeing the planning, organising, leading and controlling all activities conducted by JA Eswatini.

Other key functions also included liaising with sponsors and partners for resources mobilisation for JA Eswatini.

ECAS hosts stakeholder consultation, seminar today

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

MEMBERS of the Economics Association of Eswatini (ECAS) will today gather for a stakeholder consultation on economic research themes proposed for the next five years.

The session is slated for the Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) auditorium at Ezulwini starting at 8am. Expected to give the key note address during the session will be Minister of Economic Planning and Development Dr Tambo Gina. The five themes to be discussed during the session are the Eswatini

Strategic Roadmap (ESR) 2019-2022 which will address priority areas, including the ease of doing business; fiscal consolidation and arrears management; infrastructure, investment and innovation; culture of excellence and social safety net, to name just a few. Also to be discussed will be the macroeconomic

imbalances, structural reforms and sustainability, the implications and impact on Eswatini of regional economic blocs and international trade relations, Eswatini performance under agendas 2030 and 2063 and poverty and inequalities (income, gender, regional) in Eswatini.

ECAS Secretary Sive Kunene said during a statement on Friday that the stakeholder consultations would be the first session of the day to be followed by a seminar where United Nations Resident Coordinator Nathalie Ndong-She would address the gathering.

SEL market capitalisation at E632.3m

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Swazi Empowerment Limited (SEL) market capitalisation currently stands at E632.3 million.

Market capitalisation is the value of a company that is traded on the stock market, calculated by multiplying the total number of shares by the present share price.

The ruling market price for the company's shares at the end of the period was E34.18 (E32.55).

This is according to the company's reviewed interim results for the six month period ended 30 September 2019.

The statement released by the company stated that during this period, the total comprehensive income in the period under review was E24 444.

Coming to their operations in the six months, the company highlighted that the principal activity of SEL during the year under review remained that of an investment holding company and their investments comprised of a 19 per cent equity stake in MTN Eswatini Limited,

Eswatini Government Bond - SG017, Select Promissory Note and the Finance Development of Eswatini Corporation Bond.

They stated that the surplus funds continued to be invested in Money Market type investments with reputable financial institutions.

Improve

The report further noted that the performance of the company was expected to improve in the next reporting period as it would receive dividends.

"The interim financial information has been drawn up under the recognition and measurement criteria using international financial reporting standards. The interim financial information for the six months ended September 30, 2019 has been reviewed, but not audited, by KPMG Chartered Accountants (Eswatini)," reads part of the statement.

Coming to Corporate Governance, the directors of Swazi Empowerment Limited confirmed their commitment to the principles of openness, integrity and accountability as advocated by sound principles of corporate governance.

'Do something fast to save South Africa'

JOHANNESBURG - Pressure is mounting on President Cyril Ramaphosa to stabilise the government's shaky finances and rescue an economy teetering on the brink of recession.

Since taking office in February last year, Ramaphosa has repeatedly pledged to ignite growth and reverse nine years of misrule by his predecessor Jacob Zuma. His ability to undertake reforms has been constrained by an ANC faction that wants the government to play a greater role in the economy and by powerful labour unions opposed to job cuts, among other things.

Warnings that South Africa is on a precipice have come from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, business executives and economists from Absa Bank Ltd. and other lenders. Even Finance Minister Tito Mboweni has taken to Twitter to vent his frustra-

tion at the slow pace of reform. Here are samples of the growing drumbeat:

The IMF

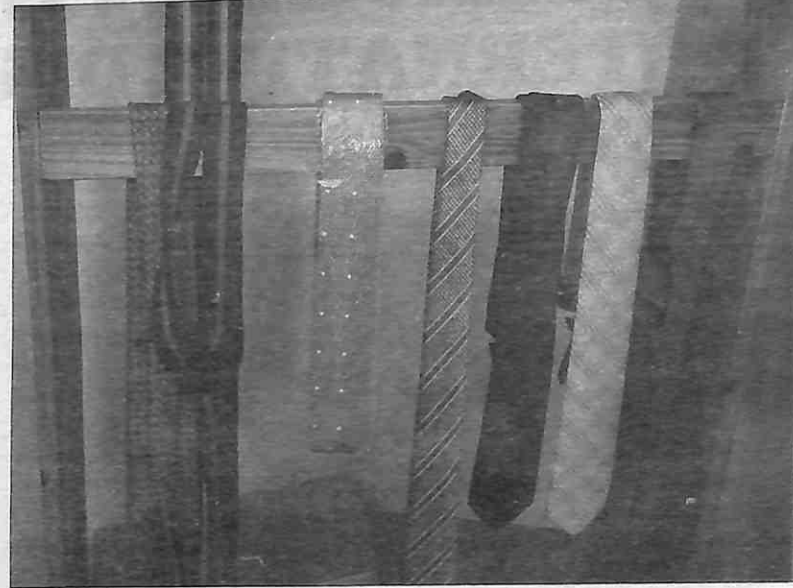
When Ramaphosa took office, "market expectations for growth-enhancing reforms were high," the fund said in a January 30 statement. "However, sluggish implementation and persistent policy uncertainty did not validate those expectations, and business confidence is now close to all-time lows."

The World Bank

"Weak growth momentum has reflected an array of overlapping constraints," the lender said on January 8. "These include persistent policy uncertainty, constrained fiscal space, subdued business confidence, infrastructure bottlenecks - especially in electricity supply - and weakening external demand, particularly from the euro area and China." *Fin24*



HAMMERED: These black shoes went under the hammer at a price of E800. (R) The neckties and suspenders that were sold at E100 each.



Over E10 000 made at quality stock auction

BY BAHLE GAMA

OVER E10 000 was raised at the quality stock auction held at the Checkers Business Park Office No.17B on Friday.

The auction was conducted by Deputy Sheriff Thabiso Hlanze following a court order after the owner was found to be in rent arrears.

The auction was meant for people who wanted to run a boutique for men's clothing but ended up being an individual auction as most of the bidders were interested in different items.

The items included men's suits, shirts, neckties, cross belts, bow ties, pair of socks and assorted pairs of shoes in different sizes. Suits were sold for a maximum of E1 800, shoes at E800, shirts at E550, cufflinks at E80 and neckties at E100.

Other items that went under the hammer included shoe cabinets and wardrobes which were sold at E900 and E500, respectively.

Interviewed after the auction, Hlanze said he was pleased with the number of



CONDUCT: Deputy Sheriff Thabiso Hlanze conducting the auction.

SOME OF THE ITEMS THAT WERE SOLD

Item	Price
1X Suit	E1 800
1X Blazer	E1 000
Black shoes	E800
Cufflinks	E100
1X Shirt	E250
1X Tie	E100
Wardrobe	E900

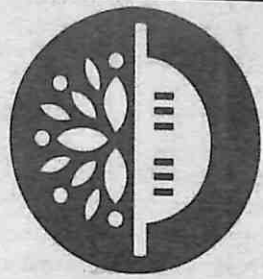
bidders who came to the auction as most of the items went under the hammer. "The number of people who came in

today's (Friday) auction is reasonable and most of the things have gone under the hammer, it's a fair auction," he said.



NICE: One of the bidders assessing the items. (R) **DISPLAY:** A suit on display.





OMBUDSMAN
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Umlamuli wetindzaba tetimali

OMBUDSDAY **FREE FAIR FOR ALL**

3 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

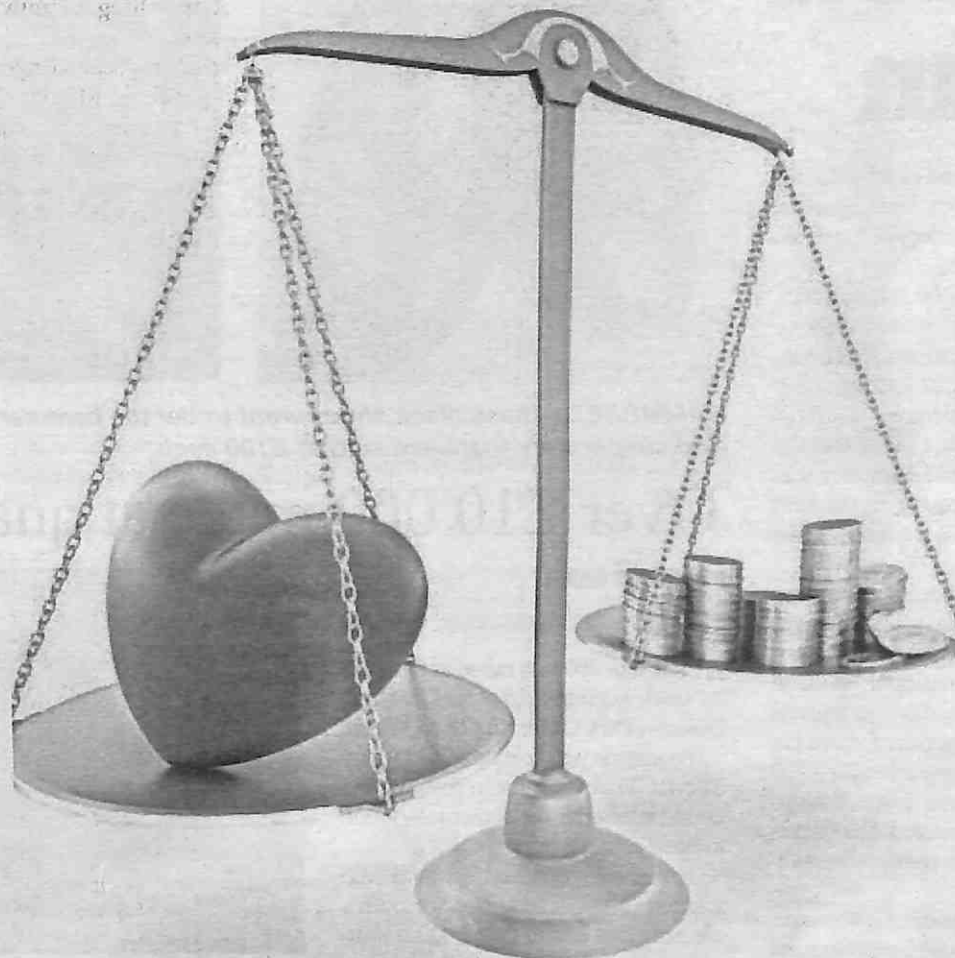
February is commonly celebrated as the month of love.

MANY people invest their time and effort into finding ways to convey love to their romantic partners on Valentine's Day. But for other people, Valentine's Day may be an opportunity to celebrate different or alternative expressions of love. There are often very unique views, experiences as well as approaches to the expression of love during this month. In a similar way, our office takes a unique approach to resolving disputes. At the Ombudsman of Financial Services (Ombudsman), we love that we get to serve the people of Eswatini when there is a dispute between a consumer and a non-bank financial services provider (FSP) through a legal process called alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

WHAT IS ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION?

ADR can be defined as an "alternative to litigation that might be available to a lawyer and client to resolve a civil dispute," (Blake et al. 5)*. ADR is, therefore, a process where a legal dispute can be settled without having to go to court. At the Ombudsman we apply ADR in how we receive, investigate and resolve complaints against FSPs that are licensed by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA). When individuals, groups of people or businesses (complainants) want to lodge/make a complaint, we ask them to contact their FSP first and submit a written complaint, giving the FSP 30 days to respond. If the complainant does not get a response or they are not satisfied with the response, they can then get a copy of our Complaint Form at our office, any CMAC branch, or from our website: www.ombudsfs.org.sz, to be completed and submitted with all supporting documentation in person, by fax, postal mail or email.

When a complaint against a licensed FSP is received at the Ombudsman, there are different stages that a complaint can go through. There are some instances when one of our officers will meet with the complainant and the FSP to facilitate a discussion with these two parties who are not seeing eye-to-eye. All this is done in an effort to reach an agreement to resolve the complaint given guidance by the law relating to the matter. For example, at the



Ombudsman we receive complaints about savings and/or credit; retirement funds; insurance; investments; and medical cover financial services that are all governed by certain laws. Should the parties still not agree on a settlement, the complaint is investigated further for the Ombudsman to issue a decision on the matter.

ACCESSIBLE

The way that we handle complaints at the Ombudsman is intended to make our services accessible. Accessibility is one of the reasons that we love ADR. We believe that by making our processes less formal and easy to grasp, we can lower the barrier for people to air their grievances about non-bank financial services providers. In addition, because the Ombudsman

is a public service entity, we also provide our service free of charge to the complainant. When people feel more confident to raise their complaints, it gives us an opportunity to assist in resolving matters. Therefore, as the office of Ombudsman of financial services, we can exercise our function of upholding good industry practice in Eswatini.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Another reason we love applying ADR in our processes is because we are able to keep all matters confidential. The Ombudsman respects and protects all information that we receive, and we treat it with the privacy that it deserves. Our priority is to resolve financial services disputes without compromising the identity of

complainants and the licensed businesses, cooperatives or individuals that complainants raise complaints against. With this said, the Ombudsman does also have the responsibility to report material, persistent non-compliance with the Kingdom of Eswatini's financial services laws to the relevant regulators and to protect consumers by identifying fraudulent operators and publicising the information.

For All

Furthermore, ADR in the financial services industry may be a relatively new concept for some people, and we love to teach the public about it, specifically how it is applied in our processes at the Ombudsman. We are privileged to expand on our purpose and services through community outreaches, stakeholder presentations and on different media platforms. We are committed to educating all in Eswatini, including consumers, financial services providers, consumer bodies and associations about the role, procedures, and jurisdiction of the office. In addition, we educate the public on the correct procedures for filing complaints and promote the principles of good business practice in handling complaints by the industry. One of the highlights of our work and what we love to do is to reach people and empower them with the knowledge and resources they need to engage with our office.

Love What You Do

We hope that this February, you will be able to reflect on what you love to do and also reflect on the ways that your work impacts others, so you are motivated to give it your very best in 2020!

*Blake, Susan et al. A Practical Approach to Alternative Dispute Resolution. Oxford University Press, 2012.

N.B Ombudsday is a monthly consumer education column compiled by the office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services in the country. Do not miss the next column which will be published in this newspaper next month. For more information, contact the office of the Ombudsman at:

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LOCAL STOCKS SLIDE AS GLOBAL MARKETS WEAKNESS PERSISTS

JOHANNESBURG - Pressure mounted on the JSE on Friday which saw it close weaker in tandem with trends in global markets which traded under pressure.

Concerns over the spread of the coronavirus heightened on Friday as reports of new infections and detections keep surfacing across the globe. A gauge for global stocks indicates this week as the worst week for global stocks in terms of losses since August 2019.

With the Chinese equity markets still closed, the main gauges for performance in Asia where the Hang Seng which lost 0.52 per cent, and the Nikkei which advanced 0.99 per cent. Stocks in Europe remained in a slump while US markets

were set to open lower despite a firmer close on Thursday. Emerging market currencies continue to hemorrhage as investors dump riskier currencies in favour of more stable developed market currencies. The rand slumped further in Friday's session as it slipped to a session low of R14.97/\$. At 17:00 CAT the rand was trading 1.19 per cent weaker at R14.93/\$.

On the JSE, Sasol [JSE:SOL] came under considerable pressure following the release of its half-year trading statement which highlighted decreases in earnings and significant finance charges associated with the Lake Charles Chemicals Project. The stock eventually closed 6.76% weaker at R239.17.

The weaker rand resulted in weakness being recorded for rand sensitives such as retailers. Declines were recorded for The Foschini Group [JSE:TFG] which lost 5.91 per cent to close at R137.80, and Mr Price [JSE:MRP] which fell 3.15 per cent to close at R170.12. Financials also struggled with losses being recorded for Nedbank [JSE:NED] which dropped 3.23 per cent to close at R195.71, FirstRand [JSE:FSR] which fell 2.91 per cent to close at R57.80, and Old Mutual [JSE:OMU] which closed at R17.30 after losing 121.77 per cent.

Significant losses were also recorded for Exxaro Resources [JSE:EXX] which lost 3.35 per cent to close at R121.77, as well as Bid Corporation

[JSE:BID] which fell 3.25 per cent to close at R332.25.

Pan African Resources [JSE:PAN] closed amongst the day's biggest gainers following the release of its half-year statement in which the company indicated that they are expecting a steep jump in earnings. The stock eventually closed 9.48 per cent higher at R2.54.

Listed property stocks recorded decent gains on the day with surges being recorded for Hospitality Property Fund [JSE:HPB] which rallied 6.69 per cent to close at R7.50, as well as EPP NV [JSE:EPP] which climbed 6.36 per cent to close at R17.38.

Fin 24

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

MNANGAGWA DECLARES ZIM NEEDS DIVINE INTERVENTION

HARARE - President Emmerson Mnangagwa has officially declared that his government now needs divine intervention to get things right.

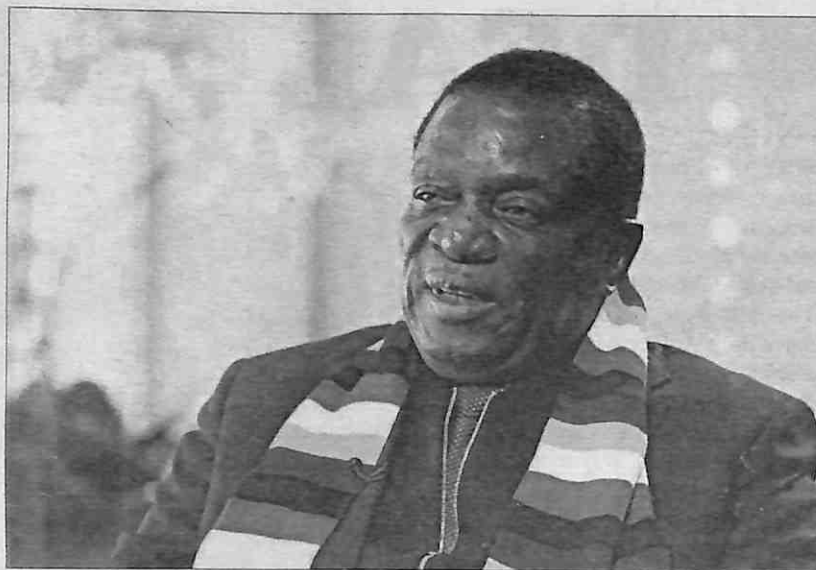
Mnangagwa, who was accompanied by First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa, was speaking at the launch of the Zimbabwe Indigenous International Council of Churches (ZIIICC) National Day of Prayer at the National Sports Stadium.

Addressing about 30 000 congregants at the convention, President Mnangagwa said the initiatives being undertaken by the government to transform the country's economy needed to be complemented by the churches' support.

President Mnangagwa, who based much of his speech on biblical scriptures, implored the nation to commit its aspirations to God.

"However, as a country, we must pray for divine protection, economic prosperity and peace without ceasing. The Bible commands us to pray and to give thanks in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves.

"1 Thessalonians 5 verse 17-18: 'Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.'



LET'S PRAY: President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"We must always commit all our national aspirations to the Almighty God; casting our burdens to him for surely he shall sustain us," said the president.

President Mnangagwa urged church leaders to encourage their members to be productive, in line with Government's theme for 2020.

"I have declared the year 2020 as a

year of productivity and trade. I, therefore, call upon the leadership of all churches in Zimbabwe to engage, teach and encourage their congregants to be hardworking and productive. God has given us abundant natural resources throughout the country," he said.

"We must harness these natural endowments to improve the quality of life for our people." *News24*

Marry sent back to prison for assaulting maid

HARARE - Marry Mubaiwa, estranged wife to Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, was Saturday remanded in custody by a Harare magistrate after she was denied bail on fresh charges of assaulting a family maid last week.

Marry is facing charges of assaulting Delight Munyoro, who had accompanied the feuding couple's minor children to Hellenic School in Borrowdale, Harare last Tuesday. Denying her bail, the magistrate said Marry had a "propensity to commit crimes of violence".

In December last year, Marry was arrested by the Zimbabwe Anti-

Corruption Commission (ZACC) officers on charges of attempting to murder her husband while he was battling for life at a private hospital in South Africa. She spent three weeks in remand prison.

She was also charged with externalisation, money laundering and fraud before being granted bail last month.

On her release from remand prison, Marry found herself locked out of the couple's matrimonial home in Borrowdale Brooke, Harare and was denied access to the pair's minor children, vehicles and personal belongings.

News24

Church service stampede kills at least 20 in Tanzania's Moshi

MOSHI - At least 20 people have been killed in a stampede during a church service in the northern Tanzanian town of Moshi, according to officials.

The tragedy happened on Saturday while hundreds of worshippers were attending a prayer ceremony led by Boniface Mwamposha, a popular preacher who heads the Arise and Shine Ministry Tanzania.

The stampede occurred when Mwamposha, who calls himself the 'Apostle', poured what he said was holy oil on the ground and the crowd surged forward to touch, hoping to be cured of sickness, according to witnesses and officials.

"Twenty people died and 16 others were injured in the incident," Kippi Warioba, Moshi district commissioner, told Reuters news agency by telephone. Five of those killed were children, he said.

"The stampede occurred when the worshippers were rushing to get

anointed with blessed oil," Warioba added. Authorities said they were still assessing the situation amid fears the death toll could rise.

"The incident took place at night and there were many people, so there is a possibility that more casualties could emerge," Warioba said.

Peter Kilewo, a witness, described the scene as 'horrible'.

"People trampled on mercilessly, jostling each other with elbows," he told AFP news agency. "It was like the preacher had thrown bundles of dollars about ... and there were all these deaths!" Tanzania has seen an increase in the number of 'prosperity gospel'

pastors in recent years, who promise to lift people out of poverty and perform what they call miracle cures.

Thousands of people in the nation of 55 million flock to Pentecostal churches, whose main source of income is the 'tithe', the 10 percent or so of their income that worshippers are asked to contribute. *News24*



Nigeria's Buhari to comply with Trump's new visa rules

ABUJA - Nigeria will work to fix security lapses that led to a US curb on immigration from the country, President Muhammadu Buhari has said.

Buhari said he wants Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, to have 'productive relations' with the US.

He has appointed a minister to lead a committee to 'study and address' the new visa requirements.

Citizens from Eritrea, Sudan, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan and Myanmar are also barred from certain types of US visas.

People from these countries will, however, still be able to visit the US

as tourists.

In 2018, the US issued more than 8 000 immigration visas to citizens of Nigeria - twice as many as all the other five nations combined.

That same year, just over 2 000 were issued to Sudanese nationals, 290 to Tanzanians, and just 31 to Eritreans.

"These countries, for the most part, want to be helpful but for a variety of different reasons simply failed to meet those minimum requirements that we laid out," acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf told reporters on Friday.

The new US rules will come into effect on 21 February but will not apply to official, business and

tourism visas, Buhari's office said in a statement on Saturday.

"Nigeria remains committed to maintaining productive relations with the United States and its international allies, especially on matters of global security," Presidential Spokesman Femi Adesina said.

Wolf said officials would work with the countries on bolstering their security requirements to help remove them from the list.

US President Donald Trump first introduced a travel ban in 2017. It currently closes US borders to citizens from seven countries, most of them with Muslim majorities.

News24

BRIEFS

Seven killed in new DR Congo raid

ABUJA - Seven people died in a fresh attack by the Mai-Mai militia on three police posts in the Democratic Republic of Congo's troubled east, where more than 60 people have been killed in violence this past week. Seven bodies were found and seven others were injured in the raids late Friday in Mamove in the volatile Beni region, The Centre for Studies to promote Peace, Democracy and Human Rights (CEPADHO) said. It was not clear if the dead were civilians or policemen. In the neighbouring Ituri province, militiamen attacked a hospital at Biakato, which was serving as an Ebola treatment centre. *Afp*

Sierra Leone's symbolic 'Cotton Tree' goes up in flames

FREETOWN - Sierra Leone authorities are investigating after the ancient 'Cotton Tree', the historic symbol of the West African country's capital Freetown, caught fire under mysterious circumstances, government officials said. Videos circulating on social media showed enormous flames leaping from the hollow centre of the tree - which symbolises freedom from slavery - in Freetown. According to legend, slaves who won their freedom fighting on the British side of the American War of Independence prayed under the tree when they arrived in West Africa. *Reuters*

Calls for withdrawal of mercenaries in Libya

TRIPOLI - The UK sent its fellow Security Council members an amended draft resolution on Libya, calling for the withdrawal of mercenaries from the country, according to the text, seen by AFP. The draft expresses the Council's "concern over the growing involvement of mercenaries in Libya", despite commitments made on January 19 at an international summit in Berlin, including "ceasing all support for and withdrawing all armed mercenary personnel". The text also urged all member states "not to intervene in the conflict or take measures that exacerbate the conflict". *DPA*

Zim energy crisis forces miners off grid as production slumps

HARARE - Zimbabwe's mine houses are considering going off grid to avoid crippling breaks in production, as the country continues to battle unstable power supply. In 2019, Zimbabwe endured up to 18 hours of load shedding per day. At its peak, state power utility Zesa Holdings escalated power cuts to 24 hours in December after losing regional power imports. Erratic power supply was listed as one of the reasons why gold production in the southern African country slumped 20 per cent to 27.6 tonnes in 2019 - down from 33.2 tonnes in 2018 - and short of a target of 40 tonnes. *DPA*

Focus on

SA Scene

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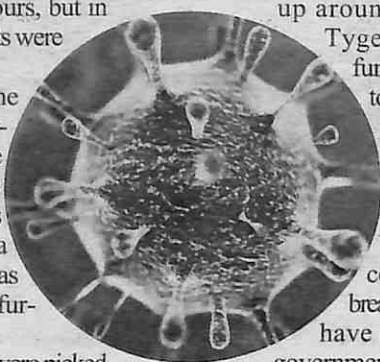
No need' to evacuate citizens from China

CAPE TOWN - The virus has so far killed more than 200 people and infected close to 12 000 people in 24 countries around the globe, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring the spread of the virus a global state of emergency.

On Saturday, Botswana confirmed that the number of suspected cases had risen to five. In South Africa, 14 suspected cases have been probed in the past 24 hours, but in all cases test results were negative.

In Botswana, the first suspected carrier arrived in the country aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight from China and the subject was quarantined for further tests.

"The five cases were picked up at different times and are isolated at a designated health facility while awaiting laboratory results. The specimen has been sent to the regional reference laboratory in South Africa. All five suspected cases arrived at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport from China on different flights," said Botswana Health and Wellness Ministry spokesperson Doreen Motshegwa.



They are still waiting for test results, which have a turnaround time of 48 hours. South Africa remains one of 13 countries identified by WHO as top-priority, given the high volume of travellers to and from China.

At Cape Town International Airport, when passengers wearing masks arrived from China this week, they had their temperatures monitored. Emergency centres have been set up around the country.

Tygerberg Hospital functions as the go-to facility because it has an isolation unit.

With travel bans in the city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, South Africans have questioned the government's decision not

to evacuate its citizens. The US, UK, Australia and other EU countries are sending planes to evacuate citizens.

Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize said South Africans in China could ask for help from the South African Embassy there. The Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) has a hot line to assist locals.

News24

SARS takes step towards building modern revenue authority

PRETORIA - The South African Revenue Service (SARS) has embarked on a programme and recruitment drive which will see its work increasingly "informed by data-driven insights, self-learning computers, artificial intelligence, and inter-connectivity of people and devices", the revenue collector said.

SARS's workforce would be "empowered to optimally function within this exciting changed and changing world of work", SARS said in a statement.

"We cannot ignore the power of a data and technology-enabled organisation, and the impact it will have on the future world of work," SARS commissioner Edward Kieswetter said in the statement.

"We can, however, prepare for it by consciously and actively managing the interplay between human effort and artificial intelligence. Today we take a conscious step towards building a smart, modern SARS, with unquestionable integrity, that is trusted and admired," he said.

The SARS of the future had to be able to respond to this new environment while fulfilling the organisation's "higher purpose of enabling

government to build a capable state that will ensure the well-being of all South Africans".

Since joining SARS in May last year, Kieswetter had constantly emphasised the need to boost the organisation's technological capacity and derive insights from data for a "re-imagined SARS of the future".

He had also held extensive consultations with staff, which had redefined SARS's strategic objectives. This had created a need for a high-level internal and external recruitment drive to attract highly

talented professionals and executives to bring SARS up to speed with advances in big

data and artificial intelligence in the tax and customs environment.

SARS's strategic objectives included providing clarity and certainty on tax obligations, making it easier for taxpayers and traders to comply, detecting those who did not comply and making it hard and costly for them. SARS was also in the process of modernising its systems to provide digital and streamlined services and rebuild public trust and confidence in the tax and customs administration.

News24

SARS

ZUMA TO MISS START OF ARMS DEAL TRIAL

DURBAN - Former President Jacob Zuma might not appear in the Pietermaritzburg High Court this week for the beginning of his arms deal-related trial, due to ill health.

This was indicated by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) late on Saturday.

Zuma, who had approached the Supreme Court of Appeal in another attempt to escape prosecution, was scheduled to appear in court tomorrow.

His supporters were also expected to pack Freedom Square in front of the court.

NPA Spokesperson Bulelwa Makeke confirmed Zuma's court appearance arrangements to Independent Media.

"But whether it will in reality, is up in the air at the moment. Mr Zuma, through his lawyers, indicated that he is not well and will be receiving medical attention at the time he is expected to appear.

"The court is seized with this challenge between the State and defence," said Makeke, without giving further details.

Zuma's spokesperson Vukile Mathabela did not respond to questions about Zuma's state of readiness for the trial.

Zuma's lawyer Dan Mantsha's phone was unanswered on Saturday.

His supporters said they were ready to travel to Pietermaritzburg to support Zuma. However, unlike in his previous court appearances, spokesperson for his supporters Nkosentsha Shezi said there would be no night vigil this evening.

"On Monday (today) we will issue a pamphlet (informing supporters about transport arrangements), and on Tuesday



NOT WELL: Former President Jacob Zuma.

morning people will be in Pietermaritzburg," said Shezi.

Independent Legal Expert Advocate Mbulelo Mneno said Zuma had a right not to appear in court or at the commission if he was not feeling well.

"He has to produce a medical certificate to the effect that he is not well. That certificate should explain the nature of his illness and how long he is expected to recover.

"In terms of his right, if he is not well, how can he appear before court to articulate his position or defence?" said Mneno.

The case against Zuma dates back to the early 2000s when the now defunct Scorpions investigated him for his role in the multibillion-rand arms deal in which he allegedly received a bribe from French arms manufacturer Thales, which is his co-accused. Zuma was

never charged along with his former financial adviser Schabir Shaik, who was sentenced to a 15-year jail term in 2005 for arms deal fraud and corruption crimes.

The case had died down after former NPA boss Mokotedi Mpshe found that the charges had political meddling as a result of the revelation of the 'spy tapes'.

However, the charges against Zuma were reinstated in 2018 by former NPA boss Shaun Abrahams, who was confident there were "reasonable prospects of a successful prosecution".

This followed a court judgment that the charges be reinstated.

Despite Zuma repeatedly calling for his day in court, he had repeatedly tried to squash the charges against him.

Late last year, Judges Jerome Mnguni, Esther Steyn and Thoba Poyo-Dlwati dismissed Zuma and Thales's applications to approach the Supreme Court of Appeal to appeal against their decision to dismiss the application for a permanent stay of prosecution.

Nevertheless, in January they both directly approached the Supreme Court of Appeal to listen to their appeal against the three high court judges.

In a replying affidavit to Zuma's appeal papers, deputy director of public prosecutor advocate Billy Downer said Zuma had no tangible evidence to prove that years of delay in prosecuting him had resulted into an unfair trial against him.

"There is nothing in Mr Zuma's affidavit in support of the present application, which comes close to meeting this highest standard," wrote Downer.

Political Bureau

ANC says Supra's views do not represent party

JOHANNESBURG - The African National Congress yesterday rebuked ANC MP Supra Mahumapelo and urged its members to 'subject themselves to organisational discipline'.

The ANC had noted media coverage of comments made by Mahumapelo around the motion tabled by the Democratic Alliance to initiate proceedings for the removal of Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane, ANC national spokesman Pule Mabe said in a statement. Mahumapelo "spoke in his personal capacity and his views do not represent the organisation". It should be noted that the ANC had not yet discussed its position on the motion, he said.

The ANC caucus in Parliament, guided by the national office, was the

sole authority mandated to pronounce on positions of the ANC on matters before it - not individual members unless so delegated.

"The ANC once again reminds its members of the principles that inform organisational discipline as articulated in Through the Eye of the Needle, that 'individual leaders are elected into collectives which should work as a unit ... no single person is a leader unto himself or herself, but a member of a collective which should give considered, canvassed guidance to membership and society as a whole'.

"The ANC reaffirms its confidence in the public institutions established to promote democracy, including the office of the public protector. We, therefore, encourage leaders and members of the ANC to exercise their freedom of speech within the

confines of the structures and discipline of the ANC," Pule said.

On Saturday, IOL reported that Mahumapelo had come out against the motion to remove Mkhwebane. Mahumapelo told journalists in Cape Town on Friday they would not back the DA motion aimed at ousting the public protector. He said the motion would not see the light of day in the national legislature.

"There is no way that the ANC in Parliament will support the motion of the opposition in the form of the DA to remove the public protector. It's not going to happen," Mahumapelo reportedly said.

Mahumapelo was the first senior ANC MP to oppose the motion tabled by the DA a few weeks ago, IOL reported.

ANA

Focus on SA Scene

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Mbalula backs Maimane in spat with 'Judas' Steenhuisen

DURBAN - Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula has joined the war of words between DA leader John Steenhuisen and his predecessor Mmusi Maimane.

Mbalula took to Twitter to back the former DA leader.

Steenhuisen had been quoted in a news report, criticising Maimane, saying he focused too much on the ANC. This made Maimane angry, who referred to Steenhuisen as 'Judas', saying he had been in 'full agreement' with the strategy at the time.

"A key element of being leader of the opposition is to show the deficiencies in the ruling party."

Mbalula, a Cabinet member and a member of the governing party's national executive, said: "Yha Judas lo I agree he wants to be a leader at your (Maimane) expense sies!"

Loosely, Mbalula said Steenhuisen wanted to lead the DA at Maimane's expense.

During his visit to Durban on Friday as part of his service delivery assessment across the country,



I HAVE YOUR BACK: Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula and Mmusi Maimane.

Steenhuisen said he was not threatened by Maimane and former Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba's move to form a new political party. The two left the party after the election of Helen Zille as the party's Federal Council chairperson. They are now engaged in dialogue with South Africans in

preparation to form a new political party. Steenhuisen said newly formed political parties do not grow because South Africans were conservative and loyal to bigger parties. "We have seen these personality parties come and go. We saw it with COPE (Congress of the People), we saw it with Agang SA,

we have seen it with the ID (Independent Democracy) and we have seen it with so many others.

"It is very, very difficult to sustain a political organisation, but it is not my job to worry about movements and dialogues as I want DA to be a party of action," he said.

Political Bureau

They will try everything they can, says Mkhwebane

JOHANNESBURG - Parties have until 7 February to submit their recommended nominees to serve on the panel to set to investigate Mkhwebane.

Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane is reportedly heading to court in an attempt to halt parliament's investigation into her fitness to hold office.

Last week, Speaker Thandi Modise approved a motion received from DA chief whip Natasha Mazzone requesting that parliament initiate proceedings for Mkhwebane's removal.

National Assembly adopted new rules concerning the removal of office-bearers in the institutions supporting constitutional democracy in December last year. These institutions include the office of the Public Protector.

The new rules expand on the broad parameters in section 194 of the Constitution (which provides for the removal of heads of chapter 9 institutions) and previous National Assembly rules.

As a result, DA's draft will thus be considered in terms of these new rules.

In response, Mkhwebane said the process granted by parliament to remove her was unlawful and violated the Constitution. The office of the Public Protector also took to social media to clarify Mkhwebane had not been formally informed about parliament's decision to remove her from office.

In an attempt to halt the process, City Press reports that Mkhwebane intends to approach the courts after her and Modise could not reach an "amicable solution" on the matter.

News24

EFF's Mbuyiseni Ndlozi blames 'negligence' for Enock Mpianzi's death

JOHANNESBURG - Hundreds of mourners gathered at Kensington Secondary School, Johannesburg, to bid farewell to 13-year-old Enock Mpianzi, who drowned on January 15.

The Parktown Boys High pupil attended a Grade 8 orientation camp at Nyati Riverbreak and Resort in Brits and the raft he and other pupils had built capsized in the river.

Among those who paid their last respects to Enock were pupils from his primary school, Gauteng Community Safety MEC, Faith Mazibuko, EFF spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi and EFF MP Vuyani Pambo.

Enock's older brother, Yves Kadilo, said he had not prepared himself for

such a sad day.

"He had so many ambitions, goals and dreams, but now Enock is no more. We have to find the strength to move on.

"With Enock being the last child in the family and his three brothers all done with school, he was never exposed to any wild life. He was our egg and we

protected him greatly. Our family wanted the best possible education, which we, his brothers never received."

Kadilo said when he was a pupil at Athlone Boys High School, seniors had always looked out for one another and after younger boys.

"We stood as a family. We never took kids to do dangerous activities that may put them in danger. We took them to activities where we as

seniors always looked out for Grade 8s. We protected them as best as we could and we were responsible," he said.

Ndlozi lamented the teenager's death and blamed 'our negligent society' for the tragedy.

"When a child is lost, it is the greatest condemnation to the rest of us because it means that as a people, we are negligent. So when a child is lost at the age of 13, it is a sign of a community that has been caught irresponsible and negligent," he said.

Ndlozi used the platform to talk about the importance of continental unity and implored Africans to address their self-hate and xenophobia.

"In his memory, we've got to believe in black people. In his memory, we have to speak to the self-hate in our country that is expressed in not caring for ourselves, expressed in xenophobic violence."

Pambo said Enock's tragic death was a continental tragedy. *News24*

NPA declines to prosecute deputy finance minister, his former lover

PRETORIA - The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has decided there are no cases for either Deputy Finance Minister David Masondo or his ex-lover to answer to.

The two had laid several charges and counter-charges against one another, allegedly after their relationship turned sour. Both parties were informed through their lawyers this week that the NPA, who committed to investigate the matters in September, would not be pursuing the matters.

"Please note that the NPA declined

to prosecute in all three matters as there were no prospects of successful prosecution in [all] matters," NPA Spokesperson Phindi Mjonondwane told *News24*.

News24 initially reported in August that the Hawks had apprehended and detained the woman for a week on claims by the politician that she was attempting to extort money from him. She is a columnist for a publication under the Arena Holdings media group.

She had been accused of attempting to solicit R300 000 from the deputy minister and threatening and intimi-

dating his family.

It later emerged that the two had a love affair which went sour, with her not only accusing Masondo of abusing state resources to have her detained, but also bullying her into having an abortion. AmaBhungane, in its report on the matter, which contained WhatsApp conversations between the two, revealed that it seemed the woman had actually rejected offers for money, which were being made by the deputy minister, instead wanting to have his and her family discuss damages over the terminated pregnancy. *News24*



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CHINA'S ISOLATION CONTINUES

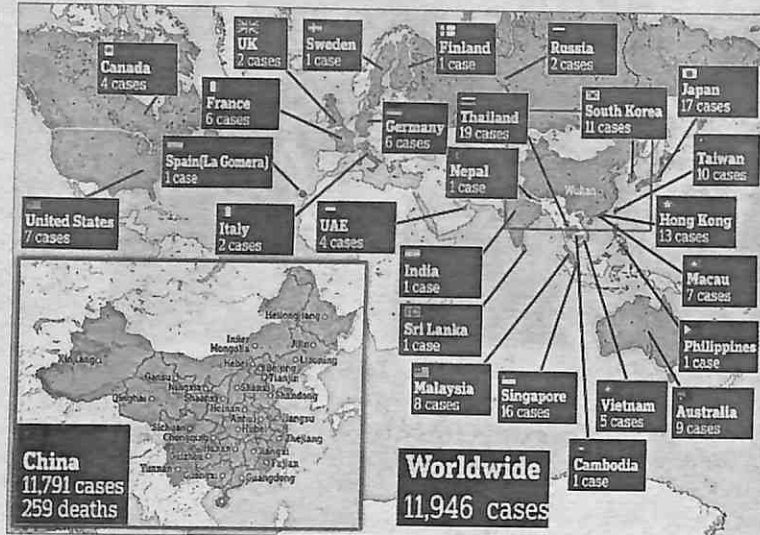
...as Coronavirus death toll reaches 259

WUHAN - China faced deepening isolation over its coronavirus epidemic yesterday as the death toll soared to 259 - with the US and Australia leading nations in imposing Chinese travel bans.

With Britain, Russia and Sweden among the countries confirming their first infections, the virus has now spread to more than two dozen nations, sending governments scurrying to limit their exposure. China toughened its own quarantine measures at the centre of the outbreak in Hubei province, a day after the US temporarily barred entry to foreigners who had been in China within the past two weeks.

"Foreign nationals, other than immediate family of US citizens and permanent residents... will be denied entry into the United States," Health Secretary Alex Azar said. Australia said it was barring entry to non-citizens arriving from China, while Australian citizens who had travelled there would be required to go into 'self-isolation' for two weeks.

Vietnam suspended all flights from mainland China and Hong Kong effective from Saturday. Taiwan also initially appeared on the list of banned



routes but references to the self-ruled island were later removed.

Similar expansive restrictions have been announced by countries including Italy, Singapore, and China's northern neighbour Mongolia.

The US, Japan, Britain, Germany and other nations had already advised their citizens not to travel to China.

Britain said Saturday it was temporarily withdrawing some diplomatic staff and their families from across the country, a day after the US State

Department ordered embassy employees to send home family members under the age of 21.

Spanish authorities confirmed that a German tourist was taken ill with the infection while on holiday in the Canary Islands.

The man was put into hospital quarantine last Wednesday after it emerged he had come into contact with another coronavirus patient in his home country before flying to Spain.

Daily Mail

Mark Zuckerberg declares Facebook is going to 'stand up for free expression'

SAN FRANCISCO - Mark Zuckerberg has declared that Facebook is 'going to stand up for free expression' in spite of the fact it will 'piss off a lot of people'.

The controversial CEO, 35, made the claim during a fiery appearance at the Silicon Slopes Tech Summit in Utah on Friday.

Zuckerberg told the audience that Facebook had previously tried to resist moves that would be branded as 'too offensive' - but says he now believes he is being asked to partake in 'excessive censorship'. "Increasingly we're getting called to censor a lot of different kinds of content that makes me really uncomfortable," he claimed.

"We're going to take down the content that's really harmful, but the line needs to be held at some point". The Facebook founder went on to bemoan: "It kind of feels like the list of things that you're not allowed to say socially keeps on growing, and I'm not really okay with that". He then declared: "This is the new approach [free expression], and I think it's going to p**s off a lot of people. But frankly the old approach was p**sing off a lot of people too, so let's try something different".

KSL 5 TV shared the entirety of Zuckerberg's speech on its own

Facebook page.

Results

Zuckerberg has been in the hot seat in recent months for refusing to ban political ads from Facebook - despite the fact fellow social media giant Twitter declared that they would stop sharing political advertisements. The tech guru has also stated that Facebook will not fact-check political ads, resulting in a highly publicised showdown on Capitol Hill with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Meanwhile, Zuckerberg's defiant appearance at the Utah tech summit came after Facebook disappointed Wall Street's expectations of fourth quarter growth earlier this week. The results, revealed last Wednesday, raised concerns that Facebook's days of astronomical growth were firmly in the rearview mirror, and shares of the world's biggest social network dropped 7.2 per cent in extended trading.

Facebook reported its slowest-ever revenue growth for the fourth quarter, at 25 per cent. Elsewhere on Wednesday, the company pledged better protections for Facebook users after the social media giant agreed to pay a \$550 million settlement Wednesday over a lawsuit that claimed it illegally collected millions of users' biometric data without their consent.

We won't take your rules - PM to tell Brussels

LONDON - Boris Johnson is to say he won't accept alignment with EU rules when Britain negotiates a trade deal with Brussels.

The prime minister will use a speech today to toughen his stance ahead of trade talks following the UK's formal withdrawal from the bloc.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier will also set out his approach to the talks, which are due to start next month.

It comes as European leaders expressed sadness at the UK's official departure from the EU on Friday.

In what is being described as a comprehensive speech, Johnson will tell the European Union he is prepared to

accept customs checks at Britain's borders if he cannot secure the sort of trade deal he wants.

One option the PM could support would be a Canada-style free-trade deal which allows tariff-free trade for the majority of goods, but not include the UK's dominant service industry.

Reports in recent days have suggested EU chiefs want the UK to continue to follow Brussels-made rules on standards and state subsidies - while accepting the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in any trade disputes.

The government is understood to be angry about perceived attempts by Brussels to go back on an agreement

struck in October as part of the Withdrawal Agreement, the Sunday Telegraph first reported.

The PM is expected to tell the EU in the speech that he will accept no alignment, no jurisdiction of the European courts, and no concessions to any Brussels' demands when talks start in March.

He is also preparing to rule out relaxing rules on workers' rights, food hygiene standards and environmental protections.

The government also wants to make progress in striking free trade agreements with countries such as the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Daily Mail



I PROMISE: Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

BRIEFS

First Wuhan coronavirus death confirmed outside mainland China

HONG KONG - A man in the Philippines has died from the Wuhan coronavirus - the first time a death has been reported outside mainland China since the outbreak began in December. Philippines health officials announced Sunday that a 44-year-old Chinese man had died the day before from coronavirus after flying into the country from Wuhan, the Chinese city of 11 million at the center of the outbreak. There are more than 14 300 confirmed cases around the world, and 305 people have died. All but one of the deaths have been in mainland China. CNN

Abbas cuts all ties with Israel

GAZA - Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas has cut all ties with Israel and the US following Donald Trump's long-awaited Middle East peace 'vision'. Abbas said the plan was in 'violation of the (autonomy) accords' launched in Oslo in 1993 by Israel and the Palestinians. Trump's 'two-state solution' involves a tunnel linking the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. While it more than doubles the territory currently under Palestinian control, it also recognises Israeli sovereignty over major settlement blocs in the West Bank. Abbas said Israel will have to 'bear responsibility as an occupying power' for the Palestinian territories at an emergency Arab League meeting in Cairo.

Three countries say they will refuse UK extradition

BRUSSELS - European fugitives could seek to escape justice by fleeing to their home countries after Brexit, it has emerged. Austria, Germany, and Slovenia confirmed they would not extradite their nationals to the UK during the 11-month transition period which starts tomorrow. All three countries are forbidden by their own constitutions to extradite their own citizens to non-EU countries, which the UK will become on Thursday, and each country would likely have to change its constitution in order to close the potential loophole. Business Insider

US can supply Belarus

MINSK - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States is willing and able to provide Belarus with 100 per cent of its oil and gas, taking a slap at Russia which recently cut off supplies. Pompeo is the first secretary of state to visit Belarus in 26 years and arrived in Minsk amid new tensions between Minsk and Moscow over energy. In a meeting with authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, Pompeo said he hoped to help provide an opportunity for Belarus to achieve the 'sovereignty' and 'independence' it seeks. "The United States wants to help Belarus build its own sovereign country," Pompeo said.

ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

● REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

POET BONGIWE
PACKS THE
JAZZ GALLERY

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SEASONED poet Bongiwe Dlamini gave a stellar performance during her solo show held on Friday at The Jazz Gallery.

The event also marked the first show at The Jazz Gallery in 2020.

When taking to stage, the poet, who is also an afro soul singer, thrilled the crowd with her set that was fused with a bit of jazz sound.

She had her fans eat from the palm of her hands.

Revellers came in numbers.

The Jazz Gallery was packed

such that there was no seats for those who came after the show had started.

Starting off the night, Bongiwe sang a highly chilled song and set the mood for the rest of the evening. Her vocals were perfectly the same tone throughout the show and she made sure she communicated with the crowd more often. Most people said Bongiwe was a great act to open The Jazz Gallery for the New Year.

The crowd asked for an encore as she was leaving the stage and she delivered. Bongiwe said the turnout was beyond her expectations. "I am so grateful and humbled. I thank the Into Music Society



WATCHING: The audience enjoying Bongiwe's set last Friday at The Jazz Gallery. (inset) Thobile Makhoyane also had something to share on the day.



and The Jazz Gallery for a beautiful platform. This decade is for me, a new chapter. And to begin it like this, sets my intention to permit myself to soar, to stop being apologetic about my existence and allow myself full liberty of expression," she said.

"The show was a beautiful step in

that direction I intend taking. I am grateful to the people who were part of that experience with me. It was also a celebration of my people; my grandparents and parents. It was me being conscious of where I'm from, where I am and where I'm going," Bongiwe added. Siphesihle Qwabe said she had missed The Jazz Gallery shows. "Bongiwe was amazing with her being the official act for opening The Jazz Gallery. It means good shows are coming our way," said Qwabe.

Another reveller said The Jazz Gallery always provides the best entertainment and they

were proud of it.

"What a perfect night, she was amazing, a soulful performer and very good one," said Zama Tsabedze. Nelisa Lawton said the show was a brilliant way to start the New Year by The Jazz Gallery.

"It has taken us months to convince Bongiwe to stage her very first show by herself since she has only done collaborations previously.

"The attendance was phenomenal; people had to be turned away. We thank our patrons and the many people who shared our posts and posters," Lawton stated.

Belinda officially Bella Vista PRO

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

BELINDA 'Bella' Chester hosted her first event as the PRO of the new intimate hangout spot Bella Vista.

Held on Saturday night at Bella Vista in Ngwane Park, the cocktail party attracted an intimate mature crowd.

A young man by the of Samkelo Magongo, whose stage name is Sam Tone, serenaded the crowd with covers of popular amapiano songs such 'Vula vala' and songs by Samthing Soweto.

The young man said he was grateful for platforms provided by Chester, adding he believed that the industry was open for all young people and they just need to put themselves out there more.

"It's not really about making



SUPPORT: Oxygen, Zoe and Aliah were out to support their friend Belinda during her cocktail party held at Bella Vista on Saturday.



MUSIC: Sam Tone serenades the crowd with his covers.

money and getting gigs but it is about putting yourself out there and the rest will follow," he said.

Chester said the cocktail night was an effort to make people aware of the hangout spot.

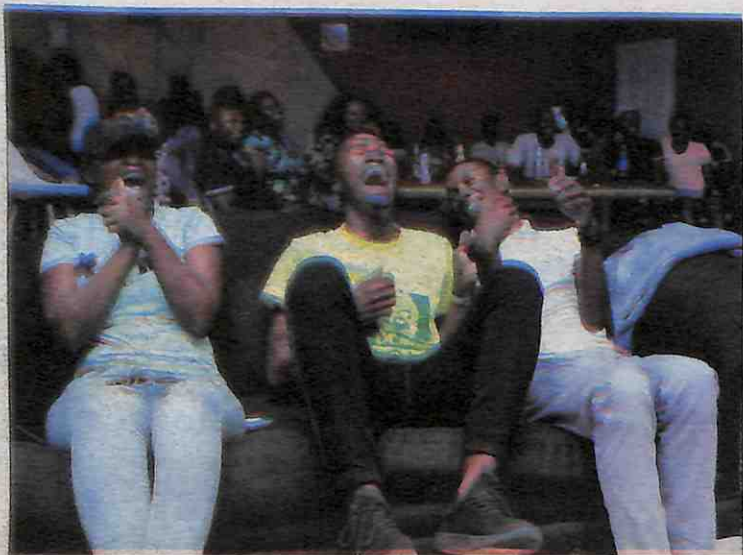
"The event was meant for a certain crowd as the place is quite pricey, so

it is meant for the working class," she said.

"I was really concerned about the fact that a lot of people would show up and fortunately enough the crowd was just right for the space available here," she added.

She said in the future she was look-

ing at hosting musicians that were well known but for now she wants to focus on providing a platform for artists that were still finding their way in the industry. The events saw performances by Denzel and MistoSoul during the day while Dr Kwani played for the crowd during the night.

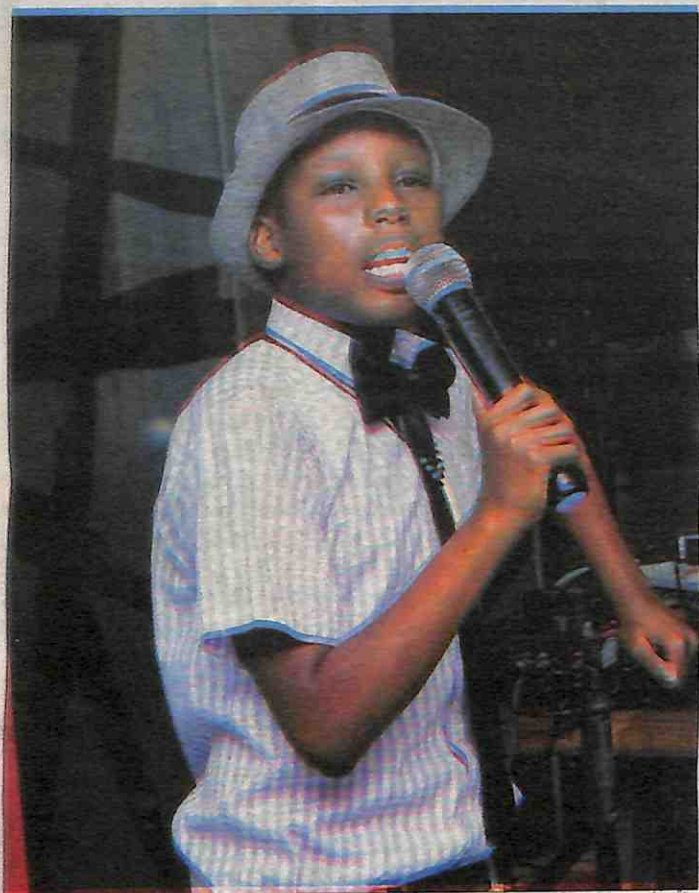


FUNNY: Mdura and friends laughing at Debo's jokes during the Comedy on a School Day show held at Chi lounge. (Pics: Lucky B Photography)



CROWD: Mdura entertaining the crowd.

LAUGHTER, FUN, FOOD AT



MOST LOVED: Debo was the most loved comedian on the night.

STORIES BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

COMEDIANS gave their best at the 'Comedy on a School Day.'

Held at Chi Executive Lounge, the comedy show was well attended as revellers came in their numbers.

Sharing jokes with the audience were comedians Ndosh, Mdura, Sphelele Ngwenya, Thembelani, Debo, Sbu and Elfoe.

In one of his jokes, Mdura stated that there was a big difference between a white family funeral and that of African people.

He said the difference was how the white people would prepare themselves well for the funeral while blacks do not.

The most loved comedian was Debo, who stated that to get rid of security guards one has to speak English.

In an interview with Mdura, he stated that initially the idea behind hosting such an event was to solicit funds to buy sanitary pads and socks for less privileged pupils.

He expressed his gratitude to those who came through to support the show. "I am happy with the turn out. We



ENJOYING: Comedian Mandy and friends in stitches.

had to get extra seats as more people attended. To have a show packed with- out hosting any intentional acts shows

that comedy is growing and that Emaswati are now appreciating local talent," he said.



RUSHING TO WORK: Thembelani also had a few jokes to share before rushing to work.



HAHAHA: Comedian Sbu and Sibusiso sharing a light moment.



DR SHAKES: Dr Shakes amusing the crowd with his jokes.



LOL: Comedy lovers laughing their lungs out.



IN STITCHIES: The crowd rolling in the aisle during Ndosh's performance.

'COMEDY ON A SCHOOL DAY'

New female comedian introduced

FIRST time comedian Siphelele Ngwenya comes out of shell.

Performing for about 50 comedy lovers, the young comedian had everyone intrigued.

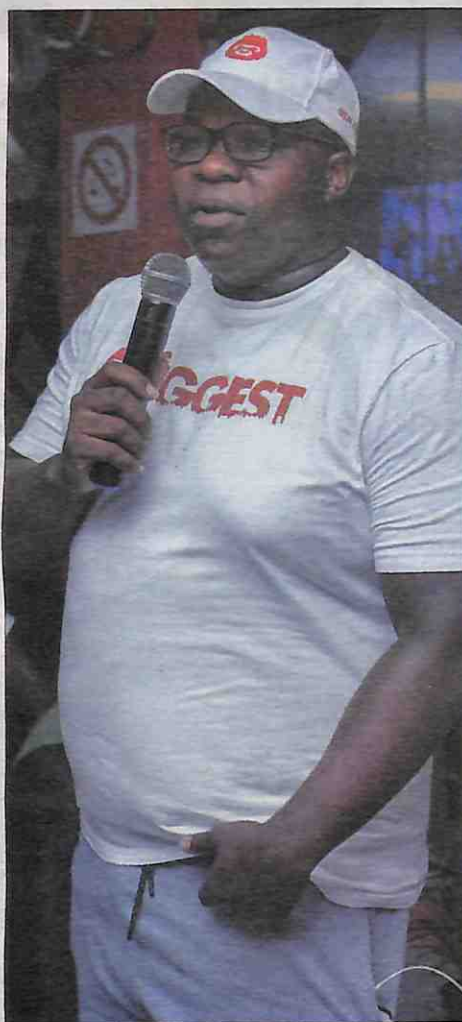
Early nerves got the better of the comedian, but she slowly picked up as she introduced some of her jokes. Minor interruptions in between her set didn't dampen her spirit. Ngwenya's performance was well received by fellow comedians who commended her for joining a field that is mostly dominated by males. Sbu the comedian was the first to congratulate her, while making fun of her performance. "She is really beautiful. For the longest time we've been looking for beautiful comedians to join us in showcasing our talents. There were a lot of blue ticks from the crowd, but we will explain later," he said.

She also expressed her feelings and difficulties on her debut performance. "What I learnt today is, one needs to study the crowd and find suitable jokes. What I find funny is not always



NEW: Siphelele Ngwenya could not disappoint in her debut performance.

the case to those watching, so I need to work on my stage presence but I strongly believe that with time I will get better," she said.



ELFOE: Comedian Elfoe sharing his jokes with the crowd.



LADIES: Friends having a good time.



SCHOOL BOY: Ndosh asking for numbers from a lady from the audience.

SIBEBE RESORT PRESENTS

QUESTION COMPETITION

Name one South African Artist performing & the newly formed Duo performing at Sibebe Resort Funday and Stand a chance to WIN one ticket to the event:

Name:.....

Contact:.....

PLEASE DROP YOUR ENTRIES AT OBSERVER MBABANE ▲ MANZINI
MOLLYS MBABANE ▲ MANZINI OR SIBEBE RESORT





Celebville

International Celebrity News

BONANG TWINS WITH HER NEWEST BOTTLE OF BUBBLY

CAPE TOWN - Celeb Bonang Matheba popped the cork on her bubbly brand the House of BNG's latest creation at the Sun Met on Saturday.

Queen B arrived at the Kenilworth Racecourse in Cape Town flanked by a pair of white-gloved butlers carrying boxes emblazoned with the House of BNG logo. She later revealed that they contained some of the first bottles of her new Prestige Reserve Brut Méthode Cap Classique (MCC). Eagle-eyed fashionistas will have noticed the similarity between Matheba's outfit — a glamorous nude gown overlaid with a

lattice of diamanté — and the design of her new bubbly's bottle, which is covered with a lace-like gold hexagon print.

The Prestige Reserve Brut is the third addition to the House of BNG range, which launched last year with the introduction of a Brut and Brut Rosé MCC. Why are they called MCCs and not champagnes? To be called champagne, a bubbly must be produced in the Champagne region of France. MCC is the local equivalent. IOL reports that the Prestige Reserve Brut will be on sale in select Woolworths stores from mid-March. *Sowetan Live*



'I found the love of my life again'

CAPE TOWN - Businesswoman and actress Enhle Mbali is steadily recovering after her divorce from Black Coffee.

Enhle confirmed the couple's split late last year, saying she "had to explain the unexplainable" to her children.

While she's approaching life as a single woman, Enhle took to Instagram to share a video of how she is doing at the moment.

She stated that she was learning to love herself again and be the love of her own life.

In an appreciation post to herself, Enhle said: "I found the love of my life again! Me ... walked off set today feeling my cup is full ... God is doing something in me!"

Enhle found herself on the Twitter trends list over the festive season after tweeps weighed in on the split.

The discussion started after an interview her ex-husband did with City Press, in which he said the couple had "tried everything, such as seeing a therapist and a life coach, but nothing worked".

Enhle stressed she would continue not to say anything about the situation, and asked for silence to protect her children.

Sowetan Live

TREVOR NOAH WEIGHS IN ON 'EXTREMELY EFFICIENT' CORONAVIRUS

CAPE TOWN - SA comedian Trevor Noah has expressed his thoughts about the deadly coronavirus outbreak across the world, joking that it not dare come to Africa.

Chinese officials reported the coronavirus outbreak earlier this month after it was discovered in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. The virus has since spread to cities and countries across the world, including Australia and France.

The SA department of health released a statement this week calling on South Africans not to panic, and said preventive measures were being put in place.

Amid fears of it spreading to SA, Trevor poked a little fun at the situation.

Speaking on 'The Daily Show' this week, Trevor said the virus was "extremely efficient," like the

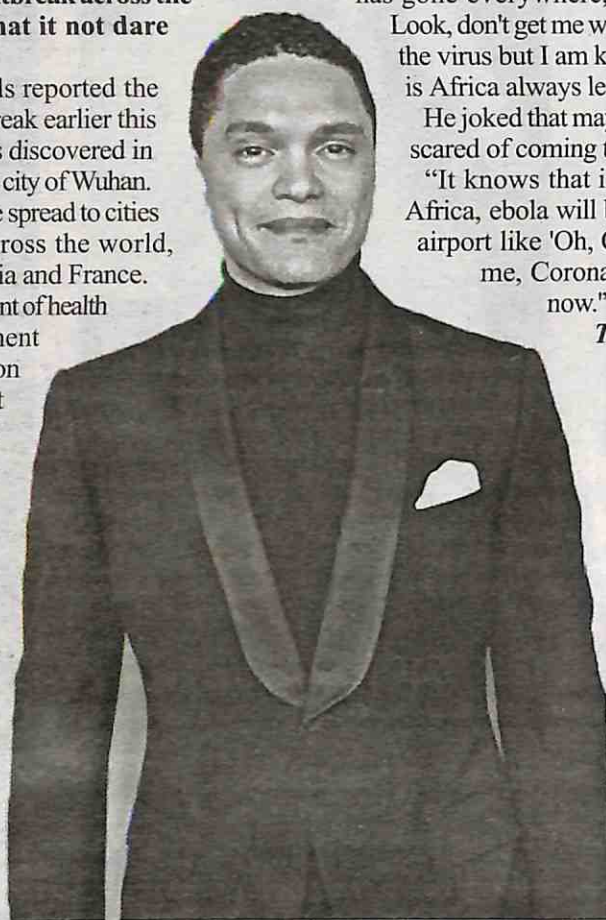
Chinese, but wouldn't be coming to Africa.

"Am I the only one who noticed the virus has gone everywhere, except Africa? Look, don't get me wrong, I don't want the virus but I am kind of hurt. Why is Africa always left out?"

He joked that maybe the virus was scared of coming to the continent.

"It knows that if it shows up in Africa, ebola will be waiting at the airport like 'Oh, Corona! Look at me, Corona. I am the virus now.'"

Times Live



JUST THINKING:
Trevor Noah.

Sbahle Mpisane gives fat shamers the middle finger

DURBAN - Sbahle Mpisane will not give fat-shaming trolls the opportunity to get her down and has chosen to rise above the nasty comments instead.

The fitness guru and TV star has been on the long road to recovery after being involved in a car crash that nearly claimed her life in 2018. Therefore, Sbahle has not been able to exercise in the manner she used to.

Taking to Instagram, Sbahle penned her resolution to embrace every part of her body as well as

each stage of life she finds herself in as she continues to move forward.

She took the opportunity to caution her followers against being "stuck" on a version of themselves from the past, thinking it was the "best" they'll ever be.

"Sometimes we focus on becoming who we were in the past before any trauma occurred and stay stuck in trying to be who we once were thinking that was the best version of ourselves.

That person doesn't exist any

more, there's a new you trying to be born," she said.

The fitness bunny also swiftly dealt with a follower who commented on one of her Insta snaps by saying she needs to hurry up and "shed the weight she gained".

Sbahle made it a point to advise her loyal fans to never let other people convince them that one particular version of themselves is all that is acceptable.

She told them she has chosen to breathe life into who she is constantly becoming.

"I breathe life into that person. Don't stay stuck in the past!

Take whatever you're going through, what happened and allow it to empower you and grow.

Growth never stops when you are destined for more and to become a better version of yourself than anything left behind.

Focus on yourself.

"Even if it takes time to heal always move forward.

The future you is waiting to be born and you have the power inside you to become the best version of yourself."

Sowetan Live

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



WATCH Olivia on Isidingo.



Ntwenhle stands up to Qondi, she has had enough of being told what to do. Mpiyakhe surprises Phumelele, in a good way.



Olivia opens up to Lungi about a heavy secret. The shebeen starts falling apart without Cebisa. Lalage and Marius discuss relationships over a bottle of champagne.



Mulalo destroys the evidence that might get him back to the top. Matshidiso persuades Dr Molefe to keep his eyes on the prize. Warona comes across a very disturbing file, what's inside?



Mpho is caught with his pants down... literally! Fikile realises she'll have to up her game in order to keep her man. Zitha's lies have caught up with her.



Jerry's barely holding it together after making a disturbing discovery about Amo. Sonnyboy throws a wrench in Goodness' plans.



Nkunzi uses emotional blackmail to try and neutralise the enemy, Khehla shocks Gabisile with his declaration, and Sbu realises Fikile blames him.



Quinton discovers concealed information and sparks look set to fly.

Gents, Women don't want chocolates ka Valentine's Day.
Women want thuthawzen fafandred..



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Are you suddenly falling for an old friend, Capricorn? This may have you confused and a little frightened since you've never viewed this person in this way before. However, this person probably does reciprocate the attraction, so don't completely write it off. Consider this: could this person be a strong part of your future? How well do you know each other?

**Aquarius January 20 – February 18**

Are you in love, Aquarius? You might find that thoughts of your beloved haunt you today, even while you're apart. Desire and passion could be practically obsessive, and they'll interfere with your other projects if you aren't careful. Try to stay focused on the tasks at hand and make a date to get together with your partner later.

**Pisces February 19 – March 20**

Are you in love, Aquarius? You might find that thoughts of your beloved haunt you today, even while you're apart. Desire and passion could be practically obsessive, and they'll interfere with your other projects if you aren't careful. Try to stay focused on the tasks at hand and make a date to get together with your partner later. After all, you want to keep all departments of your life in their proper perspective!

**Aries March 21 – April 19**

Are you worried about the psychological and emotional state of a friend, Aries? Don't get yourself too worked up over it. Your friend is probably more troubled about money than anything else. If this is your love partner, you should be especially careful not to push for confidences, as this could be a turn-off. Your beloved will talk to you when the time is right. In the meantime, be patient and a good listener.

**Taurus April 20 – May 20**

Your current love interest could be experiencing some family problems, Taurus. Therefore, don't expect too much scintillating conversation this evening. Your partner may seem preoccupied and not be in the best of moods. Rest assured that this has nothing to do with you. Don't let your insecurities get the best of you.

**Gemini May 21 – June 21**

Today is a great day for transformation, Gemini, and your actions have deeper than usual inner meaning. Be careful where you aim your arrow, because the tip of it has extra sting today. People might be rubbing you the wrong way, making you feel like you're a pot of water on a hot plate.

**Cancer June 22 – July 22**

Are you into abstract art forms, Cancer? Today you could find yourself irresistibly drawn to them, whether blank verse, abstract painting, or New Age music. If you're into the arts yourself, you might want to try your hand at whatever discipline appeals to you the most. If you aren't, attend a concert, stroll through an art gallery, or go to a poetry reading. Whatever you do, enjoy your day!

**Leo July 23 – August 22**

Is someone you know having a birthday, Gemini? If so, beware of all the great food that will undoubtedly be brought to the party! If you're trying to improve your level of health and fitness, you'll be sorely tempted to depart from the program. Be as firm as you can, but remember that we all need a little indulgence occasionally. Chocolate cake and ice cream might not be on your diet, but think of them as emotional health food. Enjoy a little bit!

**Virgo August 23 – September 22**

Emotions run high today as a love partner calls on you to discuss some troubles, Virgo. These don't directly concern you, but you'd still like to see them straightened out, as you tend to feel helpless when someone you care for is upset. At times like this, it's really best to listen rather than try to give advice. Your partner probably just needs to talk it out. Be patient and all will be well.

**Libra September 23 – October**

A close friend or your love partner may present you with a gift, Libra. You'll be touched but you'll also feel uncomfortable. Maybe the present is costly or not something you really like. You might also feel that your friend is too eager. What you do in this situation is, of course, up to you.

**Scorpio October 24 – November 21**

Love matters may seem to be far worse than they really are, Scorpio. Emotion runs high as your current love interest seems preoccupied and uncommunicative; however, it wouldn't be a good idea to let your insecurities get the best of you and lash out. Your partner's heart is with you, though the mind is another matter.

**Sagittarius November 22 – December 21**

Is your imagination brimming over with ideas for new projects, Sagittarius? Are you drawing upon old memories for inspiration? Your past can be a very fruitful resource; however, today you may find that some of these recollections make you feel more emotional than you should. Let them all go.



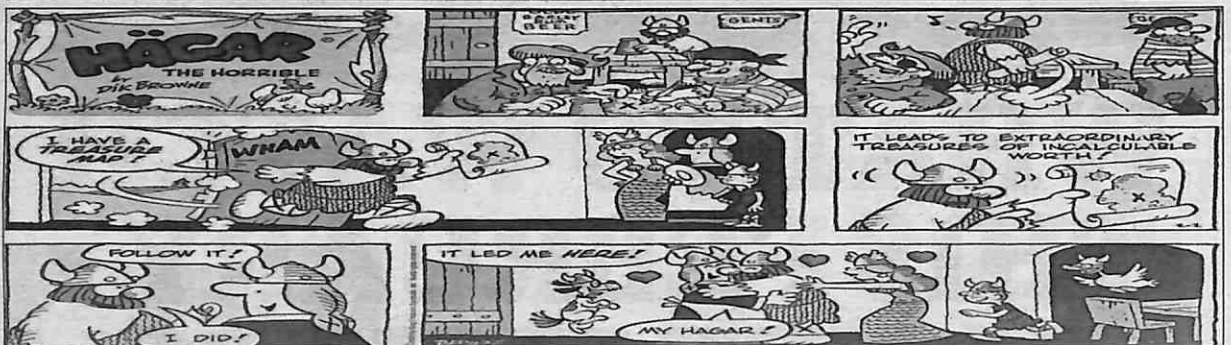
BABY BLUES



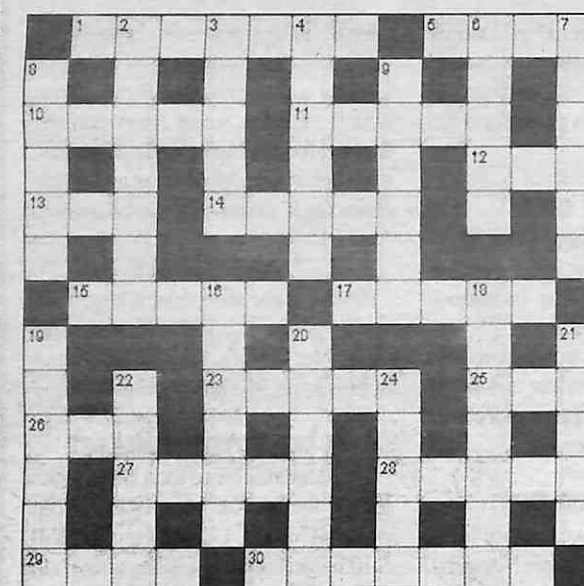
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CRYPTIC 44



Down
2. Shorten, sounds like a crossing (7)
3. Okay a kind of canoe, essentially (5)
4. Erratic earner got closer (6)
6. Carbon estimate revealed skeleton (5)
7. Converted stable into items of furniture (6)
8. Sells predatory birds door to door (5)
9. Good in France uttered tailless life-form (6)
16. Re-order marine to stay behind (6)
18. Irrational mob rage creates trade barrier (7)
19. Unstable meteor becomes distant (6)
20. Mythical creature can be unnecessarily long (6)
21. Discovered grownup in Trinidad ultimately (5)
22. Finally, without end product, a reference book (5)
24. Repeatedly goes on about strangled instruments (5)

Across

1. Keeping money in urban kingdom (7)
5. Assist in making a wager, perhaps (4)

10. Impressive display, sounds like a beam (5)
11. Something hard under foot? (5)
12. Feeling revealed something fishy (3)
13. Young animal sounds good for a laugh (3)
14. Retains main castle towers (5)
15. Some whiskers can be arduous (5)
17. Conceals eighth letter, dangerous time for Julius (5)
23. Apt time of year for a procession (5)
25. Place to sleep in superb Edinburgh (3)
26. Encountered some geometry (3)
27. Prone to prevarication? (5)
28. Some guru rallied for countryside (5)
29. Area still reveals direction (4)
30. Discover band soon, etcetera (3,2,2)

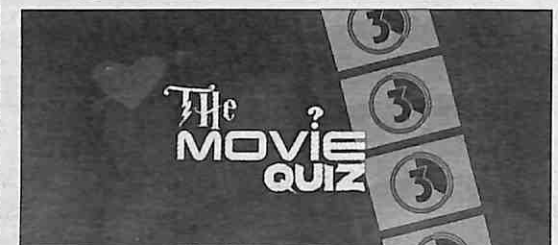


LOVE AND DEATH

Woman: Do you love me? me?
Man: Yes, dear. Man: No... mine is an undy-
Woman: Would you die for ing love.

DID YOU KNOW

1. Scientists also speculate that there may be many smaller-sized dinosaurs that we know nothing about because their bones were too small to fossilize well.
2. Sea lions can dance to a beat.
3. 1963 Ferrari GTO for \$70 million is supposedly the highest price ever paid for a car.
4. A little dash of nutmeg in a pumpkin pie or on your egg nog can give it some extra flavor and a lovely spicy scent

MOVIE QUIZ
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRIDAY'S QUIZ

1. Which British action actor played the part of Lee Christmas alongside Sylvester Stallone in the film *The Expendables*?
Answer: A. Jason Statham

TODAY'S MOVIE QUIZ

1. Which American actor starred alongside Kim Basinger in the film *9½ Weeks*?
Answers: A. Mike Johnson
B. Mickey Rourke



WHAT TO WATCH THIS FEBRUARY - M-NET MOVIES

OUR movie musts this February.

An amnesiac cyborg, a drug courier, a wedding, and a wrestling family form the focus of your Sunday night movies this February on M-Net channel 101. Watch trailers and get more details here.

AWARDS SEASON

The Irishman, 1917, and Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood have all been nominated for 10 Academy Awards this year. Joker leads the pack with 11 nominations.

Its star, Joaquin Phoenix, is a hot contender for the Best Actor nod, with many anticipating a Best Supporting Actor win for Brad Pitt for Quentin Tarantino's Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood.

Whatever your predictions and hopes, make sure you watch the ceremony live on February 10, at 03:00 on M-

Net Movies Premiere. If you don't see yourself up at those wee hours, watch it in prime time at 21:00 on M-Net, or check out this page for a list of winners.

KNUCKLE CITY

On the local front, there's this highly anticipated boxing movie set in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape. Its nationwide release is on February 28, but we're giving viewers a chance to win tickets to a sneak preview at M-Net Movies Night Out. Enter here and you could be a winner.

POPPIE NONGENA

You can support even more local movies, by watching Poppie Nongena. Based on the acclaimed novel by Elsa Joubert and directed by Christiaan Olwagen, it's a beautiful but emo-

tionally harrowing tale about keeping family together against all odds. Led by a powerhouse female cast which includes Anna-Mart van der Merwe, Nomsa Nene, Rolanda Marais, and Clementine Mosimane as the title character, it's a movie not to be missed.

MOVIE FESTS

If you want to spend a night in, we've got you sorted with vampires on M-Net Movies All Stars and Leon Schuster on M-Net Movies Zone.

M-NET MOVIES BLACKOUT

There are still more than two weeks left on the M-Net Movies Blackout pop-up channel. Eddie Murphy, Will Smith, Idris Elba and many more tall, dark, and talented men will keep you entertained on DSTV channel 109 until the 16th.

Top 5 Robert Rodriguez Movies on M-net

M-Net Movies looks at five of Robert Rodriguez's best movies.

An incredible cast that includes Christoph Waltz, Jennifer Connelly and Mahershala Ali is brought together in your Sunday night movie, Alita: Battle Angel. Steering this stellar cast, as well as his leading lady Rosa Salazar as amnesiac cyborg Alita, is cult director Robert Rodriguez.

Since he exploded onto the movie-making scene in the early '90s with El Mariachi, he has brought us round after round of action entertainment, always told with a stylish dash of something different and daring – whether zombies, noir or gun-toting guitarists.

DESPERADO (1995)

One of Rodriguez's go-to-guys has long been Antonio Banderas. The 1995 action hit Desperado was their first collaboration. A sequel to El Mariachi (and the second part of Rodriguez's Mexico trilogy), it casts Banderas in the role of the gun-toting mariachi with a vengeful mission on his mind. It helped launch Salma Hayek's Hollywood career, did much the same for Banderas's already burgeoning career stateside, and entrenched the bromance of Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino, with the latter popping up in the movie as 'Pick-up Guy'.

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN (1996)

Tarantino took on a bigger role, as one half of the Gecko brothers, in Rodriguez's vampiric splatter fest. Cast as the other half of the criminal duo of brothers, was George Clooney. From Dusk Till Dawn ushered in young Clooney's movie career after Rodriguez took a leap of faith in casting an actor mostly known for his stint on ER. Eighteen years later, Rodriguez adapted the movie into a television series that ran for three seasons.

SPY KIDS (2001) AND MACHETE (2010)

Ok, so we're including two movies in this entry (technically six if you include all the sequels), but that's because they're closely linked. Not

one to balk at delivering blood-soaked action, Rodriguez nevertheless took a different tack in 2001 when he made the much more family-friendly Spy Kids. He's got children after all, so maybe we wanted to make something they could watch too. In typical Rodriguez fashion, he directed, edited, and composed the music for his film. He also wrote the screenplay, creating the character of Machete, played by another of his go-to guys, Danny Trejo. The character, always played by Trejo, would go on to appear in all four Spy Kids movies, Planet Terror, and eventually even received a franchise of his own, which includes Machete, Machete Kills, as well as the possibility of (and we really hope it happens) Machete Kills in Space.

SIN CITY (2005)

Before the adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel 300 exploded onto our screens with blood, glory, and cries of 'This is Sparta!', Rodriguez and Miller adapted and directed the latter's graphic novel, Sin City. Tarantino got involved as guest director and together the trio delivered a stylish and gritty noir thriller, populated by an irresistible cast that included Jessica Alba, Benicio del Toro, Brittany Murphy, Clive Owen, Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis and Alexis Bledel – and featured downright creepy turns from Elijah Wood and Nick Stahl. Nine years later a sequel was released, but didn't live up to the hardboiled brilliance of the first film.

PLANET TERROR (2007)

Teaming up again, best buds Rodriguez and Tarantino released their Grindhouse double feature as a nod to '70s exploitation cinema. Tarantino's feature was the stunt-car starring Death Proof, and Rodriguez's was a zombie gore-fest called Planet Terror. Featuring some of the grossest zombies ever, a Josh Brolin even more maniacal and terrifying than Thanos, and an absolutely kick-ass Rose McGowan, it makes for a terrifyingly good time – just make sure you have a strong stomach.

MEET Rikki.

On Thursday at 19:00, M-Net viewers will see how South Africa's man of the moment, handsome Marc Buckner, meets the 22 ladies who will be vying for his heart in Season 2 of The Bachelor SA.

One of these phenomenal women is Rikki Brest (34) from Johannesburg, whose spectacular red-carpet entrance – a secret at this point – will rev up the romance!

You'll be instantly mesmerised by Rikki's piercing blue eyes, long raven-black hair and enchanting smile. Equally head-spinning is her list of accomplishments and impressive CV. Who can say they have co-presented a show with the legendary Top Gear team;

played many prestigious DJ gigs alongside DJ Zinhle, Euphonik, Gareth Cliff, and Ricardo da Costa; drummed up a storm in popular South African bands; had her own radio show; and crafted a successful career as a marketing expert and lecturer?

Rhythm is an essential part of Rikki's DNA. Who else would take drumming as a school subject? She maintained distinctions throughout her studies. After school, she developed her talent further by majoring in drums at the Campus for Performing Arts, where she also taught Stage Craft. Enterprising



Rikki then co-founded Chix with Stix, an all-girl percussion trio that performed in the industry for nine years. And yes, she was that bundle of energy who rocked the drum set in the popular band Evolver and many others.

Rikki's performing career soon branched out to other fields. You've seen her in numerous music videos and commercials; she was picked as one of the three lead cast members in an international TV series; played the lead role in SA-

made movie Eternity, and has appeared in several South African soaps, including Isidingo, 7de Laan, and Generations.

Seasons

To top it off, this driven busy bee is an enthusiastic petrolhead: she knows her cars – the faster the better – and shone in seven seasons of the motor-ing show Petrolheads (Ignition TV on DSTV), several programmes on SuperSport, a radio slot, and the most enviable of them all, pit lane reporter and track presenter of the Top Gear festival in Durban.

Doing all of this requires a stringent work ethic.

Beautiful busy bee Rikki Brest is on The Bachelor SA

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Classified Section

Evolving door to open for Tom Banton

CAPE TOWN - England are contemplating dishing out a couple of debuts for their first one-day international as world champions tomorrow.

One of the major objectives for the team hierarchy at the start of a new World Cup cycle that concludes with the tournament in India in 2023 is to

expand the pool of players for ODIs and allow their senior limited-overs players to focus on Twenty20 cricket, with two World Cups in that format scheduled over the next 20 months.

It means consideration is being given to playing Tom Banton and Matt Parkinson, two of those blooded in the 3-2 T20 win in New Zealand

last autumn, for the first couple of matches of the three-game series against South Africa that begins with a day-nighter in Cape Town tomorrow.

The presence of Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow at the top of the order, allied to the fact that middle-order duo Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler

are missing, would mean Somerset's Banton — whose hitting as an opening batsman at the Big Bash League this winter has earned a new two-year contract with Brisbane Heat — slotting into an unfamiliar role at No. 6.

But there is a school of thought that asking one of the country's most gifted ball-strikers to operate outside his comfort zone would be good for his development.

Equally, Lancashire leg-spinner Parkinson could be challenged to take

the one spin berth ahead of Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali.

On Saturday, the 23-year-old responded to the pressure of bowling in a manufactured scenario against a Cricket South Africa Invitational XI by taking three wickets in five balls. It was not enough to stop the hosts cantering to their target of 85 in 10 overs after Eoin Morgan requested to halt a notional chase of 347 to manufacture some pressure.

Daily Mail



BAVARIANS RECORD SIXTH WIN, GO TOP

MUNICH - Bayern Munich scored three goals in the opening 26 minutes to defeat Mainz 05 3-1 away on Saturday and go two points clear at the top of the Bundesliga with their sixth straight win.

Top scorer Robert Lewandowski headed in his 22nd league goal in the eighth minute and Thomas Mueller and Thiago Alcantara added two more to lift the Bavarians to 42 points, two ahead of RB Leipzig who faced Borussia Moenchengladbach later.

Bayern's fast start was enough to kill off the game and Mainz, who cut the deficit on the stroke of half-time through Jeremiah St Juste, rarely threatened although Leandro Barreiro hit the post.

It was the home side who had the first chance of the game. St Juste's header from a corner was just wide of the target and were made to pay moments later when Lewandowski thumped a header home to put the title-chasers ahead. Hansi Flick's

side did not rest on their laurels after taking the lead as they continued to pile pressure on the Bundesliga strugglers and were rewarded when Muller assuredly finished after 14 minutes.

After Thiago delightfully scored Bayern's third it look like it could be a miserable afternoon for Mainz but that proved to be the last for the German giants and it was the home side who managed to pull one back.

St Juste's header deflected off Leon Goretzka into the back of Manuel

Neuer's net just before half time to stem the flow of Bayern's momentum and give Mainz an ever so slim glimpse of hope.

It was a far from comfortable second half for Bayern as they held off a valiant display from the home side but some excellent defending ensured any hopes of a comeback were prevented.

Sports Mail

Brit Joe Salisbury wins men's doubles title

MELBOURNE - Joe Salisbury's meteoric rise continued yesterday when he and American partner Rajeev Ram convincingly won the Australian Open doubles title.

The 27 year-old from Putney will now rise to a world ranking of No. 4 after they comfortably dismissed unseeded Australians Luke Saville and Max Purcell 6-4 6-2 in just 70 minutes to win the final.

Rarely can the Anglo-American pair have played better together, and they were superior in every department playing on Rod Laver Arena as the undercard to the men's singles final.

If anything, the scoreline could have been more convincing as they created 12 break points.

They took only three of them, but that was ample as they handled the occasion much better. Salisbury and Ram will share £410,000 for winning the title, barely 18 months after the former emerged from obscurity to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals.

If this form continues it is conceivable that he might soon be challenging for the world No. 1 spot in doubles. "We came together as a team a year ago and didn't expect to be here now," said Salisbury after being presented with the trophy by Australian legend Tony Roche.

He becomes only the fourth British male in the post 1968 Open era to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title, the others being Roger

Taylor, Jamie Murray and Jonny Marray.

The Sun

British record-breaking eighth Grand Slam title eludes Murray

MELBOURNE - Members of the Murray family losing an Australian Open final is sadly not unknown, and Jamie Murray suffered the same fate as his brother when it came to the championship match of the mixed doubles.

The 33 year-old Scot and partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands went down 5-7 6-4 7-6 (10-1) to fifth seeds Barbora Krejickova and Nikola Pietrangeli, meaning he will have to wait for another shot at a British record for Grand Slam wins.

Their subsidence in the deciding 'champions' tiebreak meant that Murray was left on seven Major doubles titles, failing to follow up on their victory at the US Open. While Andy has famously lost

five singles final on the Rod Laver Arena, Jamie won the men's doubles title in 2016 with Bruno Soares. That forms part of his portfolio of seven Major trophies, which see him on a par with Virginia Wade. His life will hardly be ruined by the result, for which he picked up £28,000, but it was a disappointment after they appeared in control when coming back to win the first set. He had dropped his serve in the first game of the match, but they took the set when Mattek-Sands ripped a backhand down the line at 6-5 on break point. The deciding tiebreak started badly with a missed volley and, as can happen, went quickly downhill thereafter with Croatian Mektic dominating proceedings. *The Sun*

Folau's signing for Dragons sparks fear

GAZA - Israel Folau's controversial switch to Super League has sparked fears that key sponsors could pull out.

The disgraced former rugby union star, sacked by Rugby Australia for homophobic social media posts, has signed a one-year deal with Catalans Dragons. Several clubs have backed a letter from Wakefield Chairman Michael Carter to

the Dragons warning them of potential legal action if sponsors pull out in protest.

Carter said: "It stated that if there was any backlash to Folau's signing which caused any financial loss then we'd expect Catalans to make up for that." Catalans, who lost 30-12 to Huddersfield without Folau on Saturday, travel to Wakefield next Sunday. *Sunday Mail*

PSG move 13 points clear

PARIS - Paris St Germain demolished nine-man Montpellier 5-0 at the Parc des Princes to open a provisional 13-point lead at the top of the Ligue 1 standings on Saturday.

Pablo Sarabia, Angel Di Maria, Kylian Mbappe, Layvin Kurzawa as well as a Daniel Congre own goal put the French champions on 55 points from 22 games.

Montpellier, who had keeper Dimitri Bertaud sent off after 17 minutes with midfielder Joris Chotard also picking up a red card two minutes from time, are fourth on 33 points.

Second-placed Olympique de Marseille travelled to Girondins de Bordeaux yesterday.

"We made a good start and after they were down to 10 men, it became easier," said Di Maria. Sarabia put the hosts in front in the eighth minute when he curled a fine shot into the top corner. Bertaud was then shown a red card for

handling the ball outside his box.

Di Maria doubled the advantage four minutes before the break with a fine chip after being set up by Sarabia and Congre turned a corner into his own net three minutes later.

Mbappe netted his 36th goal at the Parc des Princes in 34 matches in the 57th minute with a cool finish after being played through by Neymar.

Fullback Kurzawa rubbed salt in Montpellier's wounds in the 65th with a powerful volley from inside the area. With the three points in the bag, coach Thomas Tuchel replaced Mbappe by Mauro Icardi and the France striker did little to hide his frustration.

Substitute Edinson Cavani thought he had netted his 199th PSG goal in a rare appearance this season, but it was ruled out for offside.

Daily Mail





ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'THEY DESERVE TO GET RELEGATED FOR THIS ALONE'

LONDON - Bournemouth fans were widely mocked after wearing protective facemasks in the crowd during the game against Aston Villa amid fears over coronavirus.

Eddie Howe's charges were looking to lift themselves away from trouble at the Vitality Stadium on Saturday afternoon but the threat of relegation wasn't the only danger for some.

Two men wearing club ties were spotted wearing face masks, branded with the club's crest, amid growing fears regarding the coronavirus outbreak.

It was widely suggested on social media that the two men were associated with the club, but at half-time a Bournemouth official told reporters that they were season ticket holders, and not connected with the club.

Bournemouth officials also told reporters that the two men were wearing the masks as a joke.

It comes after the virus, the World Health Organisation has declared as a 'global emergency', arrives in the United Kingdom having broken out from China.

Several fans attending Manchester United's match with Wolves on Saturday evening were also seen wearing masks at Old Trafford.

Since the outbreak in the Wuhan region, there have been around 10 000 confirmed cases and 100 000 cases in which patients have shown symptoms and remain under observation. The death toll has also passed 250



people.

On Friday, two from England were confirmed as the first people in Britain to contract the virus. The pair, who are from the same family, remain under observation.

Following Friday's diagnosis, authorities in the UK have launched a nationwide hunt for anyone who came into contact with Britain's first two patients.

But with the virus posing almost no danger at all on the south coast, plenty taunted those wearing the masks on social media.

Fans took to Twitter to share their

thoughts on the Bournemouth chiefs, with some joking that the club should be relegated.

@CraigMurphy75 said: 'They deserve to be relegated for this alone' while @Gareth_Utd said: "What on earth are they doing".

Meanwhile, comments saying 'embarrassing' and 'state of it' were made on the social media platform.

The Cherries are looking to make it back-to-back wins in the Premier League, having defeated Brighton in the south coast derby last time out.

Sports Mail

Juventus line up astonishing '£150m bid for Virgil van Dijk'

LIVERPOOL - Juventus believe they could land Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk in an incredible £150 million summer transfer raid, according to *The Sun*.

The Serie A giants believe the Dutchman would be open to a new challenge should his side go on to lift the Premier League title this season and are prepared to make Van Dijk the world's most expensive defender once again.

Since moving to Anfield, Van Dijk has helped the club win the Champions League, the Club World Cup and the Super Cup, while they stand on the brink of a first league title in 30 years.

He also skipped Holland to second place in the UEFA Nations League, was Ballon D'Or runner-up to Lionel Messi and was named

PFA Players' Player of the year and Premier League Player of the Year in 2018/19.

A source close to the club told *The Sun*: "After winning a bagful of trophies with Liverpool, Juventus think he may be ready for a new challenge at the end of the season — especially as he's been playing in the UK for a few years."

"And the club are actively planning to make a huge bid for him in the summer."

Van Dijk recently admitted: 'I'm 28 now and I want to fulfil every dream I ever had.'

"Life can be short. Your career can be short as well."

"I'm enjoying playing with this team and this manager. We can't look too far ahead. But right now, I'm enjoying it." *Sunday Mail*



INCREDIBLE: Virgil van Dijk.

Arsenal found suitor for Ozil

LONDON - A Qatari club made an offer for Mesut Ozil on deadline day, but Arsenal blocked the move as they didn't have time to find a replacement, according to *The Mirror*.

Ozil was reportedly willing to listen to offers from the Middle Eastern club, as was Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta, however the club pulled out of the potential deal.

The German is currently taking up a hefty portion of Arsenal's wage bill, so Arteta is thought to be keen to move him on elsewhere.

Now though, they will have to wait until summer or beyond.

MLS club DC United have recently held fresh talks with Ozil's representatives as they eye a 2021 sign-

ing for the playmaker.

He has featured more prominently under Arteta than he did under previous boss Unai Emery, but has not scored all season and only has one assist in the Premier League, and one in the League Cup.

Arsenal had a number of midfield targets on their radar during the January transfer window, but would not have had time to push any through the door if they let Ozil leave on deadline day.

A few on their list went elsewhere rather than north London. Former Dinamo Zagreb player Dani Olmo opted for RB Leipzig, while Atletico Madrid brought Yannick Carrasco in on loan.

The Mirror

'WE HAVE TO TRY AND COMPETE FOR THE TOP'

LONDON - Carlo Ancelotti believes the Europa League is within reach for Everton after they came back from 2-0 down to secure a dramatic 3-2 win at Watford.

Theo Walcott scored a 90th-minute winner to dent Watford's hopes of survival — and move Everton to within three points off fifth-place Sheffield United.

"I think we have to try and compete for the top, to reach the Europa League for next season," Ancelotti said.

"It could be really important. I don't know if we are able to, I think if we

are able to keep this period, this concentration, I think we can reach the Europa League — we have to fight of course but I think we have the possibility to fight."

Adam Masina and Roberto Pereyra put Watford 2-0 up before goals from Yerry Mina (twice) and Walcott secured Everton victory.

"In this moment, things are going well," Ancelotti added.

"We don't have to be too happy or excited but it is an important fact that we were able to win this difficult game." *Daily Mail*



'IF WE DON'T WIN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, I WILL BE A FAILURE'

MANCHESTER - Pep Guardiola claims he will be regarded as a failure at Manchester City if he does not win the Champions League.

Guardiola has won five major trophies since taking charge at the Etihad Stadium in 2016, including two Premier League titles.

As yet, however, they have been unable to transfer their domestic dominance onto the European stage. City have not yet progressed

beyond the quarter-finals under Guardiola, getting knocked out by Monaco, Liverpool and Tottenham in the Spaniard's last three campaigns.

Guardiola won the competition twice at Barcelona but could not repeat that at Bayern Munich. His tenure at the German club was consequently considered a disappointment in some quarters, despite him winning three successive Bundesliga crowns. *The Telegraph*

Salman 'still wants Manchester United takeover'

MANCHESTER - Super rich Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly remains very keen to pull off a takeover of Manchester United.

That is despite ongoing reports linking him to a move for Mike Ashley's Newcastle before the end of the season.

Bin Salman made strong attempts to acquire United 18

months ago but was rebuffed by the club's Glazer owner. Now his business empire remains committed to thrashing out an Old Trafford deal, as report the *Mirror*.

Bin Salman's previously floated a £3.5 billion offer for the Red Devils, which would have given United's current owners a huge profit.

Daily Mail



SUPER RICH: Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



Chiefs trigger 1-year extension for Cardoso

JOHANNESBURG -Kaizer Chiefs have extended defender Daniel Cardoso's stay by a further year after exercising the option in his contract.

The 31-year-old's current contract was due to expire at the end of the season but Amakhosi have been sufficiently impressed by his performances to tie him down for another year.

"The club exercised the option of extending Daniel Cardoso's contract with a further year," reads a statement on the Amakhosi website.

Aside from his defensive displays Cardoso has also contributed with four goals, which has helped Chiefs reach the Absa Premiership summit. With regards to player contracts, Bobby Motaung revealed that the club are still in the process of evaluating which players will receive new deals and that the supporters should be patient.

He stated on the official Kaizer Chiefs website: "We are addressing other contracts. As we did in the past week, we will give an update when the time is right."

Team Talk



MIDFIELDER: Musa Nyatama.

Pirates legend laments Nyatama's departure

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates legend Thabo Mngomeni believes the Soweto giants made a mistake by releasing midfielder Musa Nyatama.

Nyatama was released with six months left on his contract with the Buccaneers on deadline day of the January transfer season.

Pirates signed midfielder Nkayiso Zungu from Stellenbosch FC hours before Nyatama left the club. "It is really shocking but you can expect anything in football. You will never know the real reason behind his departure," Mngomeni told Goal. "I think it's very important to get all the facts from both parties, but if the club says he requested to be released then it becomes a different story."

"At the end of the day, football is like that and we see players coming and going from different clubs. I also think they know why they decided to release him, but he was a great leader and there's no doubt about his qualities."

"I think he established himself under coach Micho (Milutin Sredojevic) as one of the best performers for Pirates and I think the supporters are still shocked why he was let go."

The Star

NTSEKI BUOYED BY BUSY 2020 FOR BAFANA

JOHANNESBURG -The year 2020 is set to be one in which Bafana Bafana players get more time to show the world what South Africa can do against other countries.

The national level of football in the country has not been good for the past ten or so years and according to the senior national team coach Molefi Ntseki, this year will be good for them to build a strong team to fight in big tournaments.

Bafana have already started preparations for the Africa Cup of Nations and World Cup qualifiers, which start in March.

"We started after playing our last match against Sudan, because with Bafana Bafana you have to profile players every day, every minute and every game," Ntseki said at Harry Gwala Stadium having attended almost every Maritzburg

United game this season.

"If you have an opportunity to come and watch a live match, that will always work for you."

"If ever you are not able to watch the game live, you have to watch them on television to catch up on most of the games."

With two sets of qualifiers to be played this year, the coach believes a busy year will benefit the



team as they will have more games to play, which will allow them to spend more time together rather than playing once every three months.

He

is hoping the team will do well in all the matches they play in 2020 building up to the 2021 Nations Cup in Cameroon.

"So I think the work has been going for some time now and we are aware that the fixtures have been changed. Initially we were supposed to play FIFA World Cup qualifiers in March and June but now the Africa Cup of Nations will be played in January," he explained.

"So we have to complete the circle of fixtures now so that by September they know which teams will be going to AFCON."

Kickoff

BUOYED: Senior National team coach Molefi Ntseki.

ZUNGU 'CRIED' WHEN CONVERTED INTO HOLDING MIDFIELDER

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns head coach Pitso Mosimane could not hide his excitement from the news that his former star player, Bongani Zungu, has joined Spanish side Real Mallorca on loan from Amiens SC until the end of the season.

Mosimane says he bought Zungu from the University of Pretoria as a youngster who was playing on the wing and often as an attacking midfielder. But for the 27-year-old Bafana international to reach his full potential, 'Jingles' figured he should switch his position to a more central role at the heart of the park.

"I just remember when I bought him from AmaTuks, he was playing in the right as a winger and he was playing as a number 10 and I said to him no, he must change and play as a number six (central midfielder). Bongani Zungu cried

and said 'no I can't play as a six, I am an attacker'," said Mosimane.

"I told him if he wants to go to Europe and be a big star, he must change his position. And he said no coach but I convinced him and put him there. Now he is moving three clubs playing as a number six."

"It is the same thing that I did with Siboniso Gaxa, I said he is too short to play as a centre-back, he must play as a right back."

"We have changed a lot of players, Thapelo Morena [Rivaldo Coetzee]... sometimes we are right and sometimes we are not but that is how it is," Mosimane added.

Zungu will be the first South African to ply his trade in the Spanish La Liga after Tshepo Masilela, who turned out for Getafe.

"It is very good for us, we will see him there."



FORMER: Bongani Zungu.

The last time we had a player in La Liga was Tsepho Masilela and it was beautiful to watch him play against Barcelona and Real Madrid. The only guy who gave us that was Percy Tau in the UEFA Champions League.

The Citizen

PSL team to immortalise club legend

PRETORIA - In an effort to pay tribute one of their stalwarts, a PSL club has announced a groundbreaking plan to produce a documentary of his career.

SuperSport United are preparing a documentary series for goalkeeper Ronwen Williams as a reward for his hard work and loyalty to the club.

Williams was honoured with a framed jersey for his 300 games in United colours recently plus a lucrative new five-year contract for his commitment to the club since he joined the youth academy at the age of 12 years old. The Port Elizabeth-born shot-stopper has gone on to win 10 caps for Bafana Bafana since making his debut for the national team in 2014 against Spain at FNB Stadium.

"We are putting together a documentary for Ronwen that will screen on TV documenting his pathway with some key interviews and processes along the way," revealed CEO Stan Matthews after handing Williams the framed jersey.

"We want to do that because we want to thank all the stakeholders that have been involved for two reasons. One, for being involved with Ronwen, and they deserve thanks and praise because everybody has played a part."

"You heard him yourself thanking the academy staff for the journey that it has been. You can't be here from age 12 to 27 and you don't have help and mentorship along the way, including all the stakeholders, including all the people helping us to get there."

Kick Off

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Infantino wants African Cup of Nations every four years

DURBAN - FIFA boss Gianni Infantino told African football leaders on Saturday that he wants their continental Cup of Nations to be played every four years as part of a package of reforms designed to lift "African football to the top of the world".

Infantino also told a seminar in Rabat attended by delegates from each of the Confederation of African

Football's 54 member associations, that he wanted new stadiums in every member state and had earmarked \$1 billion to finance the ambitious program. The Africa Cup of Nations is currently staged every two years, which makes it unpopular with European clubs. "What I'm asking you, and it's your decision, is to discuss and consider moving to a Nations Cup every four years," Infantino said.

He said he wanted to "revolutionise African football". "Pele once said that an African team would win the World Cup, but this hasn't happened and it seems we are not making progress. Today must be the day we turn that page," Infantino said. "Our objective must be to project African football to the top of the world," he said. He said FIFA was "elaborating a proposal to mobilise \$1bn."

"In the countries where there is already at least one very good stadium, the investments can be done in other infrastructures," he said.

After decades of being accused of not adequately supervising how its money is spent by members, FIFA has been rolling out best practice standards and says it will ensure that the African development project funding is managed via transparent accountable procedures.

The Citizen

MY WISH:
FIFA boss
Gianni
Infantino.



DJOKOVIC BERATES UMPIRE

MELBOURNE - Novak Djokovic boiled over during his Australian Open final showdown with Dominic Thiem, venting his anger directly at umpire Damien Dumosis after being hit with a second time violation.

Serbian star Djokovic received two time violations in the same game for not serving quickly enough, after which he displayed a wild outburst which involved tapping the foot of the Dumosis.

Djokovic was visibly seething and engaged in bitter words with the umpire while still desperately trying to catch his breath following the match play.

His second warning cost him a first serve while he was defending a break point, resulting in Djokovic losing his cool and directly engaging with the umpire.

"Great job man, especially in the second one," Djokovic said as both him and Thiem returned to their seats after playing the point.

Keeping his eyes locked on Dumosis, Djokovic added: "You made your-



BERATES: Novak Djokovic.

self famous. Well done man. Mission accomplished."

After winning the first set 6-4, things quickly went downhill for Djokovic as his 26-year-old opponent surged back into the contest.

Thiem took the second set 6-4 in convincing style as Djokovic began to wobble, and the signs of a meltdown were already apparent.

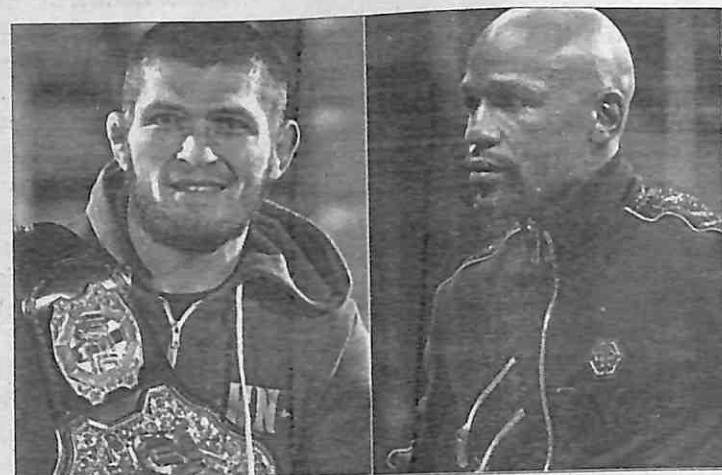
Earlier, Djokovic lost his cool in the match as he was heard yelling "shut

the f*** up" at the crowd after they made noise during a rally.

Playing his first Grand Slam final outside of Roland Garros, Thiem entered the contest bidding to win his first major on the third attempt.

Thiem has twice been defeated by Rafael Nadal on the big stage, though managed to overcome the Spaniard in order to book his place in the Australian final.

Sports Mail



OFFER: Khabib Nurmagomedov and Floyd Mayweather.

Khabib offered US\$100m to fight Mayweather or McGregor

LAS VEGAS - Khabib Nurmagomedov has been offered \$100 million to fight Conor McGregor or Floyd Mayweather in Saudi Arabia.

The UFC lightweight champion is a potential opponent for Mayweather if he returns to the ring this year.

And McGregor is desperate to avenge his defeat by Nurmagomedov in 2018 when he was choked out in the fourth round.

The Russian must first defend his title against Tony Ferguson in New York in April - but his manager revealed he has been offered mega money to fight in the Middle East.

"Some people in Saudi Arabia met with me they want to pay \$100m to fight Conor in Saudi Arabia," Ali Abdelaziz told TMZ Sports.

"They want to pay \$100m for Khabib to fight Floyd in Saudi Arabia. It doesn't really matter, I think more likely you can see Khabib vs Floyd."

"All I'm thinking about now and that's a psychopath by the name of Tony Ferguson. My advice to Conor is, 'Hey b***h, go and fight [Justin] Gaethje.'"

Mayweather held talks last year with UFC President Dana White with a view to fighting an MMA star in a boxing bout.

The retired ring legend took on Conor McGregor in such a fight in 2017, stopping the Irishman in the 10th round.

After losing to Nurmagomedov, McGregor was out of action for 15 months before returning two weeks ago to stop Donald Cerrone in 40 seconds.

The Mirror

'Rugby transforming into an apology for violence'

LONDON - The father of an 18-year-old rugby player who died after a double tackle has said that Eddie Jones is contributing to a deadly culture of violence in rugby with his vow to be 'brutal' against a young France side.

Philippe Chauvin, whose son Nicolas died 48 hours after being hit by two opponents in his first start for the Stade Francais academy team, told The Mail on Sunday that England head coach Jones' promise of 'absolute brutality' in the Six Nations opener reflects the sport's drift into "an apology for violence". Chauvin, whose fatal tackle in December 2018 is captured in devastating detail in a video which has been viewed by The Mail on Sunday, said: "Eddie Jones' statements are not reassuring if you take at face value the promise of violence that will be imposed on the youngsters of the French XV. 'Is English rugby in the same state of drift [as the French game]? What happens if there are serious injuries or worse when the two teams play each other? The transformation of rugby from an educational sport into an apology for violence is distressing. The game is coming to resemble the 'Rollerball' film. We're heading inexorably to another death." *Sports Mail*

DANNY AYRES DIES AT AGE 33

LONDON - Beloved British speedway star Danny Ayres has died at the age of 33.

Ayres, one of the sport's great entertainers, was set to ride for the Scunthorpe Scorpions in the upcoming season.

Having started his career with National League side Kent in 2014 at the age of 27, Ayres broke into the Championship with Glasgow in 2016.

He also rode for Leicester, Redcar, Cradley and Ipswich during his career.

His official Facebook page wrote on Saturday evening: "We have some awful news to bring you. There's no easy way to report this. Danny has passed away. 'His passing is tragic, extremely sad and very untimely. To say we are shocked and devastated is an understatement. Our thoughts and condolences are with Danny's family.'"

A statement from Speedway GB read: "We are devastated to learn of the passing of British rider Danny Ayres."

"Danny has always been an entertainer and his loss will be felt throughout the sport in Great Britain."

"Our thoughts are with Danny's family at this awfully difficult and tragic time." Seven time British champion Scott Nicholls voiced his sadness on



RIP: Danny Ayres.

social media: "I really do not know what to say. Danny was such a character and will be deeply missed. Such sad news. 'Thoughts are with his loved ones. RIP Danny'."

Scunthorpe Scorpions added in their own statement: "RIP Danny Ayres. We're lost for words right now - suffice to say, we are devastated and our thoughts are with his family."

Another of his former clubs, Cradley Heathens also wrote: "We are truly shocked and devastated by the news of this man passing away." *The Mirror*

Mbappe has fiery exchange with Tuchel

PARIS - Kylian Mbappe was involved in a fiery exchange with Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel after being substituted in their 5-0 win over Montpellier.

Mbappe scored his side's fourth goal of the game on 57 minutes but was brought off just over 10 minutes later, a decision which didn't go down well with the forward.

The France international responded by venting his fury at Tuchel on the touchline for a full 15 seconds before taking his place on the substitutes' bench.

In an attempt to get his point across, Tuchel put his hands on Mbappe's shoulders while appearing to explain his decision and condemn his player's reaction.

Mbappe attempted to walk away from Tuchel several times before eventually walking past the German

coach and strutting towards his teammates on the bench.

The 21-year-old has scored 22 goals in 25 games in all competitions and would no doubt have fancied his chances of improving that record in the final 20 minutes of the game.

Mbappe's reaction was out of character for a player who has been widely praised for his down to earth attitude in the past. Football fans on Twitter responded by blasting the youngster for his behaviour and suggesting other high-profile managers wouldn't accept his antics.

Twitter user @adnakhisna tweeted: "Embarrassing little baby."

Another fan, @ridwan1707, said: "You have to respect the coach decision, mbappe is too young for all this drama. Pep or Mou will never tolerate this nonsense attitude."

Sports Mail

Ntuli's 11th goal hands AmaZulu crucial victory

DURBAN - AmaZulu continued their reliance on star striker Bongani Ntuli, who bagged his 11th Absa Premiership goal of the season to overcome Polokwane City yesterday afternoon.

Usuthu made two changes, as Tapelo Xoki returned in the line-up alongside Siphelele Magubane while Rise and Shine head coach Clinton Larsen rang the changes, with the likes of Jabulani Mahuleke, Puleng Tlolane, Thabiso Semenya and Charlton Mashumba being recalled. AmaZulu came close to breaking the deadlock the deadlock four minutes from the break after Siyethemba Sithabe delivered a teasing cross in the dangerous area but Milos Lacny's header sailed a little over the bar. The hosts eventually broke the deadlock on the hour-mark thanks to Bonginkosi Ntuli, who headed home a cross from Samuel Darpoh. Ntuli has now bagged 11 of Usuthu's 12 league goals this season.

Kick Off

Mourinho's Spurs overtake Man Utd after City win

LONDON - Jose Mourinho got one over his rival Pep Guardiola as Tottenham Hotspur gave their top-four hopes a major boost after defeating Manchester City 2-0 last evening.

Mourinho handed a full debut to Dutch winger Steven Bergwijn who only joined the North London outfit from PSV Eindhoven last Wednesday.

It was an evenly contested affair in the early stages although clear-cut chances were hard to come by at both ends in the opening 20 minutes.

The Citizens did get the first real opening on 27 minutes after Sergio Aguero was slipped through on goal, but the striker's effort was tipped onto the woodwork by Hugo Lloris.

However, with seven minutes remaining in the first half City were awarded a penalty after the Video Assistant Referee spotted a foul on Sergio Aguero from Serge Aurier.



Son celebrating Tottenham's second goal. AFP

Surprisingly, Ilkay Gundogan stepped to spot up instead of Aguero, who is the regular

penalty taker, but saw his spot-kick saved Lloris.

The tempo continued in the second half, but the visitors were reduced to 10 men just before the hour mark when Zichenko received his marching orders for a second bookable offence.

City were made to pay minutes later as Lucas Moura clipped a pass into Bergwijn, who controlled well and volleyed into the far corner for a debut goal in front of the Spurs faithful.

Spurs managed to double their lead with 20 minutes left in the contest as Hueng-min Son collected the ball on the edge of the box before seeing his effort deflect in off Ferdinandinho.

City nearly pulled one back in second-half stoppage time when Davidson Sanchez heading onto his own crossbar, but Spurs were able to hold on for three points and the clean sheet.

Daily Mail

Former Bucs star nets late winner for Leopards

THOHOYANDOU - Black Leopards boosted their survival in the hopes in the Absa Premiership with victory over Stellenbosch, with a former Orlando Pirates star netting a superb winner.

Leopards interim coach Allan Clark made two changes to the side, as Mogakolodi Ngele and Mwape Musonda returned to the line-up while Stellies recalled Allan Robertson and Zwelethu Ndlovu for Marc van Heerden and Robyn Johannes.

After a quiet start to the half, Ngele came the closest to breaking the deadlock for Lidoda Duvha in the 28th minute after he unleashed a stinging strike from outside the box that was brilliantly smothered by Stellies goalkeeper Lee Langeveldt.

The hosts were having a good attack-

ing spell after that and they were awarded a penalty with ten minutes left of the first stanza after Iqraam Rayners handled a ball inside the box from a free-kick just outside the box.

Musonda had the confidence to take the spot-kick and fired a high strike away from Langeveldt to break the deadlock for Lidoda Duvha.

Clark's charges were pinning back the visitors in their own half, threatening to double their lead but Stellenbosch defended well to limit the deficit to just 1-0 going to the break.

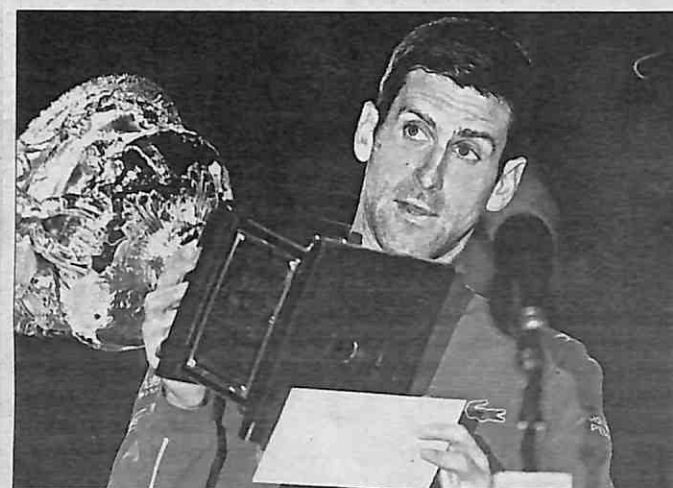
Leopards were creating a lot of chances early in the second stanza but they were not clinical enough, however, Lesedi Kapinga came very close to doubling their lead in the 65th minute with a curling strike from the centre of the box that

missed the top corner by a whisker.

Clark needed fresh legs in attack with 19 minutes remaining and he sacrificed Musonda and brought on Thobani Mncwango.

Steve Barker's army were threatening to level matters on counter-attacks and Mpho Matsi came the closest with 15 minutes left after side-footing a half-volley in the centre of the box but his goal-bound effort was acrobatically parried over the bar by Leopards shot-stopper Jonas Mendes.

The Western Cape side eventually found the equaliser 12 minutes before time as Ryan Moon slotted a low shot past Mendes after a long cross came off Rayners and rebounded on his path inside the six-yard box.



CLAIMS TITLE: Novak Djokovic.

Novak Djokovic claims an incredible 17th Grand Slam title

MELBOURNE - Novak Djokovic rode out a crisis to win his eighth Australian Open title after being given an almighty score by Dominic Thiem.

Struggling to keep his emotions in check and with undulating moods and energy levels, the 32-year-old Serb used all his experience to deny the Austrian a first Major title and move his own overall tally up to 17.

He becomes only the second man in history after Ken Rosewall to win a Grand Slam trophy across three decades after edging through 6-4 4-6 2-6 6-3 6-4 in just shy of four hours.

His celebrations were relatively muted at the end even though he had been given a harder test than expected.

Thiem kept fighting to the end and won himself many friends with this performance, certainly more than Djokovic, but perhaps the closest the Austrian got was a break point at 1-1 in the fourth set. He was vainly playing catch up in the fifth.

He has established himself as

a real danger to the three players who have dominated the men's game but it still waits for its first new singles champion since 2014.

Djokovic made an electrifying start that saw him race to a 4-1 lead, although an indicator that this was not going to be easy came when Austrian pulled him back for 4-4.

He was to surrender the opener in limp fashion through a double fault.

Thiem was, however, to receive similar gifts in the second set as his opponent's second serve deteriorated.

Djokovic was also bothered by the usual situation of the crowd being largely against him, and his grievances were added to when in the ninth game he was given two time violations by Frenchman Damien Dumusois.

Angered, he tapped - highly illegally - the umpire three times on his foot as he walked past the chair and then told him sarcastically, "Well done you've made yourself famous, mission accomplished."

Daily Mail

WASTEFUL ARSENAL DROP POINTS AT BURNLEY

LONDON - Arsenal's stuttering form in the Premier League continued after dropping against Burnley at Turf Moor yesterday afternoon.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang returned from suspension as Nicolas Pepe dropped to the bench, while Matteo Guendouzi replaced Lucas Torreira in midfield.

Aubameyang should have marked his return with a goal in the 14th minute after being played through on goal by David Luiz' long-ball, but the Gabonese forward fired with only goalkeeper Nick Pope to beat.

After a quiet start to the game, Burnley saw a bit more of the ball but they had to wait until the 36th minute for a meaningful opening when McNeil's cross found Hendrick, who sent his effort just over the crossbar.

Burnley had a couple more half chances in the latter stages of the first half, while the Gunners looked a shadow of the sides that got off to the lively start.

The Gunners opted for a change at the start of the second half as Torreira made his way onto the pitch, with Bukayo Saka being withdrawn due to an injury.



WASTEFUL: Arsenal players.

The change did bring any immediate change for the visitors, who continued to struggle in the final third as Alexandre Lacazette cut a frustrated figure in the attack. Frustration began to build for the visitors as Aubameyang squandered a golden chance on 75 minutes when he nodded wide of the upright from Lacazette's cross.

Arsenal were nearly made to rue that miss moments later but Jay Rodriguez could only rattle the crossbar from close range, with the ball bouncing on the goal-line. Neither side were able to find a breakthrough in the latter stages as the points were shared on the day, as Arsenal move up to 10th position.

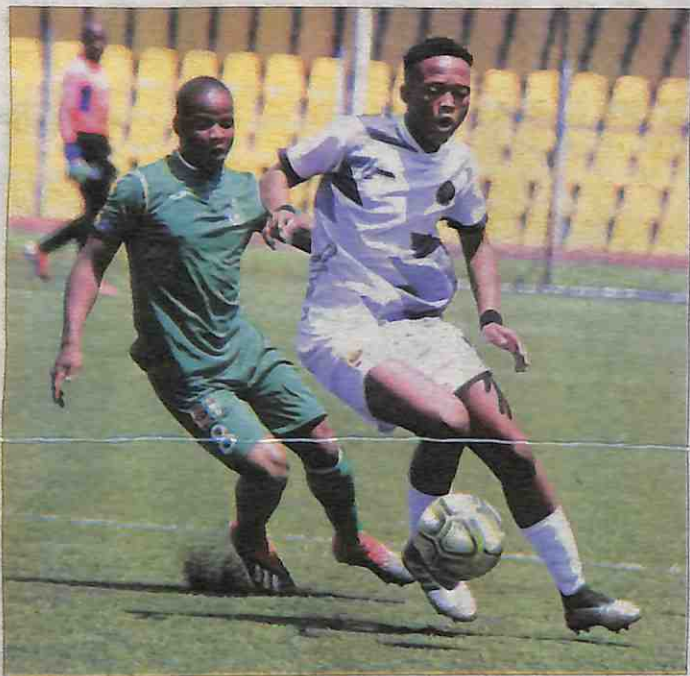
Daily Mail



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PICTURES

HIGHLANDERS, MAMBA DRAW



MOVE: Mbabane Highlanders' Banele Ndzabandzaba attempts to go past Green Mamba's Lawrence Mncina during the MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The game ended in a 1-all draw. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



TIGHT MARK: Highlanders' Lindani Matsenjwa and Green Mamba's Mthunzi Mkhontfo in a battle for the ball.



EQUALISER: Highlanders equalising goal scored by Banele Ndzabandzaba (not in the picture).



I CAN DANCE: Phinda Dlamini joined by teammates as they celebrate their goal.



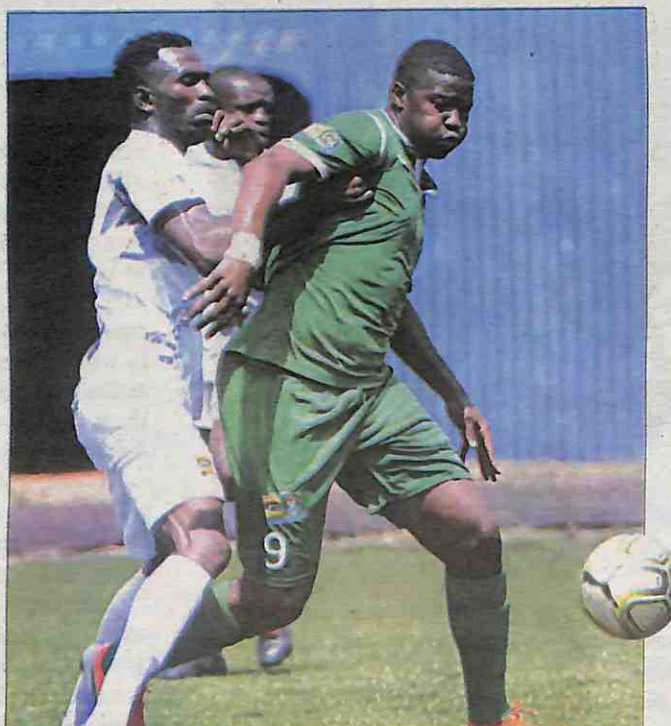
YOU SEE: Highlanders fan Silevu displays a toy gun while also carrying a Bible.



ON DUTY: Sihlangu head coach Dominic Kunene (r) with his assistants Anthony Mdluli and Gcina Dlamini at the stadium.



ACHIEVEMENT: Man of the Match Njabulo Thwala receives his award from MTN's Phumlile Dlamini.



PUSHING: Highlanders Jimmoh Moses tries to mark Green Mamba's Phinda Dlamini.



EVERYWHERE YOU GO: MTN's Phumlile Dlamini flanked best dressed fans Pretty Phiri of Green Mamba and Sabelo Matsenjwa of Mbabane Highlanders after presenting them with gifts.



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PICTURES

MB. SWALLOWS, WANDERERS FIRE BLANKS



CAN'T PASS: Manzini Wanderers' Sicelo Simeane blocks Mbabane Swallows captain Tony Tsabedze during the MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The game ended in a goalless draw.



BALL CONTROL: Swallows' Allen Mabuza controls the ball while Wanderers' Colani Dlamini closes in.



ANOTHER DRAW: Some of frustrated Swallows supporters react after the referee blew the final whistle.



ALL YOURS: MTN's Afi Dlamini presents gifts to best dressed fans Muntuza Phakathi of Wanderers and Ayanda Gwebu of Swallows.



MY BALL: Wanderers' Njabulo Magongo wins the ball from Swallows' Sanele Mkhweli.



ON AIR: Sihle Mkhonta and Sandile Hlatshwako in a heading duel.



CHALLENGE: Wanderers' Buhlebenkhosi Msibi challenges Swallows' Menzi Sithole.



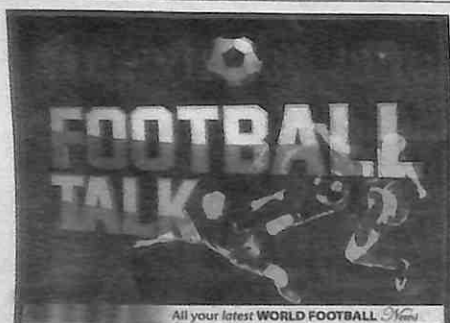
IT'S TOUGH: Wonder Nhleko and Johnson Mensah in a tussle for the ball.



FOUL: Wanderers' Sanele Mngometulu rough plays Swallows' Wonder Nhleko.



DULA WESELI: An innocent Manzini Wanderers fan who was picking a can thrown by one of the supporters being attacked by police officers.



● Juventus are planning a £150m summer bid for Liverpool and Netherlands defender Virgil van Dijk, 28. (Sun)

● Barcelona are close to agreeing a deal for Chelsea's Brazil winger Willian, 31, whose contract expires at the end of the season. (Marca)

● Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta blocked the transfer of German midfielder Mesut Ozil, 31, to a club from Qatar in January. (90min)

● Everton Manager Carlo Ancelotti has warned Barcelona they would be wasting their time if they submit an improved offer for Brazil forward Richarlison, 22, in the summer. (Star)

● Manchester United are to step up their efforts to land Napoli defender Kalidou Koulibaly, 28. (Mirror)

● Senegal centre-back Koulibaly would cost United around £90m. (Star)

● United will also target Leicester City's England midfielder James Maddison, 23, and Borussia Dortmund's England winger Jadon Sancho, 19, in the summer window. (Standard)

● Chelsea will try to beat Manchester United to former Manchester City forward Sancho. (Sun)

● Chelsea's France striker Olivier Giroud, 33, was upset after Serie A side Inter Milan pulled out of a transfer for him. (RMC, via Mail)

● Manchester United and Chelsea failed in their attempts to sign Paris St-Germain's Edinson Cavani, 32, because the Uruguay forward has his heart set on a move to Spain. (Mirror)

● Liverpool's Japan forward Takumi Minamino, 25, says other Premier League clubs were interested in signing him, as well as some Bundesliga sides. (Star)

● Midfielder Steven Bergwijn, 22, who joined Tottenham from PSV Eindhoven in a £27m deal on Wednesday, rejected a £6m bonus offer from the Eredivisie side to stay. (Mirror)

● Arsenal must pay £8m to turn the loan signings of Spain defender Pablo Mari, 26, and Portugal right-back Cedric Soares, 28, into permanent deals. (Star)

● Chelsea turned down a deadline-day transfer for Dalian Yifang and Venezuela striker Salomon Rondon, 30. (Sun, via Telegraph)

● Juventus have already begun work on summer deals for Brescia's 19-year-old Italy midfielder Sandro Tonali and Manchester United's 26-year-old France midfielder Paul Pogba. (Calciomercato - in Italian)

● Manchester United will pursue Birmingham City's 16-year-old England Under-17 midfielder Jude Bellingham in the summer after drawing up a £20m package on deadline day. (Independent)

REPS Pool Club win Mbombela tourney

BY MELUSI MLOTSHA

POOL - Eswatini Royal Police Service (REPS) Pool club won the Mbombela tournament by beating Kwanyamazane 13-10.

The match was played at Nelspruit on Saturday. The local side took home E4 000, a trophy and medals.

REPS showed that they meant business when they led 8-0 in the first half.

Kwanyamazane came back strong in the second half and scored 10 times.

The local side showed their experience and eventually won 13-10.

The police side squad comprised Sifiso Dlamini, Norman Khoza, Sibusiso Dlamini, Norman Khoza, Sibusiso Dlamini, Dodge Matsebula, Khanyokuhle Simelane, Sting Dlamini and Nkosikhona Vilakati.

It was the second time the local side won the tournament.

The team captain, Norman Khoza, said it was a tough match and thanked his team-mates for their gallant performance.

"It was not an easy match. After we performed



HAPPY: REPS Pool Club players celebrate with their trophy after winning the Mbombela Tournament on Saturday. (Courtesy pic)

better in the first half, Kwanyamazane came back strong in the second half. However, experience helped us as we eventually won 13-10," he said.

Khoza added that the tournament helped them a lot as they prepare for the 2020/21 Dixies International E40 000 tournament to kick off in a fortnight.

Eswatini Chess National team revealed

BY JONGILE XUBA

CHESS - THE 2020 national team has been named by the Eswatini Chess Federation (ECF).

The 10 man squad was confirmed after the Manzini Chess Open. The squad was revealed by ECF Tournament Director William Siame, who said this year's squad include a new face in the women's team. "We have completed the selection of the team with five males and five females. "We have a new face in the team as Nolwazi Nkwanyane from Lubombo Chess Club replaced WCM Nolwazi Dlamini.

"Players were all selected using their accumulated grand prix points from tournaments we played last year," he said. With both candidate masters (CMs) already qualified, Mbongeni Mabuza finally bounced back into the national team after coming second in the Manzini Open by accumulating 20.5 points.

He now joins CM Smilo Hlophe, CM Sikhanyiso Sihlongonyane, Simphiwe Dlamini and Wandile

2020 ESWATINI CHESS NATIONAL TEAM

MEN

1. CM Sikhanyiso Sihlongonyane
2. CM Smilo Hlophe
3. Simphiwe Dlamini
4. Wandile Simelane
5. Mbongeni Mabuza

WOMEN

1. Temahlubi Dlamini
2. Nomcebo Sibisi
3. Nokuthula Mkhonto
4. Nosimilo Mkhonto
5. Nolwazi Nkwanyane

Simelane.

The much improved Nolwazi Nkwanyane scored 12 points in the last grand prix and this was enough to secure a place in the national team for the first time. She now joins Temahlubi Dlamini, Nomcebo Sibisi, Nosimilo Mkhonto and Nokuthula Mkhonto.

The team will now prepare for their first assignment which will be revealed in due course as they look to raise the country's flag high.

Malkerns B continue with good form in Darts League

BY JONGILE XUBA

DARTS - MALKERNS B darts team continued with their title challenge by recording wins in the Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ESRIC) E120 000 Darts League.

The games were played at Correctional Gymnasium in Matsapha on Saturday. Malkerns B team beat Kilowatts A 12 -11 followed by a 6 -18 loss to Correctional I and ending with a 18 -5 win over Remnants. Correctional also beat REPS 19 -4 whilst Malkerns A team thrashed Elangeni Vipers 22 -1 and Luswebhu 17 -7. Kilowatts A beat their B team 18 -5 in their only match of the day. The B team managed a 13 -10 win against Sharp Shooters.

Other results saw lowly ESRIC forfeiting their matches by no showing up. Railway also failed to pitch for their fixtures. The results mean the Malkerns B team is the closest challengers to the defending champions, Malkerns A team.

ESRIC E120 000 DARTS LEAGUE RESULTS

Kilowatts A	11	12	Malkerns B
Scaras	17	0	ESRIC
Luswebhu	16	8	Smesh n Bonz
Correctional II	17	0	Railways
RSSC	18	6	Sharp Shooters
Elangeni Vipers	1	22	Malkerns A
RSSC	17	0	ESRIC
Malkerns B	6	18	Correctional I
Malkerns A	16	8	REPS
Remnants	16	7	Sharp Shooters
Elangeni Vipers	17	0	Railways
REPS	4	19	Correctional I
Correctional II	18	5	Scaras
Malkerns B	18	5	Remnants
RSSC	10	15	Mbabane
Mbabane	18	6	Remnants
Malkerns A	17	7	Luswebhu
Mbabane	17	0	Railways
Eco Water	16	8	Smesh n Bonz
Sharp Shooters	10	13	Kilowatts B
Kilowatts A	18	5	Kilowatts B

Highlights
Andile 1x180
Jethro 1x180
Bafana 1x180
Sthembiso 1x180
Jethro Ndzingane closed by 13 darts

REPS thump UEDF in Elite Netball League derby

BY JONGILE XUBA

NETBALL - ROYAL Eswatini Police Service (REPS) thrashed their rivals Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) 53 - 28 during their Swaziland Building Society (SBS) Elite Netball League encounter.

The games were played at OlympAfrica courts in Lobamba on Saturday and the forces derby did not disappoint as both teams gave it their all.

Action

Defending champions Correctional were also in action and they faced Manzini Ladies whom they easily swept aside by winning the match 77 - 8. Vixens played RSSC and won their match 75 - 31 as they registered their sixth win of the season.

SBS ELITE NETBALL LEAGUE RESULTS

Women			
Correctional	77	8	Manzini Ladies
REPS	53	28	UEDF
Vixens	75	31	RSSC
OlympAfrica	60	33	Fashion
Men			
UEDF	29	23	Phoenix

The last match of the women's league saw hosts OlympAfrica destroying Fashions 60 - 3.

The men's league only had one match on the day as UEDF faced Phoenix. The army side had to work hard for the win as they beat their opponents 29 - 23.

The win was UEDF's third of the season and they will be hoping to start mounting a challenge on leaders Correctional.

SUNDOWNS CLAIM TAMBUTI SCALP

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

Tambuti (0) 0
Denver Sundowns (1) 2

SOCCER - A resurgent Denver Sundowns beat Tambuti FC 2-0 during their MTN Premier League match at Mayaluka Stadium yesterday.

Former Mhlume Peacemakers' Ghanaian forward Emmanuel Nsiah made his debut in Denver Sundowns colours.

Clear cut chances were few and far in the first half as both teams struggled to play under the scorching heat.

Denver Sundowns' Siphamandla Maseko's shot was flicked over the bar by Tambuti goalkeeper Mlungisi Nxumalo in the fifth minute.

A moment later, Tambuti midfielder Roy Mamba saw his teasing cross par-

ried for a fruitless corner kick by goalkeeper Vilakati Felizwe.

Emmanuel Nsiah was at it again when his free kick missed the target by a whisker.

Denver Sundowns finally scored in the 44th minute via the boot of Mthokozisi Dlamini, who tapped in a low shot to beat Tambuti goalkeeper Mlungisi Nxumalo. This was after an initial shot from the impressive Linda Maphalala.

The teams went for a break with the visitors enjoying a 1-0 lead.

The second half saw Denver Sundowns coach Christopher Ennin introducing Mcolisi Bhembe for Emmanuel Nsiah.

The changes paid off as the 'Kappa boys' doubled their lead in the 55th minute through Mthokozisi Dlamini, who rounded off the Tambuti defence before passing the ball into an empty net. Tambuti coach Terisayi Changara

made a double substitution after the goal. Captain Muntu Mamba and Addy Paa Kwesi came in for Ugochukwu and Zwakele Dlamini, respectively.

Sundowns nearly scored their third goal but veteran midfielder Phinda Ginindza missed the sitter inside the box with Tambuti goalkeeper at sea.

The last stages of the match saw the sugar belt side pushing for a goal but it was not to be as they failed to break the Sundowns defence marshaled by Kingsely Kwakye until referee Mancane Magagula blew his final whistle.

Teams:

Tambuti - Mlungisi, Machawe, Andile, Melusi, Zwakele, Roy, Ugo, Mcebo Ishmael, Siboniso, Reagan

Sundowns - Felizwe, Sibonelo, Samkelo, Makhosi, Kingsely, Siphamandla, Phinda, Enzo, Linda, Mthokozisi, Emmanuel.

Leopard did nothing - 'Magiyane'

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - MONENI Pirates head coach Geina 'Magiyane' Dlamini said Royal Leopard did not do anything to win against them during their MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.

Royal Leopard beat the 'Sea Robbers' 2-0.

Interviewed after the game, Dlamini said he was not happy with the way the referee handled the match. "I do not want to say much about the referee but I am not happy with the way he handled the match."

He said they did not deserve to lose the match.

"A draw would have been a fair result in this match. However, we can only accept the defeat and focus on the next match."

Dlamini said their match was more like a rugby encounter which made it impossible for his players to stick to the game plan.

When asked about his new position in the national team, Dlamini said the Eswatini Football Association would guide them going forward.

Meanwhile, Royal Leopard head coach Edwin Matsebula said they were smarter than Moneni Pirates during the match.

He said they were able to frustrate the Buccaneers.

"What is important to us is the three points. We created many chances in the first half but failed to convert them. Pirates were better in the second half but again we managed to absorb the pressure." He said he was happy with the performance of their new player Djo Manix Etwe.



MAN OF THE MATCH: MTN's Meshack Maseko presents an award to Mbabane Swallows' Menzi Sithole after being named man of the match in the second game of the Yello Sunday.
Attribute pic.

Menzi Sithole, Njabulo win Man of the Match awards

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI AND COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - NEW Mbabane Swallows player Menzi was named man of the match in their goalless draw match against Manzini Wanderers at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Interviewed after receiving his goodies bag, the midfielder thanked the capital city giants for availing the opportunity to join the 'Birds nest'. He said he was looking forward to another great performance in their next game. The former Mbabane Highlanders player could not contain his excitement since this was his first game for the red and white outfit. "I will continue working hard. We just need to polish up a few things as a team." He said the good thing was that they were able to stick to their game plan and frustrate the opposition.

"I am not happy with the result as this was a tough contest. I would like to thank my teammates and coach for the support," he said.

Sithole joined Mbabane

Swallows after being put on the transfer list by Highlanders coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati last week.

Meanwhile, Green Mamba's Njabulo Tfwala, who was named man of the match in their match against Mbabane Highlanders, said he was not happy with the team's performance.

"I was expecting a win not a draw. I must make it clear that I am not happy with today's result."

He said he was happy with the man of the match award even though he would have been happier with the three points.

"We have to go back to training and prepare for the next match. "I want to thank my team-mates for helping me win the man of the match award."

I will continue working hard. We just need to polish up a few things as a team.

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati says he is happy with the 1-1 draw with defending champions Green Mamba.

The coach was speaking after the two team's MTN Premier League encounter at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Vilakati said he was happy with the players' performance.

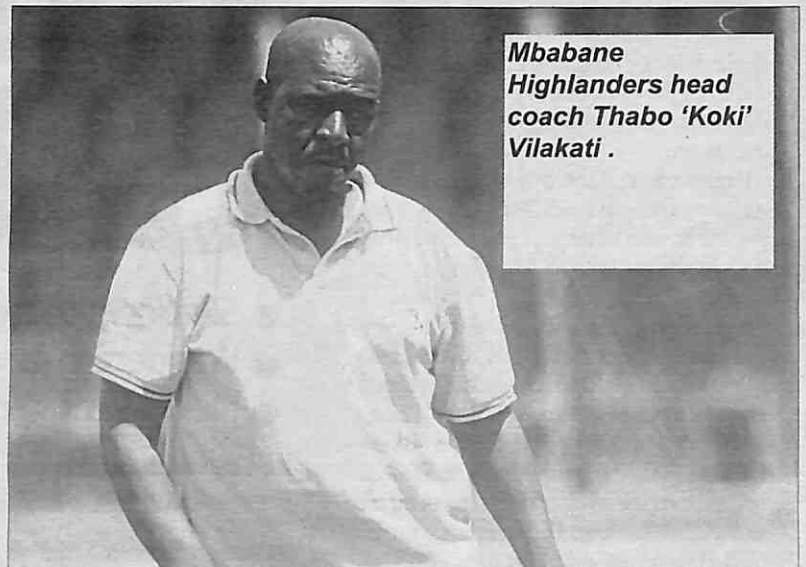
"We will take the positives from this match and I must say that I am happy and proud of my boys. They showed character throughout the match and the draw means a lot to us.

I know some people say we have been playing too many draws lately, but it is better than losing all three points. We are not at the bottom of the table," he said.

Coming to the match, the coach said they had to make some last minute changes, which affected their game plan.

"We had to make changes after Kenneth Moloto picked an injury. A few administrative issues means we did not get to setup the team the way we wanted but

'KOKI' CONTENT WITH DRAW



Mbabane Highlanders head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

we still managed to do well," he said.

Vilakati they would soon turn the corner and start winning games.

Meanwhile, Green Mamba coach Caleb Ngwenya said he was happy with his player's efforts.

He said his players fought until the

final whistle.

"It was a game of two halves, and unfortunately we were unable to use our chances in the first half. Highlander's came out stronger in the second half but the boys did well to ensure we get a point."

BUFFALOES BETTER THAN US - 'KING CLAY'

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - MILLING Hot Spurs head coach King Clay Mdluli said Young Buffaloes were better than them.

The gaffer was speaking after their 0-2 defeat at King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium on Saturday.

Mdluli noted that lapse in concentration cost them the match. He, however, said losing against Young Buffaloes was no train smash as they were one of the strongest teams in the country. "I think Young Buffaloes' first goal was due to lapse in concentration and it affected our game plan. We play very well in the first half, but it was too late," he said.

On the other hand, Young Buffaloes head coach Dominic Kunene said they were able to deal with the opposition's



Young Buffaloes striker Banele Mkhabela fighting for the ball with Milling Hotspurs' Mancoba Maseko during the two teams MTN Premier League clash on Saturday. (Pic: Nomalungelo Phiri)

counterattacks. "We played very well in the second half hence we scored the two goals." The new Sihlangu head coach said they would continue work-

ing hard.

The log leaders were without award winning striker Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze due to a muscle injury.

RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Burnley 0-0 Arsenal
Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 Manchester City

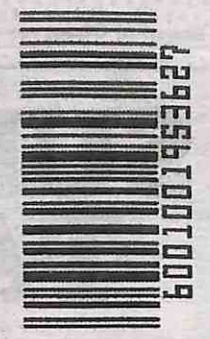
ABSA PREMIERSHIP

AmaZulu 1-0 Polokwane
Black Leopards 2-1 Stellenbosch

Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Monday February 3, 2020



Bull, Mamba share spoils

BY JONGILE XUBA

Green Mamba..... (1)1
Mbabane Highlanders..... (1)1

SOCCKER - MBABANE Highlanders and Green Mamba played to a 1-1 draw during their MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

First half goals from Green Mamba's Phinda Dlamini and Highlanders' debutant Banele Ndzabandzaba meant both teams shared the spoils.

This was the first match of the double header where both teams were all out for the three points having played a 0-0 draw in the corresponding fixture.

Green Mamba showed intent as striker Phinda Dlamini scuffed an early chance five minutes into the match. Both teams did not give each other space in the middle of the park, making it a high-tempo encounter.

Highlanders' Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze almost broke the deadlock in the 15th minute but his tame shot was easily dealt with by the goalkeeper. Highlanders were caught off guard in the 18th minute as Phinda Dlamini scored his team's opening goal. The veteran striker rose highest in the box to head in a beautifully lofted cross from skipper Njabulo Tfwala. Things went from bad to worse for the 'Black Bull' as pacey winger Kenneth Moloto had to be replaced after suffering an injury in the 25th minute. Highlanders spurred on and were rewarded for their efforts as new man Banele 'Stiga' Ndzabandzaba got on the score sheet in the 37th minute. A quick and smartly taken corner found him in space inside the box and he made no mistake in making it level. The match went to the break with the teams locked at 1-1. The second half saw Highlanders coming out with more confidence as they went in search of the winner. Green Mamba goalkeeper Thokozani Mkhulisi kept his side in the match with very crucial saves. One of his best was denying 'Bull' defender Ndumiso Mabuza a goal after he made the run forward. Highlanders' goalkeeper Mxolisi Dlamini also had to be at his best to deny Linda Nkambule a goal in a one-on-one situation. Highlanders' Ndzabandzaba almost scored his second goal but was denied by the impressive Mkhulisi. The match ended 1-1.

TEAMS

Highlanders - Mxolisi, Ndumiso, Vukile, Simphiwe, Moses, Menzi, Phumlane, Lindani, Banele, Sabelo, Kenneth.

Green Mamba - Thokozani, Samkelo, Thabo, Sanele, Mxolisi, Khethokuhle, Lawrence, Phinda, Njabulo, Mthunzi, Mcolisi.



OUT OF HAND: Manzini Wanderers' Buhlebenkhosi Msibi kicks the ball against Swallows' Tony Tsabedze while he sprawls on the turf. The angry Swallows captain Tony Tsabedze reacts after a rough play by Msibi leading to officials intervening as they had a tough time separating them during the altercation. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

BIRDS LOSE GROUND

- Swallows settle for goalless draw with Wanderers
- Wanderers fans resort to throwing missiles
- Menzi Sithole man of the match

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Manzini Wanderers..... (0)0
Mbabane Swallows..... (0)0

SOCCKER - CAPITAL city giants Mbabane Swallows were unable to close the gap on their MTN Premier League title rivals Young Buffaloes after playing to a barren draw against Manzini Wanderers at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

It was an exciting game in which Mbabane Swallows dominated, performing excellently and creating numerous goal-scoring opportunities while Wanderers came to only defend.

The 'Beautiful Birds' are now eight points behind pacesetters Buffaloes as they failed to unlock the resolute hub giants in front of close to 7 000 football lovers, who witnessed the Y'ello Sunday encounter between the two crowd pullers.

Swallows were the better team in the opening stanza as they paraded two new signings in Menzi Sithole and Seidou Blanja, who both fitted well in the Honour Janza-led side.

The red and white glamour side threatened as early as the 2nd minute through their captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, who forced a fine save from Wanderers new goal minder Innocent Adja with a low shot pro-



VICTORY: Manzini Wanderers' Sihle Mkhonta and coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe during a press conference.

vided by an Allen Mabuza pass.

With both teams struggling to score in the opening quarter, Swallows made a forced change, pulling out Allen Mabuza due to an ankle injury for Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko.

Swallows continued to be a threat going forward as 'TT' nearly gave them the lead after the half hour mark with a sublime low curler which was brilliantly kept out by the impressive Adja between the 'Weslians' goals for a fruitless corner.

The two teams could not be separated as the match went to the break with the score line 0-0.

The second half didn't produce any

nervous moments apart from the poor decision making by referee Theminkosi Dlamini.

The FIFA accredited whistle man failed to handle an altercation between 'TT' Tsabedze and Buhle Msibi, something that nearly resulted in a nasty brawl in the Wanderers half.

The referee only cautioned Msibi and his teammate Sanele Mngometulu before letting the other culprit Tsabedze walk scot-free from what looked like a punishable offence.

This led to Wanderers supporters losing their cool as they started throwing missiles from the South grand stand, forcing quick intervention by

RESULTS

MTN Premier League results:

Royal Leopard	2-0	Moneni Pirates
Malanti Chiefs	3-0	Black Swallows
Sea Birds	3-0	Peacemakers
Tambuti	0-2	Denver Sundowns
Mbabane Highlanders	1-1	Green Mamba
Mbabane Swallows	0-0	Manzini Wanderers

LOG

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Young Buffaloes	16	13	2	1	42	8	34	41
Mbabane Swallows	16	9	6	1	25	7	18	33
Royal Leopard	16	9	4	3	21	10	11	31
Moneni Pirates	16	8	4	4	23	14	9	28
Green Mamba	16	7	3	6	24	13	11	24
Mb. Highlanders	16	4	10	2	12	10	2	22
Denver Sundowns	16	5	6	5	16	18	-2	21
Milling Hotspurs	16	4	6	6	13	20	-7	18
Tambuti	16	3	9	4	20	28	-8	18
Manzini Wanderers	16	4	5	7	18	27	-9	17
Sea Birds	16	4	4	8	16	23	-7	16
Mhl. Peacemakers	16	3	4	9	14	24	-10	13
Malanti Chiefs	16	4	0	12	12	27	-15	12
Black Swallows	16	3	1	12	16	38	-22	10

the riot squad of the police (Operational Support Services Unit) and club marshals. The fracas did not affect play as the action continued.

The last 10 minutes of the match saw Mbabane Swallows pressing hard for a goal but it was not to be as the match ended in a goalless draw.

TEAMS

Wanderers - Adja, Junior, Sanele, Sihle, Machado, Colani (Mensah), Mhlengi, Ngidi, Buhle (Neliswa), Njabulo, Zakhele (Ngidi).

Swallows - Sanda, Mabila, Mkhweli, Kingu, Ndzabandzaba, Seidou, Sithole, Sizolwethu, Sandile, Allen (Wonder), Tony (Siphamandla).