

## PITOLI TO PAY VICTOR'S MORTUARY BILL

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## COPS SEIZE OVER E500 000 CASH IN ASIANS' FLATS

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## CLEOPATRA TO SHARE STAGE WITH KELLY KHUMALO

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## ANGRY HAWKERS WANT JUSTICE

**WANT JUSTICE:** Some of the angry hawkers leave after Jomo's suspect killer Maxwell Nkambule's bail hearing was postponed (INSET) at the High Court yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu) **SEE PAGES 2, 16**



## CORONAVIRUS THREAT

# MINISTER CALLS MTN BUSHFIRE CRISIS MEETING

STORY  
ON PAGE 3

- Outbreak has already led to some international events being cancelled, postponed
- Eswatini Judo Federation withdraws team from African Judo Cadets Championships

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# RELATIVES, HAWKERS VENT THEIR ANGER ON JOMO'S SUSPECT KILLER

- HMCS Rapid Response Unit had to swiftly whisk him away after court appearance
- Bail application postponed to March 9

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
High Court

**THERE was drama at the High Court during the appearance of one of the suspects in the murder of businessman Jomo Khumalo as relatives to the deceased and hawkers vented their anger on the suspect.**

This was during the appearance of businessman Maxwell Nkambule who is accused of having a hand in the murder of Khumalo.

Nkambule appeared at the High Court for his bail application which is before Judge Siphon Nkosi.

However, the matter could not take off as it was postponed to Monday as Judge Nkosi indicated.

## Escorts

Immediately after the postponement, His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) officers who were escorted by the HMCS Rapid Response Unit (RRU)

cleared the way in the rather small Court E in preparation to take Nkambule back to the correctional facility.

Indeed Nkambule was escorted out with members of the RRU closely following the other officers leading Nkambule to the vehicles transporting him.

However, upon seeing he was being whisked away, the relatives, friends and hawkers who had packed the court, immediately followed suit but the HMCS escorts used the security exit point to take him to the vehicles instead of the usual main entrance.

## Loved ones

It was then that the visibly angry group comprising mostly women, went down the steps and awaited Nkambule's motorcade to exit from behind the court holding cells, while shouting and castigating him for allegedly killing Khumalo.

One woman clad in an orange jacket appeared to be the most vocal as she and four other women approached the vehicle carrying Nkambule pointing fingers and shouting at him while the

RRU closely ran alongside the motorcade before it eventually exited the main gate of the High Court. Of note was that some of the women were clad in red golf T-shirts inscribed 'Mahle Eman-tungwa' and vowed that they will attend the bail application even next week.

## Anger

During their first remand appearance at the Manzini Magistrate's Court in December last year, Nkambule and his co-accused Senzo Sithole were saved from what could have been a worse situation as hawkers who had crammed the court bayed for their blood.

Since his appearance for the bail application, Nkambule's security detail has been beefed up. Nkambule is the man who together with Sithole stand accused of killing Khumalo in December.

Nkambule has filed an urgent application for bail. The state is opposing his application and one of the reasons cited in its opposing papers is that of public anger as some people are baying for his blood.

## ...JOMO'S HAWKER CUSTOMERS WANT JUSTICE

BY DELISA THWALA  
Mbabane

**HAWKERS stood in solidarity following a bail application by one of the suspects in Jomo Khumalo's murder and vowed they will not stop coming to the High Court until justice was served.**

Skhulile Khumalo, who is a sister to Jomo, said they were still hurt with the loss of their brother and mostly a friend. She said since Jomo's death, his business was at a standstill and they fear that this would affect the children and the family at large. "His business is under threat because the Interstate Association has not revealed the verdict in the case he has been pursuing with them, which played a part in his death. The kombis are still not operational and this means there is no income being generated," said Skhulile. Another hawker said travelling to South Africa was a challenge for them since Jomo's death as they no longer feel safe. "We are heartbroken. That man did not pick

and choose people. We were all his favourite customers. Now we are having a hard time travelling for business that side because we are no longer safe," sobbed Tematsembe Khwesa. The women spoke in one voice that government should intervene and help them regarding the cross-border travel. The coordinator of the hawkers, Makhosazane Dlamini, who has been attending every hearing, said they want to see justice served.

She said Jomo was abused and bullied every time he transported them.

"He was a good man. He did everything right and made us feel comfortable when transporting us. Now our businesses are suffering too because we no longer buy stuff to sell that side as often as possible because things have changed. We no longer have the one person who made things easy for us," explained Kheswa. Jomo's mother-in-law, Siphelile Magagula, said for them everything was taken away and they do not know what to do as a family.

She praised the late Khumalo as a hero for both families as he worked hard to

provide for them. "It has been hard for us as a family to come to terms with his death. Even months later we are still in shock and feel like he will walk through the door and greet us," Magagula said. She also stated that Jomo's children, who witnessed the shooting, are still having a hard time such that they have stopped going to school. "The kids are still failing to come to terms with his death. It worries us as they will grow up with a lot of anger and hurt," Magagula said.

She disclosed that they have taken them for counselling and trauma therapy but so far the results are not positive.

**His business is under threat because the Interstate Association has not revealed the verdict in the case he has been pursuing with them, which played a part in his death**

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**GOVERNMENT has approved the renewal of 2 000 teachers' contracts.**

Teaching Services Commission Chairman Simanga Mamba announced this yesterday morning.

The chairman thanked Cabinet for considering the ministry's request on the contract renewal.

He said since the implementation

of Circular No.3 of 2018 which froze all hiring and promotion of civil servants, all requirements for filling of positions must be approved by Cabinet.

## Contracts

He stated that three weeks ago they began the process of requesting Cabinet for the engagement of the teachers.

They were confident that some of the teachers were already in their respective workstations and those who were not there were on their way.

## 2000 CONTRACT TEACHERS ENGAGED

The chairman said this year; the renewed contracts would be for a two-year period so that the teachers would be at their workstations for more time while they were looking for a more efficient and effective way forward.

## Issues

Regarding the future of the teachers, Mamba said the issue could be described in a number of ways. He said when government constructed a

school; there were a number of posts submitted by the ministry of education and training to the ministry of public service.

He said in some of the schools, there were still vacant posts and as a commission they were working on ensuring that all the posts were filled so that teachers would be hired on a permanent bases.

He said when government imple-

mented the free primary education programme, there were more pupils compared to the hired teachers and a majority of them were not fully qualified. "This was when the engagement of contract teachers began as they were not qualified and there were no declared posts," he said.

## Posts

However, that this was communicated to the ministry as they were the

## Pitoli to foot Victor's E500 000 burial bill

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**DECEASED former Swaziland National Sports Council (SNSC) CEO Victor Shabangu's father will foot the over E500 000 mortuary bill.**

This was confirmed by Pitoli Shabangu, who is also Moneni Chiefdom's *ungijimi*, when asked about the way forward now that the court has issued an order in his favour.

This follows that the Supreme Court directed that the late Victor's body be laid to rest at Moneni within two weeks on Tuesday.

The ex-SNSC, now Sport and Recreation Council chief executive officer's body has been at Dups Funeral Home's mortuary for 19 months. Victor collapsed and died in June 2018 after complaining of chest pains. He succumbed to death in full view of the public as he was at a garage in Manzini where he was getting his car tyre fixed.

His initial burial arrangements by the Shabangu family of Moneni were thwarted by a dispute between his parents who fought over his body. The funeral was stopped after Victor's mother took Pitoli to court where she was seeking an order interdicting him from burying the deceased at Moneni. The deceased's mother, Joyce Sibandze, wanted Victor's body to be buried

at Ngculwini.

Her reason for this was that the expectation of the community, fairness, reasonable and the dictates of Swazi Law and Custom stipulated that once a man had built his own homestead, he should be buried there.

Since Victor had khontaed and built his homestead at Ngculwini under Chief Mgebiseni in the year 2005, Sibandze felt it was important that he be buried there.

For wanting to bury him at Moneni, the mother felt that Pitoli was failing to honour his late son's wishes. So she sought the court's intervention. After the court's ruling, Pitoli said he was elated that the truth on which the court based its judgment finally prevailed.

He emphasised that he never owed the Sibandze family anything and he maintained his son ever since he was born.

When responding to a question of who was responsible for footing the mortuary bill, Pitoli said since he was given two weeks to bury Victor, he would make means to raise the money. In this regard, he said the Shabangu family was still to meet to discuss funeral logistics, including the finances to settle the morgue expenses.

However, after the funeral, Pitoli said he would take the legal route in getting the money paid back by Sibandze who was the one who stalled Victor's burial.

## Nazarene wants principals

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**AS the country continues to reel from the high unemployment rate, the Church of the Nazarene's schools management has invited qualified members of its church to fill eight vacancies for head teachers and deputy head teachers.**

The vacancies were announced by the Schools' Manager Fanyana Mabundza.

Three of the vacancies for head teachers are at Manzini Nazarene High, Beaufort Nazarene Primary and Mphandla Nazarene Primary.

On the other hand, the schools' management sought applications from five deputies candidates to fill positions at Mliba Nazarene,

Mafutseni Nazarene, Manzini Nazarene, Manzana Nazarene and Peak Nazarene Primary Schools.

According to Mabundza, applicants should only be full members, or associate members of the Church of the Nazarene.

## Qualifications

Head teachers with three years of experience in headship were invited to apply for the above-mentioned and should further be degree holders with a teaching certificate or diploma.

On the other hand, aspiring candidates for the positions of deputy head teacher should have at least 10 years' experience as having held a position of deputy head teacher.

Mabundza further stated that the closing date for candidates would be on March 14.



# CORONAVIRUS THREATENS BUSHFIRE FESTIVAL

...the 2020 MTN Bushfire Festival is set to take place from May 29 to 31

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

## A decision on the fate of the 2020 MTN Bushfire festival will be taken tomorrow.

This is where the organisers and the ministry of health will discuss how they will handle the spread of the coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19.

Depending on the magnitude of the virus in the continent and around the world, a decision may be taken to either cancel this year's Festival altogether or postpone it to a later date.

The 2020 MTN Bushfire Festival is set to take place from May 29 to 31.

The festival is not the only international event threatened by the outbreak of the coronavirus as discussions are ongoing regarding the 2020 Olympic Games to be held in Japan in August. The Olympic Committee is looking into the matter.

Governments across the world have taken drastic steps to regulate movement of people, in particular in countries where the virus has been discovered.

## Sports

Many other noteworthy events, from conferences to festivals to sporting events, have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus, including Facebook's Annual F8 Conference and the World Athletics Indoor Championships.

Eswatini Judo Federation has decided to pull out of the 2020 African Judo Cadets Championship scheduled for Dakar, Senegal, later this month.

Senegal is one of the three African countries where the coronavirus has been detected.

MTN Bushfire Festival is one of the country's international events.

Following that the world has not found a cure for the virus that has killed over 3000 people to date, the ministry of health as well as the MTN Bushfire team is in serious conversations about the fate of the event this year.

Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi said as a ministry they were mandated to ensure the health of the nation.

However, the minister did not come out clear on whether the event would be cancelled or postponed.

## Risk

Nkosi said their interest in meeting with the organisers is to ensure the lives of Emaswati are not at risk.

She said many countries with confirmed cases of coronavirus have cancelled international events. The minister said the more cases being confirmed in Africa, the more cautious the ministry and stakeholders need to be.

Meanwhile, MTN Bushfire Director Jiggs Thome said he was not in a position to formulate any communication at the time he was contacted.

He confirmed the team's meetings with the ministry of health. "Official communication about the matter will be on Friday," he said.

## Responsibility

MTN Bushfire is the country's internationally acclaimed music and arts festival that celebrates creative expression whilst promoting social responsibility, stimulating the economy and drawing talent and tourists from across Africa

## QUARANTINE CENTRES UNDERWAY

**THE ministry of health is looking into converting one of the country's biggest hospitals into a coronavirus quarantine centre.**

The ministry of health is likely to turn the National Multi-drug-resistant Tuberculosis Centre to a coronavirus quarantine centre. It is located outside Manzini at Moneni.

This is one of the hospitals in the list of health facilities the ministry is looking into formulating quarantine or isolation centres.

Health Minister Lizzie Nkosi said the ministry has a lot of work to do before converting the hospital to the quarantine centre.

## Infection

The minister said this was because currently the hospital has MDR TB patients who need to be kept somewhere if the centre is completely identified.

Nkosi added that they had identified a confirmed isolation hospital which can be immediately used as a place to isolate people who are infected with coronavirus.

"Lubombo Central Hospital is ready to accept patients," she said.

The minister added that her ministry is working hard to ensure that Emaswati do not become prey of the pandemic.

Last week Friday the ministry announced that it needs E27 million to be in a good position to deal with any coronavirus threat in the country. The ministry further revealed that there were health workers who shown interest to be trained to work at the coronavirus facility. Four doctors and 18 nurses

were said to have shown interest.

At the moment the minister said Eswatini activated its emergency preparedness and response team for coordination and response planning soon after the pronouncement of the outbreak of the corona virus infection in Asia.

She added that rapid response teams have been trained as trainers from the four regions and NICD in RSA identified as a regional laboratory for testing and confirmation of any suspected cases.

"Risk communication and counselling has been integrated into entry screening of travellers from China to ensure they comply with the 14-day follow-up after arrival," she said.

## Travellers

Nkosi said screening has been instituted at nine entry ports to identify travellers that have been to China in the past 14 days. Moreover, Nkosi said a national COVID-19 treatment centre has been designated to manage confirmed cases. The case management and ambulance teams have undergone a quick orientation on COVID-19 infection prevention and control and provision of supportive care for patients with severe respiratory illness.

Nkosi said personal protective equipment is available for managing suspect COVID-19 cases. Quantification of additional medical kits, supplies and supplies for optimal COVID-19 preparedness has been finalised.

Two ambulances have been set aside for transporting cases, the minister stated.

and around the world.

Each year a multi-generational global community of up to 20 000 bring their fire to Malkerns Valley to experience an eclectic Pan-African and international line-up of live music, theatre, and poetry, film, circus, dance and visual arts.

The festival has a vibrant handicraft market, family-friendly performances and Kid Zone as well as the recently introduced interactive

art and dialogue space, The Barn, combine to create a magically eclectic three day entertainment experience.

The festival gives back to the people of Eswatini with 100 per cent of profits donated to two charities; Young Heroes and rural women which assist orphans and rural women with information and infrastructure development, addressing health, education and social concerns.

## BY GOVERNMENT

the posts from government.

"A majority of the class of 2018 are now permanent, now we are currently focusing on engaging the class of 2019 on permanent basis," he said.

## Commission

Mama also clarified that the TSC was currently renewing for contracts teachers who had seen their lapse and not the engaging who graduated last year. He said he needed to clarify this so that people were aware of the commission's

current position instead of getting false information. "For the teachers who graduated last year, we have not begun considering their applications. We request that they remain patient and we will inform them when we start going through their applications," he said.

He mentioned the reason was to inform the teachers so that they did not fall victim to scams. Regarding past experiences where hopefuls were scammed into paying for jobs, the chairman said the teachers should adhere to then information availed by the commission as they would be accordingly informed when the commission

would be hiring and considering their applications.

## Victims

Adding, he mentioned that those who decided to adopt other methods of application, by negotiating and paying money would be doing it at their own risk and would bear the consequences as teaching jobs were not for sale. He said they should not blame the commission as they have been informed. He reiterated that there were more teachers than the available posts and as a commission they were working on ensuring that all teachers were assisted without them falling victims to scams.

For the teachers who graduated last year, we have not begun considering their applications. We request that they remain patient and we will inform them when we start going through their applications



# ENPF PRESENTS E187 000 TO JA

STORIES BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE  
Mbabane

ESWATINI National Provident Fund (ENPF) yesterday presented a sum of E187 000 to Junior Achievement (JA) to use in its programmes in special schools.

The presentation was held at Ekwetsembeni School. Four schools are set to benefit from the donation. These are Ekwetsembeni Primary, St Joseph High, Mzimpofo High and Matsetsa Special Primary.

Speaking during the presentation, ENPF Chief Executive Prince Lonkhokhela said they trust that the money would be put into good use so to ensure that it produces future business moguls from the special schools.

The CEO said successful people with disabilities could become a great source of inspiration and serve as a pillar of strength whenever the feeling of defeat, frustration and shame threaten to cripple the nation.

"Not only can they strengthen our steadfastness and resolve towards realising vision 2022, which is translated towards the things that will greatly benefit the entire Emaswati, but they can also inspire the enthusiasm within us, enabling us to build our characters and

...to be used in programmes for special schools



**TALK BUSINESS:** ENPF CEO Prince Lonkhokhela and ENPF Board Chairman Mashumi Shongwe hand over the cheque to JA Acting Executive Director Phetsile Masilela and head teachers of the four schools yesterday. (Pics: Bongumusa Simelane)

refocus on the things that truly matter," he said.

He commended Junior Achievement for the role that it continues to play meritoriously in grooming young school-going Emaswati with viable business ideas that have not only shaped their destinies, but have also put the nation on the map through the competitions they have participated in globally.

Over the years, the prince said, the

ENPF had invested in quality education, good health and well-being for the elderly and disabled, reducing inequality and sustained communities as part of the UN sustainable development goals. "Eswatini National Provident Fund, which is a reputable institution committed to empowering young people through its corporate responsibility programme, could therefore, not find a better institution to partner with other than JA," he added.

## JA impacts over 10 000 young people

JA acting Executive Director Phetsile Masilela has said the organisation has impacted at least 10 000 young people over the past 12 years.

Masilela was speaking during ENPF presentation of E187 000 donation to the organisation to be used in nurturing pupils with disabilities in four schools.

She said as an organisation, they were grateful for the support they got from ENPF and other stakeholders, which sought to change the lives of young people in the country.

Masilela said pupils from the special schools were highly talented in vocational skills hence the need to integrate entrepreneurship.

"We cannot underestimate their vulnerability and special needs," she said.

She said the pupils from these schools have the potential to contribute immensely to the economic recovery of the country, as long as they were supported and empowered.

"With this initiative we expect a positive increase in access to finance by people with disabilities," Masilela said.

The acting executive direc-

tor said every entrepreneur should have a certain level of financial literacy and personal finance management skills including those with disabilities.

"We applaud the government of Eswatini for introducing grants for people with disabilities.

"However, it is upon all of us to ensure that we come up with a sustainable way of supporting the needs of people with disabilities," she said.

Masilela said the four special schools would have their own competition in which they would showcase their products.

**"We applaud the government of Eswatini for introducing grants for people living with disabilities"**

## Inclusion should be practical - FODSWA

THE Federation of Disabled People in Eswatini (FODSWA) has said inclusion should be practical in all spheres of life.

FODSWA President Siphon Dlamini said it was high time socio-economic inclusion was made practical. He said the nation must not only talk about inclusion, but must also practise.

Dlamini said people with disabilities have the power to

contribute to the socio-economic challenges of the country and that could be possible if the right investments were made. He said pupils from special schools need to be included in the mainstream labour. He added that people with disability are left out when it comes to employment. Dlamini said people with disabilities should get equal opportunities like everybody in both the social and

economic strata. He stated that His Majesty the King leads by example when it comes to issues of disability. He said the King made it clear that people with disability should not be left out on issues of economic development. "His Majesty made it clear that people with disabilities are at the heart of government, so they need to be considered in all issues in the country," he said.



**CHANGING LIVES:** ENPF CEO Prince Lonkhokhela delivering his speech during the event.



**THANK YOU:** Ekwetsembeni Primary School Principal Thembi Khoza making her remarks.



**THIS IS GOOD:** St Joseph High School Principal Andreas Thwala expressing gratitude to ENPF for the donation.

## Ekwetsembeni produces poultry farmer

ENTREPRENEURSHIP has proved that it can be done by all people despite their challenges.

This comes after Ekwetsembeni Primary Principal Thembi Khoza revealed that the school has produced one of the best entrepreneurs.

Khoza said the former pupil is now a poultry farmer. She said the former pupil supplies chicken to Pick 'n Pay.

Khoza said she was happy to note that the role of the school in improving the lives of children with disabilities was recognised.

The principal said there were many young people with disabilities who have the passion for business, but lacked financial assistance. She said the sponsorship by ENPF to JA came at the right time as they were already teaching their pupils life and business skills.

"We are very happy with the recognition and I would like say that we have many pupils who have different challenges.

"We hope that their donation will benefit us a lot going forward," she said.

Khoza thanked the ministry of education and training for providing the special schools with qualified teachers who are dedicated in helping the pupils in the schools.

## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP, ESIBAYENI LODGE ON FRIDAY THE 6TH MARCH 2020.

The Investor Roadmap Unit Under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade would like to Invite all stakeholder to a National Consultative Workshop to be held at Esibayeni Lodge, Esangweni Conference Room on Friday the 6th March 2020 starting at 08:30 am.

Following the commencement of the period between February and April 2020 where the World Bank undertakes data collection through the distribution of the Doing Business Survey Questionnaires, Contributors to the World Bank survey are normally faced with challenges in responding to the questionnaires, this consultative forum will address key areas of difficulty faced by contributors.

This business forum will also present progress on the current ease of doing business reforms that are being implemented, present future plans, discuss and afford the general public a forum to give Government feedback on the business environment.

The following institutions are therefore invited:

- 1) Doing Business implementing agencies
- 2) Contributors to the Doing Business survey
- 3) Business Community
- 4) Members and executives of Business Eswatini
- 5) Members and executives of FESBC
- 6) Members and executives of Swazi Commercial Amadoda
- 7) Members of the public

This forum is open for all to attend but there are 300 spaces available, please confirm your attendance by sending your confirmation to [nozizwemandoza@yahoo.com](mailto:nozizwemandoza@yahoo.com) or calling 24048688 or 24046747



# POLICE SEIZE E550 000 CASH IN RAID

BY STARKY MKHONTA  
Nhlanguano

**A routine police raid in Nhlanguano resulted in over E500 000 cash being discovered in two houses at the Lidlelantfongeni flats.**

This discovery confirms long held beliefs that Asian businesspeople don't bank their money with local financial institutions, which concerns the Central Bank of Eswatini.

In one of the houses, police are reported to have discovered a bag in a wardrobe stashed with a sum of E496 200 whilst in another room, they discovered money amounting to E70 000.

The raid was conducted in the early hours of yesterday where most of the Asians doing business in the region reside.

The Lidlelantfongeni flats is where a fight

involving Pakistanis ensued late last year resulting in one of them being killed.

A battalion of police officers arrived at around 4am unannounced and conducted house to house searches.

Residents were woken up by hard police knocks on their doors who demanded to conduct the search for illegal items.

With some of the occupants not even sure what was happening, they panicked at first thinking they were under attack and were only convinced when the police officers introduced themselves and explaining the purpose of the 'surprise' visit.

"They (occupants) were advised to open the doors as these were police officers doing their work. Others were reluctant and decided to remain silent inside. Others pretended like they were not inside and kept quiet but the police kept knocking and further advising them of the

danger of not allowing them inside," said one of the sources. The raids also helped in discovering some individuals who were in the country without proper documentation and this led to their arrest. "One of the Asians was fished out under the bed as he had no relevant papers and he was arrested there and there," said a source.

Chief Police Information and Communications

Officer Superrintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident. "It's true and in one of the houses, almost E500 000 was found in a bag and in another house at the same residence a sum of over E70 000 was also found. It's against the law to keep such huge amounts of money or hiding it in the house. You declare money and we also have banks where the money can be kept," said Supt. Vilakati.

## Under-fire ex-Zim ministers seeking asylum in Eswatini?

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
Mbabane

**TWO former Zimbabwe Cabinet ministers are reportedly seeking asylum in the country.**

This transpired when Zimbabwe Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, George Charamba wrote in his Twitter account claiming that two of the Cabinet ministers have approached Eswatini authorities to seek asylum.

Charamba claimed that self-exiled former Cabinet ministers Walter Mzembe and Godfrey Gandawa had sought asylum.

Charamba was responding to a Twitter question whether Mzembe was still bedridden as claimed by his lawyer Job Sikhala.

Charamba's response was taken up by media reports in Zimbabwe and by the end of yesterday reports were already circulating that Charamba who uses the name @Jamwanda2 said the former tourism minister, who now leads a new political outfit, and Gandawa had asked for asylum in Eswatini. "No, he alongside Gandawa has just asked for asylum in Eswatini," Charamba was reported as having

commented.

The Zimbabwean publication went on to report that Mzembe and other former G40 leaders, including Saviour Kasukuwere, Patrick Zhuwao are in self-imposed exile in South Africa while Jonathan Moyo is holed in Kenya.

They were reported as having been forced out of the country after a military coup that displaced the late former president Robert Mugabe from power. Earlier this year, Zim News reported that after taking farms from

Grace Mugabe, Bona Mugabe Saviour Kasukuwere, Patrick Zhuwao and Jonathan Moyo, Perence Shiri was targeting former minister Mzembe and Gandawa. This led to Gandawa stating that he no longer felt safe in Zimbabwe, hence the self-imposed exile. Efforts to confirm if indeed Cabinet ministers have applied for asylum in Eswatini proved futile yesterday.

Ministry of Home Affairs Communications Officer Mlandvo

Dlamini said he can only be able to check if there were any applications coming from the former ministers today. He said the procedure calls for people who apply for asylum to report to the police before approaching the ministry of home affairs.



Zimbabwe Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet George Charamba.



GENERAL NOTICE NO. 02/ 2020

### RENEWAL OF RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM LICENCES FOR 2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR.

All radio frequency spectrum license holders, including Private Radio Communication Station License (PMR), Aeronautical Aircraft Station License, Aeronautical Ground Station License, Amateur Radio Station License, Satellite Earth Station License (VSAT) and Point to Point Fixed Wireless Links License (Microwave), are hereby reminded that their annual licenses are due for renewal on the **1<sup>st</sup> April 2020**.

The Commission therefore invites all spectrum users to submit their requests for license renewal. To facilitate this process, spectrum users are advised to download and fill the relevant application forms from the Commission's website ([www.escom.org.sz](http://www.escom.org.sz), Home > Licensing > Application > Application Forms). The completed forms are to be submitted to the Commission's offices before **30<sup>th</sup> April 2020** for processing and award of licenses. Alternatively, the completed forms can be submitted to [info@escom.org.sz](mailto:info@escom.org.sz).

Radio frequency spectrum users are further advised that failure to make the necessary application for renewal of their licenses and failure to make the necessary license applications to use frequency spectrum by the **30<sup>th</sup> April 2020** will result in an automatic withdrawal of the frequency spectrum assignment from the respective license holder.

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## MAN REDUCES COP INTO PUNCHING BAG

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

A 30-year-old man landed in the accused's dock after he turned a uniformed police officer into a punching bag while in the line of duty.

Fanelo Dlamini of Logoba appeared before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini at the Matsapha Circuit Court yesterday on four charges of contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Assault, common assault and resisting arrest.

These offences were committed on February 6 at Logoba.

Fanelo assaulted the police officer when confronted about some offences related to the SODV Act No. 15 of 2018. Fanelo had been taken to task by Nomfundo Simelane whom he allegedly forcefully caressed all over the body and further kissed on the mouth without her consent. His charge sheet states that by doing this, Fanelo inspired a belief of sexual violation on Nomfundo.

This was not all as when Nomfundo protested about being touched and kissed, Fanelo allegedly intention-

ally strangled her, hence the common assault charge. After the woman had reported the matter to the Sigodweni police, they promptly acted on it.

Two officers found Fanelo at Logoba and they informed him about the cause of their visit. The 30-year-old man did not take kindly to the officer's confrontation, so he ended up punching the police officer, Constable Hlophe with fists several times in the face.

### Attacked

Noticing that his partner was being attacked, the other officer identified as Constable Dlamini ran to Hlophe's rescue and further attempted to arrest him.

The two officers' efforts were futile as Fanelo allegedly resisted arrest. In court, Fanelo pleaded guilty to the charges of assaulting a police officer and further resisting arrest. However, he pleaded not guilty to the charges of caressing and kissing Nomfundo without her consent, and further strangulating her. Magistrate Dlamini deferred the matter until April.

Fanelo was remanded in custody until then.

## MTN employee arrested for E36 000 theft

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

AN employee of the Mobile Telephone Network (MTN) Eswatini has landed himself in jail for allegedly stealing from his employer a sum of E36 000.

Mxolisi Maxwell Nxumalo, who is attached to the Pigg's Peak branch of the mobile telephone company, has been charged with theft and according to what is reflected in the charge sheet, Nxumalo (37) committed the offence last Friday in Pigg's Peak.

The charge sheet states that the accused person wrongfully and with intent stole money in cash amounting to E36 270, the property which was in the lawful possession of Sibusiso Mkhonta.

Following his arrest by the Pigg's Peak police, Nxumalo was arraigned at the Magistrate's Court on Tuesday before Magistrate Sibonelo Dlamini, who granted him bail fixed at E18 000.

However, feeling the amount is rather too steep for him, Nxumalo yesterday filed an urgent application for variation of his bail at the High Court.

He appeared before Judge Ticheme Dlamini where he, through his lawyer Sabelo 'Chicken' Dlamini, applied that his bail amount be reduced from E18 000 to an affordable amount upon such terms and conditions the High Court may deem fit to impose.

According to Nxumalo in his founding affidavit, he is Liswati of Nsangwini area in the Hhohho

region and on February 28, he was arrested by the police who subsequently charged him for the offence of theft of the said money from his employer.

He submitted that he was granted the E18 000 bail by the Magistrate's Court but cannot raise the amount since he cannot afford same.

"The matter is urgent by the virtue of the fact that I am employed by MTN Pigg's Peak branch on a permanent basis, hence my continued incarceration will not only be detrimental to my job but also to the well-being of my entire family since I am the breadwinner with a wife and four minor children," he submitted.

### Interest

He stated that the interest of justice clearly favours that he be afforded the relief he sought, in particular because there is no prejudice to be suffered by anyone as he had been advised that the police have already completed their investigations.

Since the variation application was not opposed by the crown represented by crown counsel Khumbulani Mngomezulu, Nxumalo's bail was varied. The court ordered that it would not interfere with the E18 000 bail amount.

However, he will now pay E4 000 in cash and E14 000 shall be in a form of a surety.

By the time this report was compiled yesterday afternoon, his relatives were facilitating to deposit his bail with the Treasury Department as they had obtained the relevant papers.

## Church member steals

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

A man stole E16 000 worth of speakers from his own church and sold them at E1 000 each.

Mangaliso Phiri (27) of Ludzeludze appeared before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini at the Matsapha Circuit Court on a theft charge.

Mangaliso was arrested on Monday by the Matsapha police even though the crime was committed in March 2019.

His charge sheet states that Mangaliso stole the two Sansui speakers from

God's Amazing Church situated at Ludzeludze.

The items were in the lawful possession of Nomvuyo Patricia Shongwe. Information brought before court was to the effect that some church members wanted to use the speakers when they discovered that they were missing.

### Enquired

Since they were kept in the house that Mangaliso used, they enquired about the speakers' whereabouts. To their shock, Mangaliso, a church member who had been tasked with looking after the church property, denied knowledge of the property's whereabouts.

Shongwe said the church then conducted its own investigation which unearthed that Mangaliso had sold the speakers to two different people who also happened to be neighbours with the church structure.

After learning that the church was aware that he had stolen the items, Mangaliso reportedly admitted to having committed the crime.

When phone numbers for these buyers were requested, Mangaliso gave the church committee ones that did not exist. It was at this point that the church committee requested that he returned the speakers.

According to Shongwe, he asked to

## Boy finds man kissing uncle's wife, kills him

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

BEING angered by finding another man planting a deep kiss on his uncle's wife at a funeral has landed a 19-year-old man behind bars.

Menzi Simon Magagula of Gunwane area in the Hhohho region under Chief Ngangaza has been charged with the murder of Mlangeni Dlamini (24) of the same area.

It is stated that the accused person is charged with the offence of murder in that on January 20 at or near Mshingishini he did wrongfully and with intent kill Mlangeni Dlamini of Gunwane and did thereby commit the crime of murder.

Following his arrest by the Pigg's Peak police officers, Magagula yesterday filed

...He was admitted to bail fixed at E15 000 after filing urgent application

an urgent application for bail at the High court before Judge Ticheme Dlamini where he was represented by lawyer Sabelo Dlamini.

### Granted

He was granted E15 000 bail and ordered to pay E4 000 cash and E11 000 shall be in a form of a surety.

Giving a background to the matter when motivating his bail application, Magagula told the court that it was after he had an argument with the deceased after finding him intimately kissing his (Magagula's) uncle's (babe lomncane's) wife.

"I was arrested by the police and subsequently charged with murder after surrendering myself. This was after I had an argument with the deceased whom I found kissing my uncle's wife behind the house

at a funeral. The deceased slapped me after I had confronted him," he submitted.

He informed the court that following the slapping, he took out a knife and planted it on the deceased's stomach. He immediately went back home and told his elders who subsequently took him to the police station after hearing that the deceased later succumbed to death.

He stated that he will abide by all bail conditions and will not endanger the safety of members of the public and will not conceal evidence. He averred that he was a young man who was still under the custody of his parents and desired to further his studies, hence his continued incarceration would be detrimental to his future as he has a young life.

## 400 girls to be showered with pads, underwear

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

HELPING Hand Foundation will shower 400 girls from two primary schools in the country with sanitary pads and underwear.

The founder of the foundation Ncamiso Mahlalela said this was part of celebrating International Women's Day. He said the two primary schools are Qedusizi in Sidvashini as well as Esitjeni in Lobamba. "200 girls will be chosen per school," he said.

Mahlalela said the main reason they chose the two primary schools was because

he realised that girls must be empowered at a very young age and primary school pupils are the best. He added that he noticed that most primary school going girls were not free to talk about their 'monthlies' as there is a lot of stigma around that topic at lower school grades.

### Eliminate

He said in order to eliminate the stigma, he ventured into the initiative. All along the foundation was known for donating sanitary pads only.

Therefore, Mahlalela welcomed everyone interested in being part of the initiative; he can be contacted on 7813 8561. He added that a bank account number will be announced soon. The donations can

be in a form of sanitary pads, underwears and money.

This is one of the many initiatives that have been pioneered by Helping Hand Foundation. During the schools opening period, over 50 girls benefited from the foundation through an exercise known as 'Keeping a girl child in school'.

The aim of the campaign was to aid girls mostly those from underprivileged families' not to miss school during their time of the month.

Helping Hand Foundation's main sponsor is Dr Futhi Tsela who came on board by donating sanitary pads. The campaign reached several schools in the Hhohho region.

## TOWN BIRDS



**BREAKFAST:**  
These birds enjoy their breakfast at their usual place at the old bus rank yesterday.  
(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



# Speakers, sells them

pay the church E14 000 for the two speakers. Shongwe informed the court that the church committee refused to take Mangaliso's offer but instead, suggested that he paid this sum to the people he had sold the speakers to so that they could return the church property.

## Shocked

The church committee reportedly gave him a year to do this. However, Shongwe said they were shocked to learn that Mangaliso had left the church house without informing anyone about this move.

Since they did not know how else to get hold of him, Shongwe said the church committee resolved to involve

the police, hence the arrest on Monday.

She stated that the actual price with which the church bought the two speakers was E24 000 but since they had been used, the church decided to set the price at E8 000 for both speakers. Upon apprehending Mangaliso, the police managed to recover one of the speakers.

When given an opportunity to state his defence, Mangaliso opted not to say anything.

In mitigation, nonetheless, he told the court that he had sold the speakers at E1 000 each.

When asked about the one that was never recovered, Mangaliso said he did

not know the whereabouts of the buyer. He also made it known that he did not have money to pay for the missing speaker because he was not employed.

## Pleaded

Therefore, he pleaded for a lenient sentence, citing that it was a mistake to steal from the church.

Magistrate Dlamini sentenced him to two years imprisonment with an option of E3 000 fine.

He further ordered that Mangaliso compensates the church with E8 000 for the speaker that was not recovered.

The compensation was to be paid before the E3 000 fine.

## Woman found with 25 live rounds of ammunition

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

A woman of Matsesa has appeared before the Magistrate's Court after she was found in possession of 25 live rounds of ammunition.

Nothando Magagula (23) was arrested during a raid as police searched for criminal elements in some areas around Siteki. The woman had kept the live rounds of ammunition in her house. She was subsequently charged with contravening Section 11 of the Arms and Ammunition Act of 1964. According to the charge sheet, Magagula did wrongfully

and unlawfully possess 25 rounds of live ammunition without being a holder of a valid permit. She made her appearance before Acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe. When informed of her right to legal representation, the accused person elected to conduct her own defence.

## Represented

The crown which was represented by Nomphumelelo Mnisi filed an application to have the matter postponed to a later date pending setting of a date of trial.

The matter returns to court on May 11. In the meantime, Magagula was remanded out of custody.

Meanwhile, in the same court, Sifiso

Msimango (26) of KaLanga faced a charge of contravening Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act of 1939.

He wrongfully and unlawfully possessed 5.44 kilograms of dagga, a potentially poisonous drug without being a holder of a valid permit. When the charge sheet was read to him, Msimango pleaded guilty to the charge.

Prosecutor Thobile Motsa indicated that the crown intended to lead evidence to prove commission of the offence.

She therefore filed an application to have the matter postponed to a later date. The matter was postponed to March 31 while the accused was admitted to bail of E1 000.

## Eswatini Mobile hands owing customers to lawyers

STORIES BY DELISA THWALA  
Mbabane

ESWATINI Mobile has handed a list of all its customers who have not settled their loans to their attorneys.

The company confirmed yesterday that the messages customers have been receiving were not a scam but notifying them that their pending loan payment has been handed to the attorneys.

For a couple of weeks now, the network company has been sending their valued customers who borrowed money through their 'e-Mali platforms' under the service of 'Ingula' to be advised that their unsettled debt has been handed over to the Eswatini Mobile attorneys.

Eswatini Mobile Communications Manager Nosipho Shongwe said customers must take the messages seriously. "This is part of our terms and conditions of the loan, that when you fail to pay up you first get the interest then after three months we take it up to our attorneys," confirmed Nosipho.

## Eswatini Mobile apologises for network disturbance

ESWATINI Mobile on Tuesday experienced a total blackout of network in some parts of the country which included places like Ezulwini and Nkoyoyo.

The internet could not be accessed

Customers receiving the SMSes are those who defaulted on their loan repayment. Before the customers were sent the SMS messages, they were called by the call centre agents reminding them of their debt and engaged on when they can pay.

A customer who received the SMS said at first he thought it was a joke when he used to get the phone calls asking him when he can pay but later realised after the short message service (SMS) that the cellular network company is serious. "My SMS was straight forward and when I got it I paid instantly I did not want to risk my credit check over a

and calls could hardly be made.

The company issued an apology across their social media platforms and assured their customers that such will not happen again as it had been fixed.

mere E200 I can pay back," said Mehluleli Nkambule.

Another customer, Sanele Mabaso said it is very hard to dodge the system as the customers went through the Vela process so all they have to do is pay up. "Eswatini Mobile is not playing games they are serious and no one can run away from this. Once it involves the law it is hard to escape and doing so will damage one's reputation," closed Mabaso. The loan service 'Ingula' was launched by the company last year around September.

This was a service that helped users access fast cash and pay back.

## I was digging truth on my stolen items - TV man

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

THE Eswatini Television Authority (ETA) employee arrested for attempted murder after torturing a suspect claims he was merely digging the truth on his stolen items at his home at Mashobeni.

Phephisa Zwane (45), who has been charged with four others, alleges he decided to threaten his nephew that he (Zwane) would tie him to the back of his car and drag him on the ground but when he did so, his nephew quickly came out with the truth on his missing items.

This is contained in his affidavit at the High Court, where he together with the four others, filed an urgent application for bail before Judge Ticheme Dlamini.

Zwane has been charged together with Mduduzi Lukhele (45), Jabulani Mamba (27), Khulekani Mabuza (32) and Satiso Mabuza (28), all of Mashobeni in the Shiselweni region. They are facing three counts according to the charge sheet. In the first count, they are charged with attempted murder in that upon or about February 21 at or near Mashobeni the accused persons either each or all of them acting jointly in furtherance of a common purpose did unlawfully and intentionally attempt to kill Sibahle Matsebula by tying him with a trope on the neck and further strangulated him.

## Charged

On the second count, they are charged with the same offence in that they attempt to kill Melusi Shongwe by tying him with a rope on the neck and further dragged him with a car. On the last count, they are charged with the same offence in that they tried to kill Lwazi Hlophe by drowning him and further kicked him several times.

Pleading with the court in his affidavit, Zwane submitted that he had entrusted his nephew (Matsebula) with seeing to it that his house was well kept and always had its lights on during the night when he was away at

● He tied nephew with rope on back of his car with intent to drag him and further strangulated another accused of having stolen items

work. He submitted that he noticed that some of his household items, including appliances, were missing without the doors having been tampered.

He confronted his nephew about same, who denied knowledge of the missing items.

"Seeing he was unwilling to talk, I decided to threaten him that I would drag him with my vehicle and to that end I tied him to the back of the car on the ground and revved the car.

He quickly came out with the truth and mentioned the name of Sibahle Matsebula (first complainant)," he submitted.

Zwane revealed in his affidavit that they proceeded to fetch Matsebula whom he strangulated with a rope until he told them that his brother Malangeni was in possession of the items they were looking for. He averred that they went to the said Malangeni who in turn gave them information which resulted in the recovery of the missing items which included a plasma TV set, home theatre and speakers.

## Items

He mentioned that he had already reported the stolen items at Gege Police Station and he decided not to proceed with the criminal charges since he had recovered his stolen items.

"I was taken aback when I was arrested and charged with the attempted murder of my nephew and Sibahle Matsebula. I have good prospects of success at trial as I never attempted to kill the complainants. I admit that my conduct was unlawful, however, the frustration was unbearable," he submitted. Represented by Nhlanguano based attorney Melusi Simelane of Piliso, Simelane and Partners law firm, Zwane and the four were granted bail fixed at E15 000 each. The court ordered that each was to pay E5 000 in cash and E10 000 as surety.

## Oops, Eswatini listed under SA provinces

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
Mbabane

THE Department of Water and Sanitation in South Africa caused an uproar when it listed Eswatini as a

province.

This was on the South African dam levels weekly status update. The SA government through its Twitter page posted a list containing a summary of its provinces and dam levels as at 2 March. Under summary of provinces Eswatini is listed alongside Eastern Cape, Free

State, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, among other provinces. The department went on to explain that the reason for putting Eswatini and Lesotho on the list was because South Africa shares watercourses with both neighbouring countries. "Water flow in those two countries has an impact on the country's

dam level," the response from the department read. South Africa has four internationally shared river basins that contribute 45 per cent of the country's total river flow. The report states that these waters must be shared equitably with neighbouring states that also have increasing water needs due to growing populations and economies.

"We signed partnership frameworks agreements, also known as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with these

neighbouring states," part of the report from the department read. Worth noting is that due to its population size and other factors, Eswatini has been on many instances referred to by some as a province of South Africa. On the other hand, Eswatini is still claiming some parts of South Africa mainly around the Mpumalanga Province to be part of the country. The claim is that the land in question was taken from Emaswati years ago.





**WE ARE TIRED:** National Workers Union of Higher Institutions (NAWUSHI) President Samuel Shongwe making his remarks while Acting Secretary General Lee Madzinane looks on.



**WE WILL NOT BACK DOWN:** NAWUSHI Eswatini Christian Medical University Executive, Chairperson Phila Nxumalo insisted that they will not back down until they got what they wanted.

## Process of adopting report ongoing – PS Bertram

MINISTRY of Education and Training Principal Secretary Bertram Stewart said the process of adopting the report was still ongoing.

“Adopting a salary structure is not a one day thing as it has to first go through negotiations with various stakeholders,” he said. He said

the ministry could not just adopt the report without going through the necessary processes.

He stated that the report also needed to be approved by Cabinet as the institution was subvented by government.

He further assured that the process was still ongoing.

### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH:

# CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STAFF PICKET OVER SALARY STRUCTURE

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

CLASSES came to a halt at Eswatini Medical Christian University (EMCU) as staff picketed over absence of a salary structure.

While students remained calm during the picket, some of them were seemingly interested in joining their lecturers and the support staff as they staged a picket yesterday afternoon.

Tables turned when students who were normally associated with staging class boycotts continued enjoying their lunch hour while their lecturers expressed their grievance over the institution's failure to adopt a clear salary structure.

The picket was joined by the National Workers Union of Swaziland Higher Institutions (NAWUSHI) executive led by the union's President Samuel Shongwe and Acting Secretary General Lee Madzinane.

The institution's staff said they had had enough as they were tired of waiting for the adoption of the salary struc-

ture by government as it had not been implemented since the institution opened in August 2013.

Meanwhile, Madzinane said the reason they opted for the picket was due to the long dragging issue of the salary structure.

He mentioned last year, the institution engaged the services of a consultant to formulate the salary structure

and furnish them with a report.

He said the salary structure was supposed to be implemented at the beginning of the current financial year last April but it had dragged until they decided to picket. He said as a union representing the employees, they negotiated with the institution's management but disagreed on certain issues.

“We decided not to fight the management and agreed to the structure as it was presented and resolved to use it as a base,” he said.

Moreover, he said after the implementation of the salary structure, they would then engage the university in negotiations for a salary review so that the staff pay would be aligned other institutions in the country such as the University of Eswatini.

He said the current situation was not conducive as lecturers were not paid the same salary. He said some lecturers were paid more than others. “Some lecturers are paid in the region of E20



**WATCHING ON:** Eswatini Medical Christian University students enjoying their lunch as the institution's staff picket yesterday.

## We need all the support we can get - NAWUSHI

NATIONAL Workers Union of Swaziland Higher Institutions (NAWUSHI) executive has requested for all the support they could get.

NAWUSHI Acting Secretary General Lee Madzinane pleaded for the support of Members of Parliament as government was seemingly reluctant to address all the issues faced by tertiary institutions employees. He said they would also appeal to authorities of the country to enquire what was happening within the institutions.

Madzinane also said as a union they were in full support of the MPs request for reshuffling of Cabinet ministers. “A new

broom sweeps cleaner than an old one,” he said.

NAWUSHI President Samuel Shongwe said they had been informed by the institution that the delay in adoption of the salary structure was within government. “We do not know what is causing the delay as this was included in the institution's budget,” he said.

He said they were hoping the message would get to government and all relevant officers. They would also consider lobbying students from the institutions to join them. His statement was met with applause from the students who pledged their support. “Ningasishiyi

next time,” said one student.

Eswatini Medical Christian University Union Executive Chairperson Phila Nxumalo said this was the beginning of the end to their worries as they will not back down until they get what they want.

He also thanked all the staff members who availed themselves for the picket as well as the union executive. “We are tired of waiting for this and from this day on we will continue to fight for our rights,” he said.

He further requested full attendance from the staff on future pickets and commitment to the cause.

### TENDER NOTICE



#### INVITATION TO TENDER

|       | TENDER NO.  | TENDER NAME                                    | CLOSING DATE  |
|-------|-------------|--|---------------|
| No. 1 | SRA2020/006 | Provision of Failover Network Services for SRA | 27 March 2020 |

Proposals are hereby invited from suitably qualified service providers for the provision of Failover Network Services for the SRA.

Tenderers should submit the following:

- Company profile.
- Technical and Financial Proposal
- Valid Original Tax Compliance Certificate.
- Valid Trading License.
- Valid Labour Compliance
- Company form J & form C
- Police clearance for company Directors
- Names and contact details of at least three (3) reference customers
- Statement of joint ventures / partnerships (if any).

All interested and suitable qualified vendors who wish to provide the above services for SRA must visit the SRA website at [www.sra.org.sz](http://www.sra.org.sz) for the Terms of References and the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency website at [www.sppra.co.sz](http://www.sppra.co.sz)

Tenders must be placed in the tender box in a sealed envelope showing tender name and tender number not later than 12h00 Noon, on the above closing date at:

Eswatini Revenue Authority Building, Portion 419 of Farm 50 Ezulwini, Along MR 103 (Mvutshini-Gables Road)

**WARNING: Any actions or tendencies that will be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with or influence the tendering process will result in immediate disqualification of the tenderer.**

\*\*SRA does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenders!  
\*\* SRA does not bind itself to award the tenders!



000 while others are paid more than E40 000 as there was no structure," he said.

He added that the salary structure would clarify how much lectures should earn compared to senior lecturers and this would be clear for all the other support staff such as cleaners and grounds men.

### Grievances

He stated that they had no issues with management as they agreed on the proposed salary structure provided by the consultant.

He said the problem was government in the issue.

As a union they were unable to engage with government and the only way they could get their point through was to picket as their grievances would be heard.

"Government is letting us down and from the look of things education is not valued as the ministry of education seemingly does not know what is going on in the institutions of higher learning," he said.

He said they informed the ministry of education in August 2019 about their predicament

but they were still waiting for a response.

It was only two weeks ago that the ministry indicated they would present to caps the proposal salary structure and the union would be called but nothing has been forthcoming.

He said the presentation was made by the institution's management and to them that was a clear indication that there was a problem within the ministry. They were of the view that the ministry did not value education.

### Status

He said on Tuesday, there was a picket at UNESWA and wondered what government was doing in support of His Majesty's vision to be a first world country by 2022.

"How can we as a country attain first world status with an illiterate population," he said.

Madzinane mentioned that if the higher institutions are neglected, the vision will not be realised. They would engage all the other institutions as they were also faced with similar problems.

They did not need any money from government as this was

budgeted for in the institution's budget.

"If we are struggling to get this approval, what would happen when we start requesting for the cost of living adjustment as well as the salary review," he said.

EMCU Executive Director Siphon Vilakati said there were structures in government that must approve the implementation of the salary structure.

He stated that the process was not complete but they had made significant progress and were optimistic that in the near future, the report from the consultant company would be approved and implemented.



Some lecturers are paid in the region of E20 000 while others are paid more than E40 000 as there was no structure



UP WE GO: Eswatini Medical Christian University staff marching towards the institution's gate during the picket yesterday. (Pics: Sifiso Dlamini)



MONEY TALKS: Members of the university staff singing and dancing during the lunch hour picket.



# Double CASH BACK

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**B. BRADLOWS**



# National Social Security Policy completed, pending approval

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Lobamba

THE ministry of labour and social security has recently completed and validated a National Social Security Policy (NSSP), which is currently pending approval from Cabinet.

Following concerns from members of Parliament regarding the state of social security in the country, the ministry of labour and social security has assured the legislators that they are one step ahead in addressing the matter.

This was revealed during the House of Assembly portfolio committee debate of the ministry's annual performance report last week.

Lobamba Marwick Khumalo requested the ministry to clarify where the country was in terms of social security measures and why the component of social security was not visible in the ministry.

"Do we have any legal framework in the pipeline or we are just inclined to social welfare issues as a country?" enquired the MP.

Minister Makhosi Vilakati said as indicated in the 2019/2020 annual performance report, the ministry had just completed and validated a National Social Security Policy (NSSP).

He stated that the document had been referred to the tripartite consultation and advisory structure, being the Labour Advisory Board



**ELABORATES: : Minister of Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati.**

(LAB), for revalidation and would be submitted to cabinet for consideration and approval.

Further, Vilakati said the NSSP mapped a way forward to the establishment of four main social security funds that the ministry was currently tasked to establish. These are the Workmen Compensation Insurance Fund, Unemployment Fund, National Health Insurance Fund and National Pension Fund.

"Other fund, which include short-term cash benefits such as sickness, maternity benefits plus the improvement of survivors and invalidity cover will be implemented pro-

gressively with a view to establish, over time, a comprehensive and inclusive social security framework for the Kingdom of Eswatini," said the minister.

The MPs also enquired if the ministry had specific action plan with measurable time bound milestones for the execution of an integrated social security system that would address the vulnerabilities of the workforce to enable them to effectively contribute to economic growth.

They also enquired if the ministry's work plan on this aspect was aligned to the key performance indicators of the Eswatini Strategic Road

Map (2019-2023), which established the objective for inclusive growth, through promotion of an effective social safety net and not leaving any Liswati behind.

The minister said the NSSP had recently been developed as a strategic approach towards improving programmes aimed at poverty alleviation. He said the work plan for the exercise for 2020/2021 financial year was focused on aspects such as development of an implementation plan with financial projections for the social security benefits as outlined in the NSSP.

"This will prioritise the introduction of periodic long-term benefit payments for employment related injuries and occupational diseases," he said.

Vilakati also said the NSSP would also develop an umbrella legal framework on social security that would describe governance and administration methods including common principles to social protection system as a whole such as non-discrimination and equality of treatment on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, race or origin.

He added that the NSSP would also undertake a feasibility study to inform the establishment of a National Social Security Agency (NSSA), which would be a distinct juristic entity with financial and administrative independence to implement and run the comprehensive set of social security benefits.

## McAlpine residents want mobile police post

BY STARKY MKHONTA  
Nhlango

**FOLLOWING a spate of robberies and attacks at McAlpine, a suburb in Nhlango, the residents want police to conduct regular patrols in the area.**

The suburb has become a hunting ground for criminals who come armed to rob the residents. Most of those targeted in the robberies are businessmen of Asian origin.

The latest attack is of a well-known businessman, Elias Patel, who was shot last Thursday.

"It is not safe to reside at McAlpine. Dangerous criminals do as they please and the fact that the suburb is a walking distance from the police camp does not scare the thugs.

It is high time the police intervened and found a long lasting solution to the problem. No one is safe and what is unfortunate is that it is the businesspeople living in this part of the town who are targeted," said one of the businesspeople residing at McAlpine.

The residents called upon the police to intensify patrols in the area. Patel, who is the owner of Shak's Cellular and Sound, was almost killed while driving to his residence in the company of his wife last Thursday evening.

He was just a few metres away from his residence when gunmen opened fire. One of the bullets riddled his jaw and got lodge in his neck.

He was rushed to hospital and the bullet was successfully extracted.

He has since been discharged after the successful operation.

## Ex-lover 'coached' child to say I raped her - Dad

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A father, who has since been convicted of the rape of his five-year-old daughter, has accused the mother of the child of 'coaching' the minor to testify against him.**

Bongani\* blatantly denied that he ever committed any sexual act on his daughter, stating that the allegations levelled against him were as a result of his separation from the mother. "Her mother has always accused me of assaulting our daughter with open hands, and this is just another ploy that she has cooked up with her neighbour. She is purely using the child as a pawn to ruin my life," Bongani stated.

According to the minor, her father forcefully grabbed her from her mother's place of residence on the day of the incident.

She stated that when they arrived at her father's flat, he bathed her and put her to bed.

She proceeded to tell the court that her father raped her, which was expressed by the word 'kusoma', a term normally used by children her age to describe an act of sexual intercourse. With the use of dolls, Bongani's

daughter demonstrated before the court how her father sexually assaulted her.

She demonstrated the act using male and female dolls as she showed the court what adults would perceive as 'sexual movements' associated with sexual intercourse. The minor further testified that when her father was finished, he bathed her again and left her in the house for an unspecified period of time. When he returned, the minor recalled that he made her take some tablets, which he never explained their use.

When cross-examining his daughter, Bongani questioned the minor whether she had been coached by her mother to level the rape allegations against him. However, the minor maintained that he did in fact, rape her on several occasions.

In its judgement, the court addressed the issue of Bongani's argument that his daughter was schooled by her mother and her neighbour to state that she was raped by her father.

The court questioned what the neighbour would benefit from doing so save for only being concerned about the child's safety around her father.

The matter is pending before the High Court of Eswatini for sentencing.

## Domestic fight ends tragically as man killed by own brother

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

**A domestic fight between two siblings ended tragically at Mandlangempisi when one brother accidentally killed the other by hitting him with a brick in the head.**

Machawe Samuel Shongwe (27) has since been arrested and charged with the murder of his brother Nhlanhla Slova Shongwe, an incident that happened on January 12 2020.

Nhlanhla sustained serious injuries and succumbed to death on February 5 while admitted at the Mbabane Government Hospital.

Following his arrest, Machawe yesterday filed an urgent application for bail at the High Court. He informed the court, through his affidavit, that he had no intention to kill his brother. He claimed to have been merely defending himself from his violent brother who was armed with a knife during the altercation.

Represented by lawyer Nhlanhla Ginindza of NE Ginindza Attorneys law firm, Machawe was granted bail by the High Court fixed at E15 000. However, Justice Ticheme Dlamini ordered that he pays a sum of E4 000 in cash and E11 000 shall be in form of sureties.

Relating the events that led to the death

of his brother, the applicant (Machawe) informed the court that in January 10 2020, he and his elder brother (deceased) went for a drinking spree at Bhalekane prison and during the early hours of January 11 at or near Mandlangempisi bus stop, they both had a verbal altercation.

He stated that it all started when his elder brother made accusations against him (Machawe) and his late mother, who happened to be a step-mother to the deceased, to the effect that she was abusive and intolerant to him (deceased).

The altercation, according to Machawe, ballooned to such an extent that a fierce fight ensued. He said the deceased was the aggressor as he tried to reach for his knife during the fight. Since he knew his brother as a violent person who had a history of stabbings, Machawe said

he reached for a concrete brick next to him and hit his brother in the head.

"In an endeavour to defend myself since I reasonably believed my brother was going to stab me owing to his history of stabbings, I used a brick to hit him. Sadly and unfortunately, my brother sustained serious injuries in the process and was rushed to Dvokolwako health centre before being transferred to Mbabane Government Hospital, where he died," he submitted.

He averred that upon realising that he had injured his brother, he surrendered himself to the Mliba police. He was subsequently arrested and charged with attempted murder.

He added that he got to learn while in custody at the Pigg's Peak correctional facility that his brother succumbed to the injuries inflicted on him.







## HeadTeacher - School for the Deaf High

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced eSwati candidates to fill the above-mentioned position, which is tenable at the School for the Deaf High.

### Position Summary:

The candidate shall function as a first line manager of professional teaching and support staff activities in a special school for the deaf. The candidate shall be responsible for both academic and vocational subjects that equip learners with entrepreneurial skills. The work requires knowledge of policies, procedures, and best practice of special Needs and inclusive teaching, educational programs, and supervisory techniques, and procedures.

### Qualifications:

- Applicants must have a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities with Education
- Training in Special Needs preferably Deaf Education
- Be proficient in Eswatini Sign Language
- Master's Degree in Leadership and Management will be an added advantage
- Must have 3 years and above experience in an Administrative position
- Must have 3 years and above experience working with learners with hearing impairments
- Must be Computer literate

### Key competencies and personal attributes:

The successful candidate must possess and/or demonstrate the following:

- Good communication skills
- Organisational and leadership skills
- Commitment to Inclusive Education practices
- Visionary
- Effective listener
- Problem solver
- Empower others
- Team work

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Demonstrate an ambitious vision for the school and facilitate communication between Teachers, support staff, students, parents, community and both Regional Education Office and Ministry of Education and Training.
- Create a culture of high expectations, aspirations and scholastic excellence in which the highest achievement in academic and vocational work is recognized as vitally important.
- Actively promote inclusion, equality, equity and diversity and monitor the progress of learners to ensure that none is excluded.
- Ensure smooth running of the School by developing, analysing curricula to meet current needs and adapt to change in society.
- Evaluate teachers to ensure that curriculum is adhered to, and identify areas of improvement for inclusion in the School training plan.
- Support the formal curriculum with extra curricula opportunities for all learners to extend their knowledge and understanding.
- Provide instructional leadership in the School.
- Establish curriculum guidelines in collaboration with teachers', other administrators and ensure that guidelines and standards for inclusive education are adhered to.
- Ensure effectiveness of the actions they take to secure and sustain improvements to teaching, learning and assessment, extra-curricular activities and how effectively School Committees, Schools Managers, and School Boards hold them accountable.
- Helping children understand instructions, through repetition, re-phrasing or demonstration.
- Effectively safeguard learners' safety.
- Improve staff practice (including teaching, learning and assessment) through rigorous performance management and appropriate professional development and checking of official books.
- Maintain records, prepares reports and composes correspondence relative to the work in order to provide Feedback and assistance to teachers and all relevant stakeholders.
- Organise and supervise the academic, special education, vocational education and physical instructional program.
- Makes recommendations regarding the expansion of instructional facilities and purchase equipment.
- Apply policies governing the education of persons with disabilities including reasonable accommodation and program implementation.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders e.g. grade testing for vocational skills.
- Facilitate provision psychosocial support.
- Be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or individual assistive devices.
- Ensure visibility of the School and its services.

### Remuneration:

The successful applicant shall be paid on Salary Scale Grade D5.  
Closing Date: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 16:45pm.

### NB:

- Application Forms are obtained at the Regional Education Offices, and must be submitted back to the REOs Offices with CV, Certified copies of Academic Certificates and TSC Number.

Applications should be addressed and submitted to:  
The Executive Secretary  
Teaching Service Commission  
Ministry of Education and Training  
P.O. Box 976  
Mbabane  
ESWATINI.

## VACANCIES FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

The Teaching Service Commission (TSC) hereby invites suitably qualified and experienced eSwati Teachers to apply for the positions of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in the following public schools.

### SECONDARY/HIGH SCHOOLS - HEADTEACHER VACANCIES

| HHOHO REGION       | LUBOMBO REGION      | MANZINI REGION | SHISELWENI REGION    |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. MZIMNENE HIGH   | 1. MALINDZA HIGH    | -----          | 1. KAMAZOMBIZWE HIGH |
| 2. NSUKUMBILI HIGH | 2. LASI/NGCINA HIGH | -----          | -----                |

### SECONDARY/HIGH SCHOOLS - DEPUTY HEADTEACHER VACANCIES

| HHOHO REGION       | LUBOMBO REGION | MANZINI REGION         | SHISELWENI REGION           |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. EJUBUKWENI HIGH | -----          | 1. DWALILE HIGH        | 1. NGOLOLWENI HIGH          |
| 2. TIMPHISINI HIGH | -----          | 2. BHUNYA CENTRAL HIGH | 2. HLATHIKHULU CENTRAL HIGH |
| 3. LONDUNDUMA HIGH | -----          | 3. NKILJI HIGH         | 3. MAKHOSINI HIGH           |
| -----              | -----          | 4. NDWANDWE HIGH       | -----                       |

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS - HEADTEACHER VACANCIES

| HHOHO REGION                    | LUBOMBO REGION               | MANZINI REGION       | SHISELWENI REGION |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. CETJWAYO PRIMARY             | 1. MABONDVWENI PRIMARY       | 1. MALAMLELA PRIMARY | 1. HHOHO PRIMARY  |
| 2. KASIKO PRIMARY               | 2. BHOKWENI CENTRAL PRIMARY  | -----                | -----             |
| 3. EJUBUKWENI COMMUNITY PRIMARY | 3. LOMAHASHA CENTRAL PRIMARY | -----                | -----             |
| 4. EKUPHUMLENI PRIMARY          | 4. SIPHOSO PRIMARY           | -----                | -----             |

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS - DEPUTY HEADTEACHER VACANCIES

| HHOHO REGION                  | LUBOMBO REGION                 | MANZINI REGION                  | SHISELWENI REGION            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. MALANDZELA PRIMARY         | 1. NDZEVANE PRIMARY            | 1. LUDZELUDZE PRIMARY           | 1. JERICHO B.E.A PRIMARY     |
| 2. HERMAN GMEINER SOS PRIMARY | 2. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRIMARY | 2. MALIYADUMA PRIMARY           | 2. NHLANGANO CENTRAL PRIMARY |
| -----                         | -----                          | 3. TFOKOTANI PRIMARY            | 3. EKUPHAKAMENI PRIMARY      |
| -----                         | -----                          | 4. MATSAPHA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY  | -----                        |
| -----                         | -----                          | 5. MANZINI CENTRAL PRIMARY      | -----                        |
| -----                         | -----                          | 6. EQINISWENI COMMUNITY PRIMARY | -----                        |
| -----                         | -----                          | 7. NGWANE PARK PRIMARY          | -----                        |
| -----                         | -----                          | 8. EKUPHAKAMENI CENTRAL PRIMARY | -----                        |
| -----                         | -----                          | 9. KWALUSENI INFANT PRIMARY     | -----                        |

### APPLICANTS MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING

#### A) Headteacher

1. Must be a Deputy Headteacher with three (3) years and above work experience in this position.
2. Must possess any of these qualifications:
  - Bachelor's Degree Secondary Education
  - Bachelor's Degree Primary Education
  - Bachelor's Honours Degree
  - Bachelors' Degree Educational Management

#### B) Deputy Headteacher

1. Must be a Teacher who has taught in the Eswatini Education Public Schools for ten (10) years and above.
2. Must possess any of these qualifications:
  - Bachelor's Degree Educational Management
  - Bachelor's Degree Secondary Education
  - Bachelor's Degree Primary Education
  - Bachelor's Honours Degree

#### C) Applicants must choose one school and apply for only one position.

Application Forms are obtained at the Regional Education Offices, and must be submitted back to the REOs Offices with CV, certified copies of Academic certificates and TSC number.

#### D) Closing date: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 16:45pm.

E) The Teaching Service Commission reserves the right to Transfer a School Administrator through the Teaching Service Act of 1982 and Regulations of 1983.



# R.E.S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY CAPTURED BY LENS

The third graduation brings the number of employees to about 300 who have been given cutting-edge leadership skills. A total number of 26 companies enrolled their employees in the New Manager Development, Management Development and Senior Management Programmes. For the RES Corporation this is not only skills development for its business but also social investment for the country. The

academy ensures that not only do companies develop their people, but we also get to keep the money circulating in the economy as opposed to taking individuals to other countries at very high costs. The RES Leadership Academy is sharpening business leaders for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The reach of the academy has extended to Mozambique and Malawi.



One of the best group being awarded for their excellence.



Dominance: Another best group got rewarded for their championship.



GM Operations Patrick Myeni addressing the graduates



A section of the well wishers enjoying the proceedings



RES's Zethu Dlamini (C) receives her certificate



RES's Solomon (c) was among the graduates







Nokulunga Shongwe (c) all smiles after receiving her certificate



Mzwandile (c) also got a slice of the cake as he received his certificate



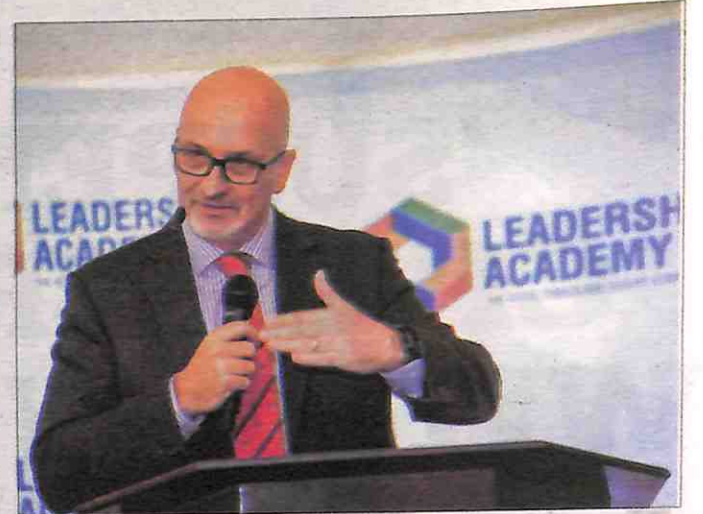
Nhlanhla Nhlabatsi (c) receives his certificate



Manning the proceedings: MC of the day Sifiso Nyembe interacting with Sethembile Shiba during the graduation ceremony.



A section of the graduates



RES Managing Director Nick Jackson makes his remarks during the graduation ceremony





## Man held for stealing E18 000 worth items

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

A man from Mahleke area appeared before the Magistrate's Court for allegedly committing two counts of house breaking and theft, totalling E18 000.

Siyabonga Dlamini (20) allegedly committed both counts in his home area.

On the first count, the accused person reportedly wrongfully and unlawfully broke into a house of Thandolwethu Maziya and stole items valued at E2 400.

The items mainly included clothing. On the second count, the accused allegedly broke into the same house and stole items valued at E15 800. When the charges were read to him, Dlamini pleaded guilty to both counts.

The crown elected to call witnesses to prove commission of the offences. The complainant told the court that the accused person gained entry into his house through a window while he was away.

He stated that the break-in occurred two times within a space of a month. Most of the stolen items were recovered through the assistance of community police.

When mitigating, Dlamini asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence. He stated that he was unemployed and struggled to make ends meet.

However, the crown presented records of previous conviction against the accused. The court was informed that Dlamini was once convicted on a similar charge of house breaking. He was also found guilty on the matter before court.

Acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe noted that cases of house breaking and theft were prevalent in the region. She subsequently sentenced the accused person to 10 months custodial sentence on both counts.

# 'SUSPENDING CIVIL SERVANTS WITH PAY COSTLY'

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**SUSPENDING civil servants with pay is contributing to government's fiscal challenges.**

This was the unanimous view of legislators when making comments about the ministry of public service's annual performance report.

This happened on Monday when Minister Christian Ntshangase was delivering the ministry's report before the House of Assembly portfolio committee. This was raised by the MPs after learning that only five out of 45 CMAC cases were resolved in the 2019/20 financial year.

CMAC is the Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration Commission.

Mntfogwaneni Member of Parliament Roy Fanourakis asked Minister Ntshangase why it took the Civil Service Commission (CSC) long to resolve CMAC cases. The legislator wondered why some of these cases were not taken to court.

As if to answer MP Fanourakis' question, Maseyisini MP Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini opined that a lot of civil servants who had been found engaged in unlawful activities were suspended with pay.

He said when these employees' matters take forever to be resolved, it heavily impacted on government's coffers in that they are paid while not at work, plus the people hired to replace them are also paid by the same government.

Adding, Dlamini said the money being paid to the suspended civil servants



**RESPONDS: Minister of Public Service Christian Ntshangase.**

could be redirected elsewhere but this cannot be done if the matters are not resolved fast enough.

MP Lutfo Dlamini further stated that while the suspended workers are away, they also benefitted when the rest of public servants received increments yet they still have to answer for their transgressions.

In response to the MPs questions, Minister Ntshangase conceded that this was a burden to government judging from the hefty amount paid out to these workers. Ntshangase mentioned, however, that the CSC could not discipline and met out judgement on cases of criminal activity because they end up at the courts of law.

Once a matter has been taken to court, Ntshangase said the CSC is not allowed to intervene. With the involvement of

the police who need to conduct investigations before a matter could proceed for trial in court, Ntshangase said the CSC's hands were tied.

On the contrary, he mentioned that with the Public Service Bill shelved for too long, his ministry could be able to hastily conclude cases of employees who have been found on the wrong side of the law whether or not a matter is pending in court.

He happily announced that the ministry started working on the Bill as of November 4, 2019. Even so, his ministry was advised that the law could only be effected on cases that will emerge after the Bill has been passed into an Act.

This means the cases that have been pending for years will have to be concluded by the courts not the CSC.

## Agriculture minister launches Sandleni Farmers Association

BY NONCCEBO DLAMINI  
Sandleni

**MINISTER of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza launched the Sandleni Farmers Association in collaboration with Sandleni Inkhundla.**

Mabuza said the main purpose of visiting the area was to attend to their challenges as per the Strategic Roadmap of the country. He stated that agriculture is the simplest way of getting employment and earning a living so that they assist the country in economic growth and fighting unemployment.

"Under Home Economics section in the ministry there is a strategy of home improvement, whereby extension farmers workshop people about eating healthy food, having at least seven by seven metres yard garden and fruit trees to eradicate poverty," he said.

Mabuza added that one of the mandates of his ministry is to maximise production in the agriculture sector. He said he was confident that through the formation of associations like the Sandleni Farmers Association, this would ensure the country's vision of 2022 is realised.

### Strategy

He mentioned that due to climate change, the ministry emphasises on reusing water as it has become a challenge to most farmers.

Therefore, water conservation is useful to every home. "Under the five-year strategy of the country the ministry agriculture was selected as one main ministry to help Swazi people. In the roadmap, there is construction of a dam called Mkhondvo Ngwavuma that will benefit Shiselweni region and Sandleni Inkhundla will be part of the beneficiaries," he added.

Mabuza highlighted that the dam would be divided into three parts, one at Mkhondvo, another at Mpakeni and the other at Themba. It will then have canals so that everyone benefits from the water.

He further mentioned that there will be construction of small and medium dams through the Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE).

The minister stated that extension officers of the ministry were out on field visits to train farmers on livestock farming and increasing production, thus the community is urged to work with them. Sandleni residents were also encouraged to capitalise in the goat production because there is a huge market for it.

He said commercialising goats would close the big gap in econom-



**ATTENDS CHALLENGES: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza.**

ic growth and unemployment.

Mabuza said a processing plant at Matsapha is under construction and it will have a carrying capacity of 120 million litres of milk.

Youth are encouraged to attend training hosted by Eswatini Dairy Board, National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard), ESWADE, and National Maize Corporation (NMC).

The Swazi nation has a shortage of 140 metric tonnes as it currently produces 80 metric tonnes in maize which makes Eswatini import on a large scale outside the country.

Sandleni Member of Parliament Noah Gama, speaking on behalf of the inkhundla, said some of the duties of the association include working on market-led projects where the association would look for markets, training of Sandleni farmers through extension officers, look for funding like the use of farmers' bank to assist Sandleni farmers and organise local shows for the area.

Gama said the association consists of seven members from different chiefdoms at Sandleni. He encouraged the youth to venture into agriculture.

**extension officers of the ministry were out on field visits to train farmers on livestock farming and increasing production, thus the community is urged to work with them**

## Woman beaten for leaving child with father

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A woman who left her child with her father received several beatings, after he claimed that he had had enough of looking after their child.**

Siphiwe Kunene left their child with Siphio, who claimed that it was not the

first time she had done so.

"We have our issues as a couple; but my anger got the better of me when she decided to abandon our child with me. She knows that I am stressed out, as I was recently suspended from work for some reasons known to me. I believe that she took advantage of my situation, and decided to leave the child with me to spite me," Kunene claimed.

He has since been arrested and charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, after he assaulted his wife with open hands and fists all over her body. Kunene committed the offence last month at their rented home in Nkoyoyo.

When his charges were read before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Kunene disputed that he assaulted his

wife all over her body.

While making a fist, Kunene demonstrated to the court that he only assaulted her on her shoulders.

"I first pushed her away from me and then proceeded to assault her on her shoulders.

I am disputing that I assaulted her all over her body as the charge sheet states," he demonstrated. However, the judicial officer asked him numerous times whether he was entering a plea of guilty or not guilty by his demonstrations.

"You are holding a fist and showing us that you assaulted her on her shoulders.

What are you trying to show us because you are admitting that you did assault her, with a fist? Please enter your plea so that court proceedings can commence," the judicial officer stated. After entering his plea of guilty, Kunene was sentenced to serve two years in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E2 000. Half of his sentence was suspended for a period of two years.



# Almost 2 000 social welfare cases reported last year

BY DELISA THWALA  
Mbabane

**OUT** of 1 971 reported cases at the department of Social Welfare, 542 counselling cases are still pending due to lack of social workers.

This is according to the annual performance report of the deputy prime minister's office.

In the 2019/20 report, it is mentioned that the department of social welfare has been responsive to the growing demand to provide counselling services to clients who have suffered some form of trauma as well as marital problems.

A total of 1 971 of cases were reported during the April–December period,

reflecting the highest demand for counselling services throughout the country.

The department concluded 72.5 per cent of the cases.

The unconcluded cases were attributed to a number of reasons some outside the control of the department.

## CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

A lot of children after facing challenges and not having a proper family setting tend to involved themselves in activities that land them in trouble.

In a detailed report it has been gathered that a lot of these children are involved in crimes which include pick pocketing, robbery and break-in.

According to the report, children in conflict with the law comprise of all persons less than 18 years regardless of gender, race and physical ability.

27 per cent cases of children reported involved pre-teenagers.

## Revealed

Shiselweni region recorded the highest number of child offenders, ranking high with pick-pocketing of pedestrians and break-in.

The report revealed that males were the highest offenders with a majority of these offenders falling in the age group 13 to 18 years.

The high incidence records reflect a demand for research on drivers of child offending as to ensure informed intervention programmes.

# Over E56 million fuel, oil levy collected in three months

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**THE** ministry of natural resources and energy collected over E56 millions in fuel levy over the past three months.

An annual performance report from the ministry shows that by the end of the financial year, the ministry should collect E74 million of fuel and oil levy.

From October 2019 to December 31, 2019 the ministry collected E56 552 430 of the levy. The figure collected is a million over the projected E55.5 million.

Notably, the levy has increased in the previous quarter following the E0.85 fuel levy that was implemented by the ministry at the beginning of November, 2019. The ministry is targeting to collect E75 052 430 million in the current financial quarter ending March 31, 2020.

The ministry further collected E13 301 172 million in the deeds office yet it (ministry) had projected E12 million.

Still under the department of deeds registry, the ministry made over E58 000 office and search fees.

The ministry also made a noticeable amount under mining as it collected E269 450.

## Previous

This amount is higher than the projected E150 000 of the previous quarter. During the third quarter, the ministry collected E70 243 296 of revenue.

This amount is E3 million more than the projected revenue of E67 763 250 million.

Due to the pattern of the amount of money collected by each department at ministry, by the end of March 2020 the ministry estimates its revenue to be E92 962 619.

Meanwhile, the ministry was not able to utilise a lot of its budget as it was not

released according to the budget.

The ministry was allocated E99 089 527 for the recurrent expenditure. This includes CTA charges, personal costs, communication, consumables material supply and grants.

However, only E70 076 118 was released and the ministry only utilised E63 029 792 thus serving 10 per cent, which is E7 046 226.

The ministry incurred 30 per cent over expenditures on CTA charges. The report states that this is due to high costs in maintenance and repairs and other CTA associated costs.

About E12 122 678 was budgeted for CTA charges, but only E4 823 981 was released.

An amount of E6 266 981 was spent, which translates to E1 443 000 over expenditure.

The ministry was not allocated any budget for durable material and equipment yet E60 000 was released.

# Govt largest contributor of health current expenditures

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**GOVERNMENT** contributes the largest share of the current health expenditure.

This was revealed during a meeting between the ministry of health and its portfolio committee.

Government contributes 47 per cent to the country's health. The second highest contributors are donors, who contribute 30.1 per cent while corporations, including insurance, contribute at least 10.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, the ministry of health portfolio committee applauded the 2020/2021 budget allocated to the ministry.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee Isaac Magagula said they were pleased with the categorisation and ranking of the ministry of health.

During the 2020/2021 budget speech, the ministry was allocated E2.3 billion, which is 10.5 percent of the national budget.

Magagula applauded the ministry for being one of the highest ranking ministries in the country. He said it demonstrated that government was aware of the crucial role played by the ministry of health in the country.

"Productive people are healthy people," he said.

Magagula said healthy people would come up with productive ideas that would grow the country economically. He then pleaded with the ministry to use the budget wisely and responsibly.

The chairperson acknowledged that the ministry of health was facing a lot of challenges, saying the portfolio committee would



Ministry of Health Portfolio Committee Chairperson Isaac Magagula.

support the ministry.

Magagula stated that in order for the portfolio committee to be able to assist the ministry, they should be made aware of the challenges in the ministry.

He added that ministry should also get public views on how it could improve service delivery. He added that the committee should have frequent engagement with the ministry so that they would be up to date with the operations of the ministry.

it demonstrated that government was aware of the crucial role played by the ministry of health to the nation

# MAN GETS CUSTODIAL SENTENCE FOR BITING ANOTHER'S NOSE

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

**A repeat offender of assault was yesterday sentenced to a year in prison without an option of a fine for biting another man's nose.**

Sifiso Gumedze (27) of Mzilikazi appeared before acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe, facing a charge of assault.

He have wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted Mdmiseni Mkhabela by biting him in the nose and neck.

The accused person pleaded guilty to the charge.

Mkhabela told the court that the accused attacked him for no clear reason while they were having drinks at a friend's place after a minor misunderstanding.

Prosecutor Nomphumelelo Msibi filed records of previous convictions of the accused person.

The court was informed that the accused person was once sentenced to a year in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine after he was found guilty

of assault.

The Crown, therefore, asked the court to issue a heavier sentence which would prevent the accused person from repeating a similar offence.

The acting magistrate noted that the accused person was an aggressive person in society who needed to be rehabilitated.

She, therefore, sentenced the accused to 12 months in a correctional facility without an option of a fine.

In another matter, Njabulo Mazibuko (24) also faced a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

He alleged to have wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted Kayise Matsenjwa by hitting her with open hands several times in the face.

The Crown filed an application to have the matter postponed to a later date pending setting of a date of trial.

Meanwhile, the accused person told the court that he would be pleading guilty to the charge.

He was admitted to E500 bail and ordered to return to court on March 11.

# Avoid kissing as coronavirus crisis grows

**A leading UK scientist has advised the public to temporarily shun social kissing to avoid spreading coronavirus.**

Lord Winston, a Labour peer and professor at Imperial College London, said people should desist from the friendly gesture.

During a Westminster debate yesterday, he revealed two people had tried to plant a kiss on him that day, but warned it was 'something that we should not be doing.'

The world-leading fertility expert said: "It seems to me that simply not shaking hands is only part of the problem. Social kissing seems, to me, something that we should not be doing. It's very easy to do that."

"Somebody has tried to kiss me twice today and I don't mean in a way that my wife, who might be listening, is concerned."

"We have to realise we should not be touching our nose, our mouth, our eyes."

His concerns were echoed by Tory Lord Bethell, who cautioned over



the practice and also pointed out the 'real problem' was people touching their nose on average up to 100 times a day.

Lord Bethell said: "Kissing is wonderful but potentially dangerous."

He added: "We have had detailed conversations about kissing, shaking hands, fist-bumping and all manner of social intercourse."

"The guidance from the chief medical officer is clear. It is the touching of your own nose that is the real

problem. "The average person touches their own nose between 70 and 100 times a day. That is why we focus on the message of washing hands."

"The Government and Boris Johnson has stressed the importance of the public washing their hands thoroughly on a regular basis in an effort to prevent infection."

"Because if your hands are clean, it doesn't matter how many times you touch your nose." *Daily Mail*



# Nkambule's bail application postponed



**POSTPONED:** Murder suspect Maxwell Nkambule leaves the court after the postponement of his bail hearing at the High Court yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



(above) **NOT PLEASED:** Another hawkers expresses her disappointment after the postponement.



**WHAT NEXT:** Mabhawodi looking not happy after the case was postponed.



**ANGRY:** Some of the angry hawkers leave at the end of the case.



**TIGHT SECURITY:** Security was tight during Nkambule's appearance at the court.



(Above) **MESSAGE:** Some of the women carrying placards they prepared for the hearing.



(Left) **FULL HOUSE:** The courtroom was packed during the case.



What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

## Features &amp; Opinions

Refresh What You Think

# Let's make our cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

BY NATHALIE NDONGO-SEH

HALF of the world is 3.5 billion people, live in cities today and five billion are projected to live in cities by 2030.

These figures make it imperative that efficient urban planning and management practices are in place to deal with the challenges brought about by urbanisation.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

The rapid growth of cities, a result of increasing populations and migration, has led to a boom in mega-cities, especially in the developing world, making slums a more significant feature of urban life.

Ensuring sustainable cities means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning in inclusive ways.

Urban areas are impacted by all the SDGs, and many are at the forefront of finding sustainable solutions.

In Africa, the urban population currently stands at 472 million, with this figure set to more than double by 2040, reaching one billion.

Africa's population is growing and urbanising at a high rate, bringing increasing demands on services and infrastructure within cities. Two-thirds of the urban space that the continent needs by 2050 does not exist today.

One hundred of the continent's cities have more than one million inhabitants. Ten cities have five million, and Lagos, Africa's largest urban space, has 23 million. These mega-cities challenge our knowledge about urban populations through their population numbers, diversity and roles in terms of movement of people, ideas, goods, wealth and cultures.

The World Bank estimates that the urban infrastructure needs of Africa cost USD 90 billion (E1.38 trillion) annually. Some four million homes would need to be built each year to keep up with the explosion in urban growth.

In Eswatini, urban population is 21 per cent in comparison with the rural population at 79 per cent, with a growing trend towards urbanisation. A total of 14 cities and towns are under urban local government, including: Mbabane, Manzini, Nhlanguano, Siteki, Pigg's Peak, Matsapha, Ezulwini, Mankayane, Hlatikulu, Ngwenya, Vuvulane, Lavumisa Malkerns and Buhleni and three areas are declared controlled, namely: Magindaneni, Mhobodleni and Sikhuphe.

In Eswatini, 60 per cent of the peri-urban residents live in informal communities and sub-standard housing on un-surveyed land without any legal title.

Less than 50 per cent of this population has access to a safe water supply, and fewer than 20 per cent have access to formal sanitation. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is commended in its efforts, despite cashflow challenges, to implement the urban development project in line with His Majesty's Vision 2022 of a first-world status.

Attention must also be paid to the environmental and social costs of urbanisation. Development therefore needs to be organised to ensure the prevention of pollution, as cities are the source of

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Coordinator  
of the United  
Nations  
Development  
Programme  
in the  
Kingdom of  
Eswatini  
Nathalie  
Ndongo-Seh.



70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, the undermining of the social-mix of city centres and creation of slums.

The discussion on sustainable cities should therefore focus on: (a) Essential services such as security, resources, renewable and efficient energy, and risk management; (b) Mobility in cities such as transport infrastructure and access; (c) City-living such as housing, healthcare, education, culture, sport, leisure, civil society and vulnerable populations; (d) Feeding cities and sustainable consumption, including agriculture, shops, restaurants and catering, packaging, recycling and local production; (e) Connectivity in cities such as innovation, digital technologies and data management; (f) Urban-design including architecture, construction, green spaces, urban art, sustainable tourism and heritage conservation; (g) Financing and structuring projects including donors and foundations, banks, investment funds, financial and technical support, project management, and decentralised cooperation.

Last week, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, hosted the Africa Day 2020 Conference in Dakar, Senegal, with a focus on "Cities for People". This year's conference is dedicated to sustainable urbanisation on the African continent, looking at the rapid growth of African cities and towns. UN-Habitat is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally-sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

As our towns and cities grow at unprecedented rates, sustainable urbanisation is one of the most pressing challenges facing the global community in the 21st century.

Cities are the hub for much national production and consumption: economic and social processes generate wealth and opportunity. However, they create disease, crime, pollution and poverty. In many cities, especially in developing countries, slum dwellers number more than 50 per cent of the population and have little or no access to shelter, water, and sanitation.

In Eswatini, urban local governments are implementing various initiatives to respond to the challenges of towns and cities. Notably, the country's initiatives, such as the Alliance of Mayor's Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL), have played a significant role in responding to the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The AMICAALL programme

has assisted all towns and cities to establish locally-based responses to HIV and AIDS. Activities include: condom distribution, home-based care, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, Anti-Retroviral Therapy (in Manzini and Mbabane), care for orphans and vulnerable children, food security, workplace HIV and AIDS programming and behaviour change communication which is delivered through youth peer education, reaching out to men and communities.

Recently, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Gender Links (GL), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) and the Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA), have partnered to implement "Connecting the Dots: Local Actions for Women - Political and Economic Empowerment". This project, implemented in four southern-African countries, including Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), seeks to strengthen the political and economic empowerment of women and girls in southern Africa through online networks linked to Centres of Excellence for Gender in Local Government. It seeks to increase participation of women of all ages in local government.

On March 19, 2020, the United Nations Eswatini will support the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to host the Mayors & Municipal Managers' Dialogue on the SDGs: an opportunity to discuss strategies on the development and management of sustainable cities, towns and communities and the overall implementation of the SDGs. The event will be hosted by the Ezulwini Municipality and we look forward to further engaging and partnering with the government, cities and towns of Eswatini.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Half of humanity, 3.5 billion people, lives in cities today and five billion people are projected to live in cities by 2030
- 95 per cent of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in developing world
- 883 million people live in slums and most are found in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
- The world's cities occupy just 3 per cent of the earth's land but account for 60-80 per cent of energy consumption and 75 per cent carbon emissions
- Rapid urbanisation is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health
- As of 2016, 90 per cent of urban dwellers have

*In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while maintaining peace, protecting the planet, the people and building partnerships. With only 10 years remaining to achieve these goals, countries are accelerating steps towards ending poverty, fighting inequalities, tackling climate change and ensuring that no one is left behind. Every month, the United Nations places one of the 17 SDGs under the spotlight, highlighting its purpose, targets and criticality in advancing Agenda 2030. This month's focus is SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.*

been breathing unsafe air, resulting in 4.2 million deaths due to ambient air pollution. More than half of the global urban population were exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times higher than the safety standard.

## TARGETS

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- By 2030, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials.



## ON THIS DAY

...MARCH 5

1623 - The first alcohol temperance law in the colonies was enacted in Virginia.

1624 - In the American colony of Virginia, the upper class was exempted from whipping by legislation.

1750 - "King Richard III" was performed in New York City. It was the first Shakespearean play to be presented in America.

1766 - The first Spanish Governor of Louisiana, Antonio de Ulloa, arrived in New Orleans.

1770 - "The Boston Massacre" took place when British troops fired on a crowd in Boston killing five people. Two British troops were later convicted of manslaughter.

1793 - Austrian troops defeated the French and recaptured Liege.

1836 - Samuel Colt's Patent Arms Manufacturing of Paterson, New Jersey, was chartered by the New Jersey legislature.

1842 - A Mexican force of over 500 men under Rafael Vasquez invaded Texas for the first time since the revolution. They briefly occupied San Antonio, but soon headed back to the Rio Grande.

1845 - The US Congress appropriated \$30,000 to ship camels to the western U.S.

1864 - For the first time, Oxford met Cambridge in track and field competition in England.

1867 - An abortive Fenian uprising against English rule took place in Ireland.

1868 - The US Senate was organised into a court of impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson.

1872 - George Westinghouse patented the air brake.

1900 - Two US battleships left for Nicaragua to halt revolutionary disturbances.

1901 - Germany and Britain began negotiations with hopes of creating an alliance.

1902 - In France, the National Congress of Miners decided to call for a general strike for an eight-hour day.

1907 - In St. Petersburg, Russia, the new Duma opened. 40,000 demonstrators were dispersed by troops.

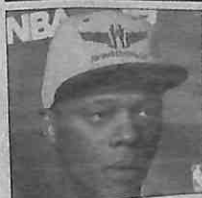
1910 - In Philadelphia, PA, 60,000 people left their jobs to show support for striking transit workers.

1910 - The Moroccan envoy signed the 1909 agreement with France.

1912 - The Italians became the first to use dirigibles for military purposes. They used them for reconnaissance flights behind Turkish lines west of Tripoli.

1918 - The Soviets moved the capital of Russia from Petrograd to Moscow.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



**Papoose**  
- Rapper- March 5,  
Born: 1978,  
42 years old



**Eva Mendes** -  
MOVIE ACTRESS -  
March 5,  
/Born: 1974, 46 years



## WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

## Citation and commencement

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Electronic Communications (Universal Service and Access) Regulations 2016.

(2) These Regulations shall come into force on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

## 2. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

"Act" means the Electronic Communications Act No. 9 of 2013;

"Annual Turnover" means total revenue generated from licensed activities per annum, less service provider discounts, interconnection and facilities leasing charges and government grants and subsidies, based on audited financial statements, or, if the licensee is not required by law to audit its financial statements, on the annual financial statements signed and sworn by the accounting officer of the licensee;

"Applicable Interest Rate" means the interest rate set by the Monetary Policy Consultative Committee of the Central Bank of Swaziland;

"Automated location identity" means any location information processed in an electronic communications network indicating the geographical position of the subscriber equipment;

"Caller line identity (CLI)" means a facility by which the subscriber number of a caller is displayed on the called party prior to the call being established and is a form of automatic number identity;

"Cost analysis" means an economic evaluation of the component parts of a whole and their relation by using budgeting and accounting practices to determine the true cost and may include a cost-benefit analysis;

"Designated licensee" means a licensee that has been designated in terms of Section 31 of the Act;

"Emergency Centre" means a centre that facilitates the carrying of emergency communications to emergency organisations;

"Higher Education Institutions" means any institution established by or under any law in terms of the Education Act No. 9 of 1981, as amended from time to time;

"Internet Service" means a service that links the user to a collection of interconnected web pages that are transferred using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (http), and is collectively known as the World Wide Web (www);

"Internet Service Provider (ISP)" means an entity that provides access to, or a presence on, the Internet in terms of an electronic communications network or service licence;

"Licensed Activity" means any service provided pursuant to a licence issued in terms of the Act;

"Market Gap Analysis" is the process of identifying and evaluating requirements of a geographic area, market segment or target population and possible solutions to meet these requirements, and includes the identification of the True Access Gap and the Smart Subsidy Zone;

"Regulatory impact assessment (RIA)" means a system approach to critically assessing the positive and negative effects of proposed and existing regulations and non-regulatory alternatives;

"Relevant licensee" means any type of category of licence that is required to comply with a relevant provision of the Act or these regulations as may become applicable to a licence type or category from time to time;

"School" means all primary, secondary or high schools as defined in the Education Act No. 9 of 1981, as amended from time to time;

"Sim card" means subscriber identity module, which is a smart card that gives a cellphone its number and customer identity and stores data for Global System for Mobile communications

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS  
(THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE,  
ACCESS) REGULATIONS, 2016PART II UNIVERSAL  
ACCESS FUND

## Establishment of the Universal Access Fund

4. (1) The Commission shall operate a separate and dedicated account approved by the Board, with an authorised bank in Eswatini, in which all monies received in terms of the Act and these regulations or allocated otherwise for the provision of universal services shall be deposited.

(2) All payments to be made and provided for in terms of the Act and these regulations are to be made from this account.

## Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer

5. The Chief Financial Officer of the Commission shall be responsible for the accounting of monies received and payments made from the Universal Access Fund, and shall keep or cause proper accounts and records of account to be kept as are necessary to represent fairly the state of affairs of the Universal Access Fund.

## Universal Access Fund Contributions

6. (1) Every provider of public electronic communications services shall contribute annually to the universal access fund, such amount, as determined by the Commission, based on the estimated cost of achieving universal service targets, which amount may not exceed two per cent (2per cent) of the relevant licensee's Annual Turnover.

(2) Payments in respect of contributions to the universal access fund shall be -

(a) due annually on or before the due date, which is six (6) months after the licensee's financial year end;

(b) paid by way of an electronic transfer or via a direct deposit into the account operated in terms of Regulation 4(1);

(c) based on the audited financial statement of the licensee or financial statements signed and sworn to by the accounting officer of the licensee where the licensee is not legally obliged to provide audited financial statements.

(3) The Commission may charge interest for every day that the licensee is in arrears in respect of contributions to the Universal Access Fund, based on the applicable interest rate.

(4) A person who contravenes the provisions of this regulation commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceed five hundred thousand Emalangeni (E500 000).

(GSM) cellular telephone subscribers. Such data includes user identity, location and phone number, network authorisation data, personal security keys, contact lists and stored text messages. Security features include authentication and encryption to protect data;

"Sim-lock" means the inability of a subscriber to use the Sim card of another electronic communications network licensee or electronic communications service licensee on the subscriber's equipment;

"Smart-subsidy zone" means certain rural or high cost areas, and low-income population groups, or other segments of the market that will not be reached for the provision of communications by the market alone, even if it is an efficient market, within a reasonable time; there are areas and groups which have commercial potential but may need a once-off subsidy to mitigate commercial risks, making the area more attractive to commercial operators;

"Soft-lock" means the inability of a subscriber to use the billed or paid services of the electronic communications network licensee or electronic communications service licensee on the subscriber's equipment;

"Special Tariff" means the discounted rate determined by the Commission that shall be offered by licensees to all requesting schools, higher education institutions, government hospitals and public health facilities by licensees providing internet access;

"Public Health Facility" means a public health care facility established or deemed to be established in terms of the Public Health Act No. 5 of 1969;

"Government Hospital" means a hospital established or deemed to be established in terms of the Public Health Act No 5 of 1969, as amended from time to time;

"Status quo analysis" means the current state of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) industry in a particular area including universal access and universal service provision;

"True Access Gap area or zone" means the extent of public access to electronic communications, at affordable prices, determined by following the process set out in these regulations;

"Universal Access" means the extent of public access to electronic communications at affordable prices determined by following the process set out in these regulations;

"Universal Access Fund" means the universal access fund established in terms of Regulation 4.

## Power Functions of the Commission

3. (1) The Commission shall pursuant to the Act and these regulations promote the objectives of universal service and access by monitoring and enforcing compliance with specific annual obligations, Licence Conditions and objectives of the Commission by all persons who are subject to the Act and these regulations.

(2) In applying and implementing these regulations, the Commission shall -

(a) designate universal service providers with obligations to provide universal services;

(b) monitor and enforce compliance with and the carrying out of universal service plans by the universal service providers; and (c) monitor and enforce a mechanism for the assessment, collection and recovery of the universal service levy.

“

**Cost analysis** means an economic evaluation of the component parts of a whole and their relation by using budgeting and accounting practices to determine the true cost and may include a cost-benefit analysis

”





# Women and Law

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ON THE FACE OF IT:

## EMOTIONAL ABUSE



"YOU'RE stupid." "Nobody else would ever want you", "and you'll never be good enough to do that".

These are some of the words that women who are subjected to emotional abuse receive on a daily basis. Unfortunately, women seldom take their abuse seriously, and may dismiss it as normal domestic conflict yet the effects can be very devastating.

Thousands of women are emotionally abused on a day to day basis.

Slowly, systematically, their self-confidence is whittled away, their self-esteem is eroded, and their perception of themselves is distorted, and sadly they don't even know its happening. Emotional abuse can be defined as any non-physical behaviour that is designed to control, intimidate, subjugate, demean, punish, or isolate another person through the use of degradation, humiliation, or fear. The behaviour ranges from verbal abuse (belittling, berating, constant criticism) to more subtle tactics like intimidation, manipulation, and refusal to be pleased.

Such abuse is used as a way to maintain power and control over someone. It can feel as destructive and damaging as physical abuse, and can severely impact your mental health. Emotional abuse is a lot more confusing to victims, as it typically is found in behaviours that can initially be perceived as caring.

The primary effects of emotional abuse on the victim are depression, lack of motivation, confusion, difficulty concentrating or making decisions, low self-esteem, feelings of failure or worthlessness, feelings of hopelessness, self-blame, and self-destructiveness to name a few. This form of abuse is like brainwashing in that it wears away the victim's self-confidence, sense of self-worth, trust in his or her perceptions, and self-concept. Eventually, the recipient loses all sense of self and all remnants of personal value.

Abused partners tend either to take on the criticism and rejection of their partner or to be in constant turmoil, wondering things like: Am I as bad as she makes me out to be, or is she just impossible to please? Should I stay in this relationship, or should I go? If I'm as incompetent as he says I am, maybe I can't make it on my own. Maybe no one will ever love me again. Ultimately, given

enough time, most victims of emotional abuse come not only to blame themselves for all the problems in the relationship but also to believe that they are inadequate, contemptuous, and even unlovable.

Emotional abuse is considered by many to be the most painful form of violence and the most detrimental to self-esteem. Emotional abuse cuts to the very core of a person, creating scars that may be longer lasting than physical ones. With emotional abuse, the insults, insinuations, criticism, and accusations slowly eat away at the victim's self-esteem until he or she is incapable of judging a situation realistically.

You may begin to believe that there is something wrong with you or even fear that you are losing your mind. You become so beaten down emotionally that you blame yourself for the abuse. Emotional abuse poisons a relationship and infuses it with hostility, contempt, and hatred. No matter how much a couple once loved each other, once emotional abuse becomes a consistent aspect of the relationship, that love is overshadowed by fear, anger, guilt, and shame.

The nature of emotional abuse makes it hard to tell if you being abused. You can use the following pointers to determine if you in an emotionally abusive relationship. Do you feel as if your partner

treats you like a child?

Does he constantly correct you or chastise you because your behaviour is "inappropriate"?

Does your partner make a point of reminding you that you are less educated or that you make less money or that you aren't as attractive as she is?

Does your partner routinely ridicule, dismiss, or disregard your opinions, thoughts, suggestions, and feelings? Does your partner constantly belittle your accomplishments, your aspirations, or your plans for the future?

Do you find yourself "walking on eggshells"? Do you spend a lot of time monitoring your behaviour and/or watching for your partner's bad moods before bringing up a subject?

Does your partner frequently threaten to end the relationship if you don't do things her way? If you answered half or more of these questions with a yes, you are definitely being emotionally abused. But a yes answer to even a few of the above questions can also indicate emotional abuse. More than anything else, what characterises an emotionally abusive relationship is a consistent pattern of hurtful, humiliating, and condescending behavior. Emotional abuse is a quiet killer, hence it is very important to take note of it before it destroys your life.

## Private jets out of town and luxury hideouts: How the rich are preparing for coronavirus

ONE investor may fly to Idaho with or without family. A doctor in a Colorado ski town is soothing wealthy clients who want a cure. And one New Yorker called up the hospital with his name on it.

Like everyone across the US, the rich are bracing for a deadly coronavirus outbreak. Ken Langone, the co-founder of Home Depot Inc., watched President Donald Trump's press conference and wondered if the media was overplaying the risk - but he also made two well-placed phone calls from his winter outpost in North Palm Beach. One was to a top executive of NYU Langone Health, and the other was to a top scientist there. Both were reassuring.

"What I've been told by people who are smarter than me in disease is, 'As of right now it's a bad flu,'" said Langone, an 84-year-old who loves capitalism so much that he wrote a book called "I Love Capitalism!" He plans to come back to New York this month for an appointment. If he happens to feel sick, he will go to NYU Langone, and said he'd expect no special treatment. Some billionaires, bankers and other members



The cabin of a Bombardier Global 6500 private jet in 2019.

of the U.S. elite are calm, others are getting anxious and everyone is washing their hands. But the rich can afford to prepare for a pandemic with perquisites, like private plane rides out of town, calls with world-leading experts and access to luxurious medical care.

"It's been a full-on war-room situation over here," said Jordan Shlain, an internist and managing partner of Private Medical, a high-end concierge service. The company is procuring hundreds of full-body coverings for work that

includes visits in San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Los Angeles and New York.

"We have to beg, borrow or steal. Well, not steal - beg, borrow and pay."

Tim Kruse, a doctor who makes house calls in Aspen, Colorado, said "the wealthy aren't going to necessarily have access to things that the common person is not going to have access to." But that hasn't stopped them from asking if they can get their hands on a coronavirus vaccine. "The answer is no. They just want to know."



● Wealth flows from energy and ideas. - William Feather

● That man is richest whose pleasures are cheapest. - Henry David Thoreau

● The real function of money is not to have it - its function is to use it. The best way to come up with a really good idea is to come up with a lot of ideas. - Linus Pauling

● Lack of money is the root of all evil. - George Bernard Shaw

● Now is not the time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is. - Ernest Hemmingway

● Your most precious, valued possessions and your greatest powers are invisible and intangible. No one can take them. You, and you alone, can give them. You will receive abundance for your giving. - W. Clement Stone

● I've found that luck is quite predictable. If you want more luck, take more chances. Be more active. Show up more often. - Brian Tracy

● Never forget: the secret of creating riches for oneself is to create them for others. - Sir John Templeton

● Wealth is the ability to fully experience life. - Henry David Thoreau

● To achieve your dreams believe in yourself. If you don't, who will? Taking no risks is sometimes the biggest risk. Wealth, after all, is a relative thing, since he that has little and wants less, is richer than he that has much and wants more. Wealth is not a material gain, but a state of mind. - Jerry Gillies

● Getting rich, or becoming outstanding at anything, is all a matter of attitude. You must make up your mind once and for all - you commit yourself - and then just stay with it until you finally have what you set out to get. - Earl Nightingale



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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## VITALS

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

# YERF loans disbursed, collected through MTN MoMo

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

**THE Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) now uses MTN Mobile Money to disburse loans to young people who have successfully secured them from the Fund.**

This development started last month, February 2020.

YERF has an agreement with MTN Eswatini to set up a collections account. Through this MTN Mobile Money account, it will now be easy for their clients to repay their loans in the comfort of their homes or businesses.

Speaking in an interview, YERF Chief Executive Officer, Bhikizwe Maziya confirmed that the inflow of repayments and disbursement of funds to budding entrepreneurs

was now transferred through MTN MoMo. He said this was done to improve efficiencies in the collection and disbursement of funds.

"In the past, some of our clients defaulted in their loan repayment and from our investigations; we discovered that as much as some of them did have the instalment to repay their business loans, they did not have bus fare for them to take a bus to town where they could deposit money into a banking account.

"As a result, they would end up not paying on time, or not paying at all," he said.

Maziya acknowledged that since it was still too early to say how this new development is being received, it had the potential to make massive improvements in the process of disbursing loans and collecting

re-payments from their clients.

He also explained that through MTN MoMo they could monitor transactions to ensure that loans from them are used for what they were requested.

Meanwhile MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo said the adoption of MTN MoMo by the Fund for disbursements and re-payments was an endorsement of the credibility, safety and convenience of the platform Mobile Money.

"MTN believes the direction taken by YERF to use this platform is tangible assurance to about 700,000 MoMo subscribers that they made the right call to be part of it. Our customers can still expect more convenience, products and services as MTN walks with Emaswati towards digitalising the kingdom,"

he said.

On another note, Maziya indicated that while MTN availed E100,000 to young people through MTN-YERF Khula Natsi Fund, launched during MTN's 21 Days of Y'ello Care, only E52 000 has been disbursed to the winning loan applications.

"Seeing that we still have E48 000 that has not been accessed, instead of issuing fresh invitations to the public, which would have been expensive, we have agreed with MTN to follow-up young people whose business loan applications were not successful.

"We are aware of the shortfalls of their loan applications. And, some of the factors which led to the rejection of their loan applications can be addressed," explained Maziya.

# JA Eswatini to host COY Africa competition for first time

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE

**JUNIOR Achievement Eswatini will for the first time host the Company of the Year (COY) Africa final competition.**

The competition, which brings pupils from 15 countries in Africa, will be held on December 4, this year at a venue still to be confirmed.

This was revealed by Junior Achievement Eswatini (JA) Acting Executive Director Phetsile Masilela during a presentation by the Eswatini National Provident Fund donation of E187 000 to four schools of pupils who live with disability.

The competitions had been for the past nine years held in other African countries including Gabon and Ghana where Eswatini has been doing exceptionally well.

The COY competition is JA Africa's annual celebration of students of the JA Company Programme, who have created and run their own businesses during the school year.

Masilela said it was also JA's flagship entrepreneurship education curriculum which teaches introductory business to thousands of secondary school pupils in Africa every year.

"Junior Achievement Africa is one of Africa's largest organisations working on youth economic empowerment and is a member of JA Worldwide, one of the world's largest youth serving NGOs," she said.

She said that JA's mission was to prepare youth for the future of jobs and through the delivery of hands-on, blended learning in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.



**JA Eswatini Acting Executive Director Phetsile Masilela making her remarks during the presentation by ENPF to schools held at the Ekwetsembeni yesterday. (Pic: Bongumusa Simelane)**

"We empower young people to grow their entrepreneurial ideas, hone their work skills, manage their earnings, and secure better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities," she said.

## Preparations

She said preparations for the competitions were ongoing and they were working very hard with the organisation's stakeholders in ensuring that the event is successful.

Masilela said since Eswatini had done well in the previous years, they were hoping to earn the number one spot during the competition.

She then urged companies and government to support them in hosting the competitions as this was not a

JA's event but a national event that would attract investors from different Africa countries.

"The fact that the whole of Africa will be descending to Eswatini means a lot to the country more especially on the economic aspect," Masilela added.

She said they would work hard with teachers from the 55 schools in which JA had a presence in ensuring that they perform well.

She added that a lot of sectors would benefit from the four day competition including the tourism industry.

She said the corporate sector will have a chance to display their products to the world during the competition.

## ABOUT THE JA COY COMPETITION

● The JA Company of the Year Competition is Africa's premier pitch competition for high school-aged youth. It is one of six competitions conducted by regions around the world. In 2010, the first ever Africa Region JA Company of the Year Competition was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

● The 3 day competition brings together student teams (aged 15-19) from countries across Africa to compete for cash and prizes in this contest of business skills, ingenuity and innovation.

● The pupils are judged by professionals from all walks of life who take part in the competition as judges, coaches and mentors, all with the intention of elevating the pupils' understanding of business and enterprise.

● Africa's economies are not creating as many jobs as we are graduating young people from our schools. Many youth are going on to find employment primarily through entrepreneurship. By teaching them the essentials of entrepreneurship earlier on in their academic careers, we better prepare them for success in their efforts. Be investing in and rewarding their efforts, we encourage them to forge ahead.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 04 MARCH 2020

| CURRENCY              | BUY        | SELL    |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| US Dollar / SZL       | 15.3694    | 15.4194 |
| British Pound/SZL     | 19.6844    | 19.7484 |
| Japanese Yen/SZL      | 6.9717     | 6.9931  |
| Swiss France/SZL      | 16.0449    | 16.0904 |
| Botswana Pula/SZL     | 1.3894     | 1.3985  |
| Australian Dollar/SZL | 10.1269    | 10.1676 |
| Canadian Dollar/SZL   | 11.5092    | 11.5432 |
| Euro/SZL              | 17.0900    | 17.1450 |
| Gold                  | 1,641.1381 |         |
| Oil                   | 52.36      |         |

For more information contact:  
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Email: gmsw@standardbank.co.sz





# AG Thomas outsmarts Kukhanya, Inyatsi in over E74 million tender

BY BAHLE GAMA

**AG Thomas Construction company outsmarted other big guns in the construction industry Inyatsi and Kukhanya in an over E74 million tender by the Municipal Council of Manzini.**

The tender worth E74 479 247.40 is for the public private partnership (PPP) for the financing, building and transfer of roads and bridges

for the Municipal Council of Manzini. Information sourced from the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) is that AG Thomas scored an impressive 93 per cent to snatch the contract. The tender was awarded in terms of section 45 of the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 (the Act), following a competitive bidding process. Kukhanya Construction had tabled a proposed contract price of E79 945 584.56 and they attained a 70

| Name      | Nationality | Proposed Contract Price | Total Evaluated Score (%) |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| AG Thomas | Swati       | E74 479 247.40          | 93 per cent               |

per cent whilst Inyatsi Construction scored 89 per cent with a proposed contract price of E120 366 466.19.

According to the website it must be noted that, in terms of Section 45(2) of the Act, the above contract award decision does not constitute a contract.

Further, in terms of Sections 45(4), 46, and 47 of the Act, all tenderers who submitted bids are hereby notified that a period of 10 working days is hereby allowed for submission of any application for review from the above stated date of first publication of this notice.



**REVEALS: SEDCO Senior Manager Strategy and Organisational Performance Themba Dlamini.**

## 'Professionalising social networks can generate employment'

BY BAHLE GAMA

**PROFESSIONALISING social networks can generate employment and create business success.**

These remarks were made by former Mr Eswatini and Redmark Digital Head of Operations Wandile Zishwili during the launch of a strategy that businesses can use to minimise advertising costs at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre.

He said young professionals today stand confidently to positively disrupt an economy in support of government's vision of overcoming unemployment by 2022.

"The world is moving towards digitalisation, therefore, as young businessmen and women we have a greater opportunity of innovating on solutions to ease the way of doing business and create massive employment opportunities.

Eswatini is a youthful economy where almost every young person has a smartphone; however the question would be, for what value? In essence it is indeed a personal gadget although it is essential to know in which direction is the world moving. We all speak of the Fourth Industrial Revolution but to what extent; as businesses do we understand the value it has," he said.

He further stated that in his Speech from the Throne during the opening of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament, His Majesty King Mswati III mentioned that the government of Eswatini declared 2020 the year of the SMEs. As a result,



**NOTED: Redmark co-founder Wandile Zishwili.**

they will develop this sector focusing on four key themes; access to finance, empowerment of citizens and identifying incentives for SMEs.

"We are, therefore, excited to present innovative strategies and solutions that the business community can enrol smartly, simply and profitably. Solutions that will see businesses communicating brands, product and service mas-

sively and opening massive indirect and direct job opportunities," he said.

Zishwili further disclosed that they have been fortunate to attract an international investor Cyber Media Television (CYMTV) based in Durban, South Africa, a global digital advertising business through the strategy.

They developed a strategy (super marketing) for CYMTV on how the content advertised on their smart screens can be combined on smartphone advertising concurrently to give value for the business and the society in a form of employment opportunities. "CYMTV was convinced for the idea and we are delighted to start rolling the solution for local businesses. CYMTV is providing the equipment as we speak and have invested E50 000 for the fittings of the smart screens to start operating," he said.

CYMTV is a global digital advertising business operating in five countries; Netherlands, Egypt, Vietnam, Nigeria and South Africa.

Meanwhile, CMYTV representative Sabelo Lokothwayo said they were excited to partner with innovative young minds like Redmark in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"As the world is moving towards digitalisation, more young people are challenged to bring creative solutions with clear value propositions for brands, products and services.

Eswatini business environment is friendly in all sectors of business with sound economic management as the basis for creating the attractive macroeconomic environments necessary for increasing investor confidence," he said.

## Trade Portal to simplify trade processes for SMEs

BY BAHLE GAMA

**THE Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) believes that the Eswatini Trade Information Portal (ETIP) will reduce opportunity cost of time and simplify the process for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).**

The Eswatini Trade Information Portal was launched by the ministry of commerce, industry and trade last Thursday at the Hilton Garden Inn.

SEDCO Senior Manager Strategy and Organisational Performance Themba Dlamini said currently SMEs had to visit multiple government's offices and agencies for documentation requirements to trade, hence the portal would play a vital role in that aspect.

He said they welcomed the establishment of the trade portal and applauded the ministry for the initiative.

"As SEDCO we look forward to engage the SMEs on how they can take advantage of the portal to enhance the movement of their merchandise.

For our economy to grow we need to increase the proportion of SMEs that export to outside lucrative markets. Currently, the proportion of SMEs that export is very small compared to large firms," he said.

He further stated that the portal would provide readily available, transparent and reliable information on procedures on trade and that SEDCO believed this would reduce compliance costs, provide an authoritative point of reference to guide and support trade facilitation for SMEs and business at large.

"We are hopeful that the portal will have market access tools which will assist in reducing delays in trade. Barriers to trade are a key factor that discourages SMEs from venturing in export trade.

Our county has set itself the goal of being an export driven economy and such a portal will greatly assist in achieving that goal.

"It will also be beneficial to SMEs who wish to import and export goods or merchandise across borders, as most SMEs face unique challenges inherent with their being small in size when they look to export to international markets.

"Key to those challenges is information asymmetry which then dampens their competitiveness in external markets," he added.



**PRESENT: IRDM Director Oliver Museka was also present.**



**HERE: YERF CEO Bhekizwe Maziya, CYMTV representative Sabelo Lokothwayo based in Durban and MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo following proceedings.**



## ATTACQ SHOOT OUT LIGHTS IN SHOPPING MALL PROPERTY MARKET

CAPE TOWN - Attacq, a South Africa-focused shopping mall operator, shot the lights out in the tough property market after lifting core distributable earnings per share 23.9 per cent in the six months to December 31.

The dividend per share grew by 11.1 per cent to 45 cents, a growth rate that not only exceeded management's earlier guidance of eight to 10 per cent, but which was also well above current average real estate investment trust (Reit) sector payout growth lev-

els, Chief Executive Melt Hamman said in an interview on Tuesday.

Attacq's share price was up 6.12 per cent to R9.71 at the close on the JSE.

Trading density growth in the retail portfolio was at 5.7 per cent, with the recently completed Mall of Africa

having increased by 10.1 per cent.

Chief Operating Officer Jackie van Niekerk said they were happy with the continuous growth of Mall of Africa.

"The mall delivered impressive trading growth as a result of the Waterfall

City densification," she said. Net profit from property operations, excluding the International Financial Reporting Standards adjustment for straight-line leasing and profits from the sale of sectional title units, increased by 16.7 per cent to R745.2 million (December 2018: R638.7m). **Business Report**

## AVIATION: SAA flying to a destination with no runway

JOHANNESBURG - I am forced to write this article after a few months' break.

It is very sad and heartbreaking to see what's happening in the aviation sector in South Africa, where everyone continues ripping off SAA.

Everybody is experimenting and every day we are seeing new experiments being done at the cost of taxpayers' money. For me it feels like SAA has become a training school for many board and executives members.

If you don't know aviation, but you have heard it mentioned somewhere and you would like to learn, aviation is a good start.

Then what you would do next is make a few calls to well-known people to get on board the SAA gravy train, where no one cares or has any idea how to save the national resource.

What I have observed in the past is that the SAA board has a lack of experience in the aviation sector. They claim to be masters of all trades.

My friend has in the past bizarrely advised to take the captain of the Springbok rugby team, Siya Kolisi, and make him captain of the soccer team, Bafana Bafana, so we can start winning the Soccer World Cup as well.

I tried to explain to him that, to my best knowledge, the soccer team and



the rugby team play two different games. But he again came with a bizarre answer that both are sports.

It's the same when you use an intelligent sergeant to present a case to a courtroom judge, but at the same time you send the best attorney to do an operation in a theatre. It is not rocket science to understand what will happen next. They are both going to fail badly, because they don't represent the expertise and knowledge needed in those areas. The same exactly happened to SAA. We witnessed the last 10 failed turnaround strategies as a nation.

Furthermore, we saw biased media using a different kind of parameter for

dissimilar kinds of people in the same scenario. For example, when Eskom's chairperson resigned, I read the news with the headline, 'Chairman resigned and jumped from sinking ship'.

When the powerful SAA board member resigned, in the news I saw that we lost a valuable board member. But he was not made to account for his deeds at the airline.

We must make all the board/executive members accountable for what they did, because when they took those positions, they knew very well what they were putting themselves into - and what a mess they left behind.

**Business Report**

## Rand clings on to post-Fed windfall after recession shock

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's rand firmed early yesterday, finding relief from a surprise rate cut the US central bank after a sharp selloff triggered by data showing the economy was in recession.

At 0715 GMT the rand was 0.36 per cent firmer at 15.3600 per dollar, backing down from a five-session best of 15.2100 on Tuesday touched after US Federal Reserve delivered an emergency 50 basis point lending rate cut just as local markets closed.

Before that the stats agency reported Africa's most advanced economy had entered its second recession in two years in the final quarter of last year, shrinking by forecast-smashing 1.4 per cent as a swathe of industries were hit by months of regular power outages. The data stoked already bear-

ish sentiment around the currency following last week's budget where treasury chopped its 2020 growth forecast to 0.9 per cent and announced estimates of a higher budget deficit - making a credit downgrade by Moody's at month-end a near certainty.

"Within the space of a few minutes the rand had moved from 15.55 to 15.45 to 15.62 and down to 15.22. It is impossible to know what is going to happen with the world's central banks in full panic mode," said Standard Bank's chief trader Warrick Butler.

While the Fed move set off some big inflows into emerging markets as the greenback to a knock to hover near five-month lows, early morning moves in risk assets were more muted as investors tried to digest the ongoing impact of the coronavirus.

**Reuters**



## Dangote pledges N200m towards coronavirus in Nigeria

JOHANNESBURG - The Aliko Dangote Foundation has pledged N200 million (about US\$548 000) to support the Nigerian government's efforts towards curbing the spread of COVID-19, a disease from the new coronavirus first detected in China.

The foundation's intervention is considered the largest single donation by a corporate organisation in the country since Nigeria recorded its first case of the disease last month.

ADF Managing Director and CEO Zouera Youssoufou said the foundation had earmarked N124 million to support facilities in preventing, assessing and responding to health events at Nigerian points of entry. The foundation would also provide facilities worth N36 million to support the government's surveillance and epidemiology efforts. The ADF is the philanthropic endeavour of Nigerian billionaire businessman Aliko Dangote, the richest man in Africa. Nigerian President Muhammadu

Buhari has previously lauded Dangote for his contributions towards fighting Ebola and polio in Nigeria.

Closer to home, The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) says it will be part of a multi-disciplinary team instructed by President Cyril Ramaphosa to repatriate citizens from the COVID-19 hit city of Wuhan in China.

The department of defence said on Tuesday approximately 151 South African citizens would be repatriated, at the request of their families.

"Once all the logistics have been confirmed by the planners, who are busy with the planning of the operation, the repatriation process will then commence," it said in a statement.

"The repatriation planning process is currently at an advanced stage and takes into consideration everything related to the logistics for the operation."

**African News Agency**

## Nedbank wipes off R2bn market cap after profits

DURBAN - Nedbank wiped nearly R2 billion off its market cap in early trade on Tuesday before recovering to just under half-a-billion after it reported that recession-like pressures in South Africa had pushed its profits down 7.3 per cent to R12.5 billion during the year to December.

Nedbank said its earnings took a knock on impairment charges and the country's stagnant economy, which forced households to withhold finances and curtail credit demand.

Nedbank Chief Executive Mike Brown said South Africa's estimated economic growth of 0.3 per cent in 2019 was much slower than initially expected due to the



severity of frequent power outages, the unsustainable fiscal trajectory and ongoing policy uncertainty combined with a deteriorating global outlook.

"Under these difficult domestic conditions, company profits and household finances deteriorated during the year," Brown said. **Business Report**

## Nigeria tops SA as the continent's biggest economy

JOHANNESBURG - As if a recession wasn't enough bad news for South Africa, it's now confirmed as the continent's second-largest economy.

The answer to the question of whether South Africa or Nigeria, the two countries that account for almost half of sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product, is the biggest economy on the continent has long depended on which exchange rate you use for the

West African nation.

But now both the official naira rate of 306 per dollar and the weaker market exchange rate of around 360 that almost all investors use put Nigeria tops.

Nigeria's economic growth beat forecasts in the fourth quarter, helping its economy to expand the most in four years in 2019 as oil output increased and the central bank took steps to boost credit growth. GDP in the West African

country stood at \$476 billion or \$402 billion, depending on the rate used.

It slumped into a second recession in consecutive years, contracting more than projected in the fourth quarter as power cuts weighed on output and business confidence. For the full year, expansion was 0.2 per cent, the least since the global financial crisis, and even less than the central bank and government estimated.

**Bloomberg**



Focus on

## World News

Global News

## Trump holds phone call with Taliban leader

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump spoke by phone call with the leader of the Taliban, he said on Tuesday, just days after Washington signed a historic deal with the militants.

Trump, speaking to reporters at the White House, said he had "a very good talk with the leader of the Taliban," without naming him.

The 35-minute call, which the Taliban said took place around Tuesday afternoon, came a day after the group ended a partial truce and threw into doubt peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban which are due to begin on March 10, according to a US-Taliban agreement signed on Saturday.

A transcript of the phone call released by the Taliban quoted fighter-turned-negotiator Mullah Baradar urging Trump to "take determined actions in regards to the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan".

Under the terms of the US-Taliban agreement, foreign forces will quit Afghanistan within 14 months, subject to Taliban security guarantees and a pledge by the insurgents to hold talks with Kabul.

But a dispute over a prisoner swap has raised questions about whether the negotiations between Kabul and the Taliban will go ahead. **AFP**

## KENYAN GOVT BANS FIRMS FROM EXPORTING FACE MASKS

JOHANNESBURG - The Kenya government has announced a ban on the export of face masks, aiming to ensure that the country was well-prepared for coronavirus that has infected about 90 000 people across 58 countries.

The ban comes after President Uhuru Kenyatta gave an executive order to set up a National Emergency Response Committee which would guide Kenya's preparedness for the coronavirus, according to the Soko Directory.

The Citizen on Monday reported that Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kemsa) Chief Executive Officer Jonah Manjari said that the government had banned local manufacturers and distributors from exporting N95 AND three-ply surgical masks to ensure that the country had enough stock as part of its emergency plan.

The demand for face masks and gloves has skyrocketed since the coronavirus started to spread like a wildfire across the world, according to the publication.

Manjari revealed that the government also placed orders for emergency materials and medicines that would be required in the wake of a coronavirus outbreak.

The Soko Directory reported that Chinese customers were now ordering face masks for export from Kenya and other African countries, that has led to the stock for face masks and other protective clothing to decline and to curb the low supply in China.

Reports indicated that the Chinese government can only produce 20 million masks per day, which is only half of the needed amount.

According to manufacturers and distributors of the face masks, the price of a 50-pack box of masks has shot up from around 200 shillings before the coronavirus outbreak, to nearly 1000 shillings in Kenya.

Manjari said that Kemsa had also been given the types of masks to procure, the

protective gear, and the number of beds to procure, and medicines to treat symptomatic conditions, these were products to treat fever, pneumonia and oxygen-for those who require to be put in ICU.

*African News Agency*

**BANS: President Uhuru Kenyatta.**



## Togo Court confirms president's election triumph

TOGO - Togo's constitutional court on Tuesday rejected opposition claims of electoral fraud and declared Faure Gnassingbe the winner with more than 70 per cent of the February vote and president for a fourth term.

In the final tally, the incumbent garnered 70.78 per cent of the ballots while opposition leader and former prime minister Agbeyome Kodjo took 19.46 per cent, the court said.

"Having obtained the absolute majority of votes in the first round of the ballot, Mr Faure Gnassingbe

has to be declared elected president of the republic," announced Aboudou Assouma, President of the court.

A petition filed by Kodjo, who heads the Movement of Patriots for Democracy and Development, was annulled by the court which found it "lacked evidence likely to support the allegations".

"I dispute with all my strength these results," said Kodjo, who had declared himself the winner before provisional results were released.

**AFP**

## Court sentences 21-year-old man to death for robbery

ABUJA - A 21-year-old Nigerian man has been sentenced to death for armed robbery by a High Court sitting in Ado-Ekiti.

The Guardian Nigeria reported on Monday that Isa Abdulkareem was to be hanged for robbing two people of money and cellphones.

While handing down the sentence, it was reported that Justice Oluwatoyin Abodu said, "I found the defendant guilty and he is sentenced to death by hanging. May the Lord have mercy on his soul".

The publication said that the prosecutor, Gbemiga Adaramola, told the court that Abdulkareem was armed with a gun and cutlass when he robbed his



victims. According to the report, he robbed one person of more than R3 100 and the other one a little over R4 700.

"The robbery operation took place at Oke-Ureje, along Igrigiri Road, Ado Ekiti. The defendant was arrested by the community members during a combined vigilante exercise. On interrogation, he confessed to committing the crime and took security agents to their hideout where they met gang members and kept their weapons," the prosecutor was quoted saying. "Exhibits recovered at the hideout include four dane guns and toy guns, locally-made pistols, four Nokia phones, four techno phones, masks, cutlasses, charms, an axe, victim's wife headgear used to wrap the money, expended cartridges, knives, pellets, cash sum of R 428.48 among others." *African News Agency*

## BRIEFS

## Tallest skyscraper opens its doors

SANDTON - Africa's tallest skyscraper - and one of the most exclusive hotels in Sandton, The Leonardo - finally opened its doors on Tuesday, with developers of the 234-metre tall building saying the 240-suite hotel and residences were ready for occupation.

Legacy Hotels & Resorts CEO & Chairman Bart Dorrestein said all the offices in The Leonardo are purchased and 90 per cent of the apartments are sold.

"Our owners are scheduled to take occupation on a phased basis commencing March 2020," he said.

**Fin24**

## 23 dead though Tornadoes

TENNESSEE - Tornadoes ripped through Tennessee early on Tuesday, claiming at least 23 lives as they destroyed buildings and toppled power lines, hours before the southern US state voted in Super Tuesday primaries.

Devastation could be seen across the rubble-strewn state capital Nashville, where a tornado touched down shortly after midnight.

Residents described running for their lives as their homes came down around them, with the authorities reporting that tens of thousands were without power.

**AFP**

## Students urged not to be dishonest

JOHANNESBURG - Uganda's Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has cautioned Uganda Christian University (UCU) law students against practising law without completing the Bar course at the Law Development Centre (LDC) saying that it affect the justice system in the country.

"If you practice without the professional Bar course, you risk being disbarred and this affects your whole career. LDC is tougher than the degree course.

It is short and intense but with determination and concentration, you can achieve it," Kadaga said. **ANA**

## \$1m diamonds scammer jailed

FRANCE - Three Romanians were sentenced to four years in prison on Tuesday for stealing diamonds worth \$1.1 million in an elaborate swindle of a French jeweller and his Indian business partner.

A fourth member of the gang -- a Serbian who was living in Paris -- was given five years in jail by the judge in Castres in southern France, but he is still on the run and subject to an international arrest warrant.

They were convicted of snatching three diamonds -- which have never been recovered -- in August 2017.

**AFP**



# Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

## Ramaphosa 'shocked' to find journalists in Tuynhuys

JOHANNESBURG - "I am shocked!" President Cyril Ramaphosa said in mock surprise as he entered a room filled with some of his staunchest critics – journalists – on Tuesday.

The journalists laughed as he used the oft-derided phrase of his.

The journalists had been waiting on the president for a few minutes in a briefing room in Tuynhuys – the grand old Cape Dutch manor next to Parliament which serves as the president's Cape Town office – for an engagement organised by the Presidency and the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF), to which members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery were also invited.

While the president expressed his mock shock, it was, in fact, the assembled journalists who should have been surprised because an on-the-record engagement with Ramaphosa is a very rare occurrence.

As is the practice when journalists are invited to Tuynhuys, they



**SHOCKED:** President Cyril Ramaphosa.

had to be there an hour before the scheduled start, on Tuesday this meant at 13:00. After hanging about in a waiting room close to the entrance – not the fancy entrance behind the gates – the journalists were ushered to a boardroom.

After sitting there for a few minutes, they were welcomed by presidential spokesperson Khusela Diko, and then shown to another room, where a lunch was served.

From there, it was on to the briefing room. Usually, the room would

have rows of chairs, but on this occasion the chairs were behind round tables, with two chairs and a podium on the low stage.

Ramaphosa took his seat on one of the chairs, smiling. Dressed in his usual garb of a suit, dress shirt and tie, he appeared relaxed.

"I am shocked!" he joked again, when acting SANEF Chairperson Katy Katopodis said that Diko contacted SANEF about the engagement days after the media organisation resolved to request such a meeting.

Ramaphosa started off by saying that journalists played a "significant role in exposing state capture and corruption" and said the media had an important role to play as a "bulwark against abuses of power".

He said the media had also been affected by the weak economy.

As he spoke about the economy with a serious expression, he said the fact that South Africa was in a technical recession didn't come as a "shock or surprise," because the signs were there. *News24*

## Traditional healers jailed for scam

JOHANNESBURG - Three traditional healers were sentenced to an accumulative 13 years in jail by the East London Regional Court for fraud and theft after they scammed a 63-year-old former teacher out of her pension money.

According to police spokesperson Captain Anelisa Ngcakani, the three Ungandan nationals - Jimmy Peter Sellwaju, 27, Mohamed Wamubirigue, 57, and Brian Kibirigue, 32 - executed their scam from January to August 2017, which entailed convincing the teacher from Lusikisiki to resign from her job and hand over her pension to them for a "spiritual cleansing" that would lead to her ancestors multiplying her money.

"With the guidance of Wamubirigue, the 63-year-old then participated in a series of spiritual rituals which resulted in her resigning from work as she believed that her ancestors would multiply her pension to millions of rands.

She then handed over R1.6 million of her pension money to the men who then fled with the cash to Port Elizabeth.

"Knowing that the pensioner still had more cash in her account, she was instructed to withdraw the remaining R90 000."

*News 24*

## Agony for crash victims' families

EASTERN CAPE - The families of the victims of Monday's horror bus crash that claimed 29 lives and left 68 people injured near Centane, Eastern Cape, on Tuesday began the agonising process of identifying their loved ones at Butterworth Forensic Mortuary.

MEC for transport Weziwe Tikana-Gxothiwe said the postmortems were expected to start on Tuesday and that Africa Best (AB350) Bus Company had provided free transport to take family members from Cebhe village in Centane to Butterworth and back.

Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula placed the death toll at 29, with around 60 people injured. Mbalula said it was believed that the bus driver lost control of the vehicle, but further investigations into the cause of the crash were still being conducted.

He visited those who were still in hospital and also addressed concerned community members, promising harsher punishment for those operating unroadworthy public transport vehicles.

Survivors including Bukelwa Nkonki, 33, and Vulindlela Malambisa, 53, who miraculously escaped the crash almost unhurt, told Sowetan's sister publication Dispatch Live that the bus was speeding and had been overloaded.

The AB350 65-seater rolled numerous times, uprooting trees, for almost 400m down an embankment at Kats Pass at Mahlathimane, Nxoxha village.

*Sowetan Live*

## Constantly changing DGs has weakened the state – Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa says that, for the sake of strengthening good governance, he is in favour of the idea that directors general (DGs) serve longer terms in state departments than the prescribed five-year contract terms currently in place.

Ramaphosa made the comments during a meeting with the media and the South African National Editors' Forum at Tuynhuys in Cape Town on Tuesday.

The president said he believed

DGs needed to serve longer terms.

"As a minister came into office, they felt that: 'I didn't like this DG,' and then they were changed and another [came] in," said Ramaphosa.

"Part of the weakening of the state came about when DGs were changed."

The president said the five-year contracts were seen as a way to usher the country's apartheid-era civil service out of the government of national unity and sunset clauses.

"The problem is, we let the pendulum swing too much the other

way, to a point where we started losing what strengthens the state, of having a professional - if you like - cohort of civil servants, who know their task is to serve the people of South Africa," said the president.

Currently, directors general lose focus of their mandate mid-term as they start to "prepare" to leave their posts and find other jobs, Ramaphosa added.

"You start looking elsewhere because you are not so sure [the new] minister looks at you with

favour every morning, a smile and so forth. You think I should start preparing to get out of here and you defocus," he said.

The issue has been something Ramaphosa has attempted to address in the past. Several reports following the 2019 elections suggested he was considering having administrative heads of departments report directly to him and taking away ministers' power to appoint their preferred DGs.

*News24*

## Wits SRC protests against students forced to sleep in library

JOHANNESBURG - A video clip of students sleeping in the library at Wits University was shared by the Student Representative Council (SRC) yesterday, as it staged a demonstration demanding immediate action.

"When we resort to other measures, we do so because we have exhausted all other forms of engagement. A storm is coming. It cannot be that under our leadership students are subjected to these inhumane conditions. Our students will be accommodated!" the SRC tweeted.

A group of students gathered at the Empire Road entrance to the campus early yesterday. Security was present amid reports that students were disrupting bus operations.



**PROTEST:** Students stage a sleep-in protest at the Solomon Mahlangu concourse on the Wits main campus.

Some of the protesters then staged a sleep-in protest inside one of the halls.

At 10am, the students were disrupting classes outside the Parktown

education campus and entrance to the faculty of sciences.

"It must be made very clear to Wits university and government that we will not rest until all of our

students are accommodated," said Thutho Gabaphete, SRC President.

Cebolenkosi Khumalo told Times Live: "We just want accommodation. How do you expect students to survive Wits University without accommodation?"

"This is a matter of urgency. Can they at least open up Wits so that the students can be accommodated?" said Risima Ngobeni.

Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande on Tuesday addressed student housing demands and violent student protests at the start of the 2020 academic year.

He told Parliament that the government was hoping for help from the private sector to resolve the housing issue, even as it rolled out a range of projects.

*Times Live*



## Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

# DEPLOYED TROOPS ENGAGING IN SEX ACTS BLIGHTS SANDF

**PRETORIA** - The wave of sexual misconduct and abuse claims against deployed troops is a thorn in the side of the SANDF.

This was highlighted during the seventh Accountability Colloquium conference in the capital city attended by 80 delegates from 30 African nations.

South Africa co-hosted the Accountability Colloquium conference with the United States of America Africa Command members, a specialised conference on military operations for African military commanders, chiefs of staff and legal advisers throughout the continent.

The annual conference discusses legal issues and the importance of operational commanders seeking advice from their legal advisers to ensure adherence to the rule of law.

Adjutant-General of the SANDF Major-General Eric Mnisi said sexual misconduct by deployed troops, especially in the DRC, had become a huge embar-



rassment for the humanitarian sector. "One of the challenges we are facing is sexual exploitation and abuse."

This is not necessarily rape, but basically troops having consensual sexual relations with the locals, like in the case of the DRC," he said.

"That is forbidden by the UN, but unfortunately our colleagues fall in love with the locals and this compromises the mission at hand."

### Softened

Mnisi said this was of great concern because not only were soldiers sidetracked from and softened in their approach to their mission, but they also left children in those countries.

"Who is going to maintain them? We are dealing with paternity issues to make sure children that we leave behind in deployment areas are well looked after, just like those we have here at home."

Deputy legal counsel to the United States Africa Command Mark Maxwell said this was what the three-day conference sought to bring forth.

Pretoria News

## Mpumalanga pastor accused of rape

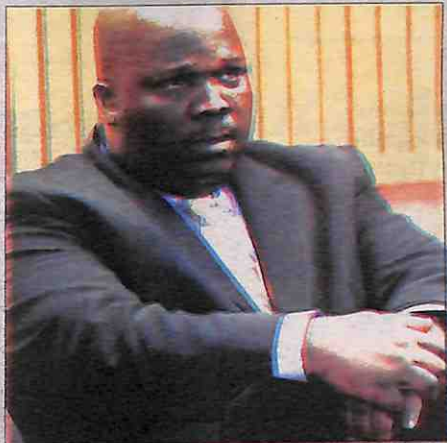
**JOHANNESBURG** - Mpumalanga police yesterday condemned the torching of a church and the damage to property of a pastor.

Police spokesperson Brig Leonard Hlathi said the pastor and his wife were woken up by loud shouts and noises coming from outside their home in the early hours of Monday morning. "The terrified wife woke her husband up to inform him that their cars were burning. At the same time, the windows of their house were also pelted with stones."

"The couple quickly ran outside and witnessed their cars engulfed in flames, while some community members were already in the yard trying to extinguish the fire," Hlathi said. While they were busy trying to extinguish the blaze, the pastor received a call informing him that his church had also been set alight, he said.

Hlathi said police found a message addressed to the pastor on the wall of the church.

"The writing, among other things, accused



Provincial Police Commissioner Lt-Gen Mondli Zuma.

the church of raping people. But currently no such allegations of rape can be proven against the pastor or the congregants." Provincial Police Commissioner Lt-Gen Mondli Zuma called for the speedy arrests of those involved.

Times Live

## SEX WORKERS WHO DIED IN 2018, 2019 WERE MURDERED

**JOHANNESBURG** - Nearly half of the 101 sex workers who died in SA in 2018 and 2019, were murdered.

This figure was revealed in a report released by the Sex Workers Education & Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT) to mark International Sex Worker Rights Day on Tuesday.

The report stated that nearly half of the deaths were probably attributable to murder.

From 2014 to 2017, SWEAT received reports that 118 sex

workers had died. More than half of these deaths (55 per cent) were as a result of murder. SWEAT said the report revealed high levels and particularly brutal forms of violence levelled against sex workers in South Africa.

The organisation said it had arrived at the figure of 101 deaths after consulting with Sisonke and its other partners. Three of the victims were identified as "transwomen", while the rest were female. SWEAT said the women's average age was 36 years,

with the youngest being 18 and the oldest 53.

"While information about the circumstances of the deaths and about the people who had lost their lives were limited, the research team could ascertain that almost half (48.5 per cent) of the deaths were due to non-natural causes. "While this information cannot be directly compared to a national sample of deaths, it is useful to note that natural deaths in the general population significantly outnumber non-natural ones." Citizen

## 'RAPIST' HAS NO GROUNDS TO LAUNCH AN APPEAL

**JOHANNESBURG** - Advocacy group #Notinmyname has slammed convicted child rapist Nicholas Ninow's decision to launch an appeal in the High court in Pretoria tomorrow.

"Nicholas Ninow has no grounds to apply for anything concerning his conviction, sentence or both."

"It is disconcerting that Ninow and his family continue to be afforded privileges which are nonsensical by nature," the group's Themba Masango said.

This after the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said on Tuesday that Ninow was expected to launch

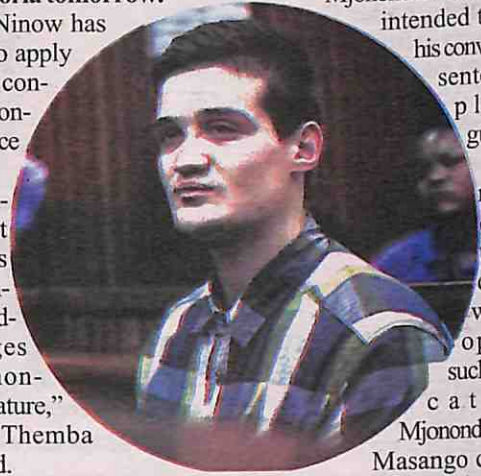
an appeal after being jailed for raping a seven-year-old girl in a Dros restaurant in Silverton, Pretoria, in September 2018.

NPA spokesperson Phindi Mjonondwane said Ninow intended to appeal his conviction and sentence. He pleaded guilty.

"As the respondents to that application, we will be opposing such an application," Mjonondwane said.

Masango called for the matter to be dismissed "immediately and quietly."

Sowetan Live



## Director general implicated in Winnie Madikizela-Mandela state funeral fraud

**JOHANNESBURG** - The Director General of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Advocate Sam Vukela, is among several officials implicated in a forensic investigation report into alleged fraudulent contract management and irregular payments in the planning of state funerals for Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Dr Zola Skweyiya and Ambassador Billy Modise.

The Standing Committee on

Public Accounts (SCOPA) said it was concerned about the findings made by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

SCOPA Chairperson Mkhuleko Hlengwa said they were expecting a full report from Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille on the implementation of the recommendation that necessary corrective action be taken against Vukela within 14 days. SCOPA has also requested a report from De Lille on

her interaction with President Cyril Ramaphosa with regard to reviewing the procedures for state and official funerals in order to address the management of the funeral process, and in this way curb vulnerabilities to fraud and corruption.

The committee also wants this report within 14 days.

SCOPA has also directed De Lille to interact with the president about the disciplinary process against Vukela within 14 days. News 24

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# CHURCH NEWS



## 'Lead with Kingdom of God mindset'

**MOTIVATIONAL speaker and renowned preacher Pastor Dr. Phil Mnisi says individuals in leadership positions must lead with a Kingdom of God mindset to be successful in their roles, especially church leaders.**

The founder of His Harvest Fellowship Church based in Ezulwini said there was a dearth in leadership nowadays the world over.

It is infested by a crop of leaders who suffer from imbalance, self-serving, corruption, calamities, general breakdown and burn-out, he noted.

Pastor Phil said there was need for those in leadership to adopt authentic leadership traits of leading with integrity, impact, intentionally and with the Kingdom of God mindset.

"No one plans to be mediocre, it only happens when you do not plan. If you want to succeed, learn the traits of successful leaders and plan on executing them every day. Be humble and you



Pastor Dr. Phil Mnisi.

will be great, be courageous and determined and be faithful and fearless. You will never discover the oceans unless you leave the seashores," he said. If one is in leadership, particularly in church, they must recognise that they are leading individuals with diverse personalities and habits, he

noted. He said there was a crop of people who have spectator mentality; those are persons who only talk about the game and never play it.

It is only those that are in the game that gain the experience.

"There are those who wonder how so much got done. They are sceptical, they complain, they see faults, they are unhappy and in the long run nobody cares. Each of us can accomplish a great deal more than we do now. We only need to create the desire, be organised, have balance in our lives, and then simply go for it. We all need to raise the bar now. Do not wait. The clock is ticking. Before you know it, you may be too old, too tired, too bored or too sick. Do not worry about missing the mark or failing. A dear friend once said, 'you need to fail often to succeed sooner'," Dr. Mnisi added.

At His Harvest Fellowship Church their vision is to touch lives, win souls and transform God's people.

## Elijah Fire sets Mbabane on fire

**HUNDREDS came through for the official launch of the new branch of Hope Restoration Church on Sunday during a service dubbed 'Grand Entrance'.**

Prophet Elijah Fire is the founder and overseer of the church which had its base in Ezulwini but permanently moved to Sidvashini Industrial Site opposite Bayabonga Building a few weeks ago.

The launch was preceded by week-long revivals dubbed 'The Miracles of the Holy Spirit' Mbabane Crusade which started on Tuesday until Friday night. People came in their numbers for the crusade as the prophet ministered alongside his spiritual sons, Seer Joshua Angel, the resident Pastor of Nhlango

branch and Seer Emmanuel Enoch, who is the resident Pastor of Manzini, who is the resident Pastor of Manzini branch. "We would like to thank all those who attended our crusade and those who attended the branch. We saw people descending to Sidvashini for the crusade in numbers each day. The heavens were really opened during the crusade and all we can say is that Mbabane will never be the same again.

"We are here to stay and would like to assure inhabitants of Mbabane that their troubles belong to the past," he said. Apart from the normal weekly Sunday services that begin at 10am, Friday services dubbed 'Fridays of Fire' will be held each week beginning tomorrow starting at 6pm.



Brethren captured during the service.

## Prophet Manyatsela hosts prophetic healing service

**BROOK-KINDRON International Ministries will host an all night service at Campus Crusade in Mbabane next Friday.**

The founder of the ministry Prophet P Manyatsela said this would be a prophetic healing and deliverance service where they would be delivering the people of God from afflictions.

"This will be an all night service where people will hear the Word of God, receive prophetic healing and deliverance. We are a young min-

istry having started in 2017 but God is doing wonders through His prophet where a lot of people have received deliverance and healing.

We are praying for this special night and we believe God will show His greatness through the prophet. I invite people to come in their numbers and witness the power of God at work," he said.

He will be alongside his spiritual sons who will also minister the Word of God on the night.

**GOD Never Fails Church was a hive of activity as hundreds of people gathered to receive the anointing by Bishop ND Nhlapho.**

The bishop was with his wife led the congregation and visitors to an anointing session where he personally anointed everyone present with oil which was prayed for.

Bishop Nhlapho said it was important to be anointed as this protects brethren while attracting blessings for them.

He said the anointing was biblically ordained, which they undertook at the beginning of each year.

The negative views associated with olive oil were confusing the church, he stated. People must read the scriptures to get

## Anointing service attracts hundreds



Bishop ND Nhlapho.

the true meaning and significance of anointing. "Many individuals have a lot to say on the use of oil in the church, I want to

stress that I personally use it for anointing because the Bible instructs me to do so. As you can see this is just olive oil but after I have prayed for it, it will be holy oil. I will then anoint all brethren here. The negativity around the usage of olive oil is influenced by individuals trying to cash out from unsuspecting brethren through selling the oil. I'm not party to this as my oil is not for sale," he said.

Brethren who attended came from all corners of the kingdom as well as beyond the country's borders. Bishop Nash Shongwe of Divine Healing Ministries and Apostle Maswanganyi from South Africa also attended the service on Saturday.

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## Eswatini Healing Crusade



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Organiser: Bishop Dr. Nash Shongwe



Speaker: Apostle S Saleka



Speaker: Bishop SM Mahwale



Speaker: Bishop MS. Mpungose



Artist: Sambulu Khumalo



Artist: Mduletsi Magaw'gaw



Artist: Wisana Mahoso



Artist: Siphiso Makhubane



Artist: Linda Dlamini

Venue: Fair View South Park (Manzini)  
Time: 18:00

24 February to 8 March 2020

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Mar 05 2020



# ESWATINI Observer ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS



**IT'S ON:** MTN Pulse Firefly Dome Project Manager Penny Bouwer reveals the Top 20 finalists during the media briefing yesterday at House on Fire.



**GOOD NEWS:** House on Fire Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini revealed the all-new MTN Pulse Firefly Dome experience.

## MTN BUSHFIRE FIREFLY TOP 20 REVEALED!

...Voting lines now open

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

**THE fourth edition of the MTN Bushfire Firefly has been launched.**

Launched yesterday at the home of entertainment, House On Fire, the Top 20 to battle for a slot to perform at the MTN Bushfire Firefly stage has been revealed.

The Top 20 was revealed by the MTN Pulse Firefly Dome Project Manager Penny Bouwer.

Artist applications were open on February 4 and closed on February 28, after which independent judges selected the Top 20.

After three successful seasons, the growth has been phenomenal, reaching over 40 000 people who have positively interacted with the campaign across multiple channels on digital, print and beyond. Bouwer said since 2017, 60 local artistic talents have gained incredible exposure on these channels as their music is uploaded on digital platforms for public enjoyment.

"MTN Pulse Firefly has also given nine local artists the opportunity to perform at the MTN Bushfire Festival since its inception.

"With its global following, MTN Bushfire actively supports the development of artists and the creative industry in Eswatini. MTN Pulse Firefly has been one of such positively impacting developmental platforms," said Bouwer.

After the Top 20 announcement, the voting period was made open via SMS to the number 2010 at a cost of 50c per SMS.

"It is important that voters use the finalist number allocated to them. The highest number of public votes will determine the Top 10 acts to perform at the finale," stated Bouwer.

The final Top 10 will be announced on March 20 and will start gearing up to perform at the Grand Finale to be held on April 3 at House on Fire. The overall winner, according to Bouwer, would walk away with a recording deal sponsored by MTN Eswatini, among other exciting prizes, including a performance at MTN Bushfire Festival.

"Join the MTN Pulse movement and 'Be You'. Dial \*411# and enjoy fun and exciting packages that allow you to do much more, for much less, on the MTN Eswatini net-

| Finalist Number | Stage Name             | ID Name  |
|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| 1               | Wezzy                  | Wezimanaga Mdluli                                |
| 2               | Elysium                | Sibusiso Ghanhane                                |
| 3               | Paco                   | Mfundo Dlamini                                   |
| 4               | Jimmy Boy              | Mncedisi James Dube                              |
| 5               | Bavarah                | Siphehile Jason Msibi                            |
| 6               | Luswiba Duo            | Sibongiseni Leo Malambe & Malambe Babutse Masuku |
| 7               | Malcolm E              | Malcolm-Jamal Bongani Endris (Malcolm.E)         |
| 8               | Zinia                  | Mbali Gamedze                                    |
| 9               | MiloKul                | Sthembiso Temple Mavuso                          |
| 10              | Ryan X & Sean Cast Duo | Mnqobi Dlamini & Zwelihle Kunene                 |
| 11              | Nick Mendes            | Nick Mendes                                      |
| 12              | Jack Rhallie           | Ncamiso Magagula                                 |
| 13              | Ashton-Rae             | Ashton-Rae Da Silva Cunha                        |
| 14              | Criss Tino             | Mpendulo Mndvoti                                 |
| 15              | Bandz                  | Bandzile Simelaane                               |
| 16              | Canny Deep             | Lindokuhle Mkhonta                               |
| 17              | Entrepreneurs Duo      | Fundile Jack Khumalo & Andile Khumalo            |
| 18              | Sisekelo Shawn         | Sisekelo Shawn Sibandze                          |
| 19              | Skinny G               | Sedem Agbenyegah                                 |
| 20              | CheI-star              | Cheilla Vovos                                    |

work.

We have exciting giveaways and interesting music business news that we know will positively grow the music industry in Eswatini. #MTNBushfireFirefly," said Bouwer.

Launched in 2017, MTN Pulse Firefly is targeted at the

young, gifted and free.

The aim of this platform has been to create a music space that has no limitations for the youth to share their musical creativity and lyrical authenticity, while encouraging them to freely express themselves through their music.

## Prizes galore at Craft Festival

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

AT this year's Eswatini Craft Festival, fun lovers stand a chance to win a night away for two at both Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Hlane Royal National Park.

The event will be held on March 21 at Mandela's lawn.

This was confirmed by Mandela's Marketing Events Manager Seipati Jonga yesterday. "As always, the Eswatini Craft Festival looks to emphasise fun at the event.

This year, there will be two open games for anyone to join, where you can win a trip away for two to both Mlilwane and Hlane, courtesy of Big Games Parks," said Jonga. Attendees can take part in the 'Egg Toss' competition to win a trip for two to Hlane Royal National Park (including breakfast).

She said in this game, participants simply need to throw an egg to their partner, and back again. If you succeed, you will need to stand further back and repeat. The last couple that can successfully throw an egg wins the prize. "Following from the

successful 'pie eating competition' from 2018, competitive eating is back in Eswatini. Contestants will need to eat as many doughnuts as they can within two minutes. A mixture of speed, technique, and well greed, this competition will result in one lucky participant winning a trip for two to Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, including accommodation and breakfast," she added.

Jonga also said there would be a wide variety of games and competitions available to enter during the day, including carnival games and the return of 'The Great Swazi Bake Off' baking competition, as well as the addition of a chilli sauce competition with yet more over the top prizes. "We have decided to offer these prizes to add an element of competitiveness and fun, but also showcase some of the amazing locations and products that Eswatini has to offer, that sometimes even we miss out on," said Jonga.

Entrance into these games ranges from E10 to E20 with all proceeds going to charity. Presale tickets are E100 and E150 at the door. Children under 12 will enter for free.

## Nasty C for Firefly Finals

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**SOUTH African rapper Nasty C will perform at the MTN Bushfire Firefly Grand Finale on April 3.**

This was confirmed at the MTN Bushfire Firefly Top 20 reveal yesterday at House On Fire.

Penny Bouwer said after three seasons, the growth has been phenomenal, reaching over 40 000 people who have positively interacted with the campaign across multiple channels on digital, print and beyond. The platform has brought a number of artists such as Londie London and J Molly, to mention a few.

Nasty C released his first mix tape, 'One Kid, a Thousand Coffins', and debut EP, 'L.A.M.E' (Levitating Above My Enemies), before graduating from high school.

His second mix tape, 'Price City', produced his hit song, 'Juice Back'. The track helped put him on the map.

Cassper Nyovest and Nigerian superstar Davido featured on the 'Juice Back' remix, exposing Nasty C to a bigger audience.

He has made a name for himself with collaborations with international stars such as Jidenna, French Montana and many more. The rapper has been in the country countless times and has performed at The Hipnotik Festival, MTN Bushfire and Epic Gig, to mention a few.

Applauding the firefly initiative was House on Fire Marketing Manager Bongani

Dlamini, who said the MTN Pulse Firefly was growing bigger and better. "We are this year going to introduce what we call the MTN Pulse Firefly Dome. Where the grand finale will take place," he said. Dlamini said the dome was 8m high, with a width of 25m and 60m long which can accommodate a large crowd.

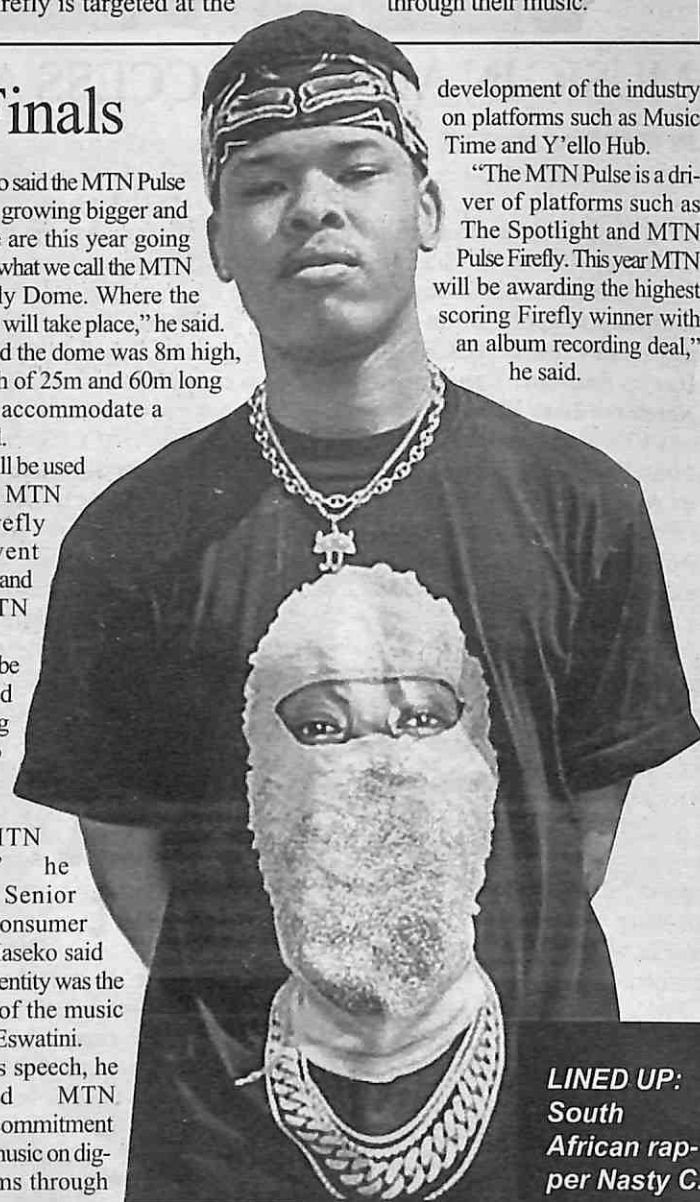
"Dome will be used at both the MTN Pulse Firefly Dome event grand finale and at MTN Bushfire.

There will be more sound and exciting vibe. The top 3 winners will perform at MTN Bushfire," he said. MTN Senior Manager Consumer Meshack Maseko said the Y'ello entity was the best friend of the music industry in Eswatini.

During his speech, he highlighted MTN Eswatini's commitment to growing music on digital platforms through

development of the industry on platforms such as Music Time and Y'ello Hub.

"The MTN Pulse is a driver of platforms such as The Spotlight and MTN Pulse Firefly. This year MTN will be awarding the highest scoring Firefly winner with an album recording deal," he said.



**LINED UP:** South African rapper Nasty C.



# ENCAC RECOGNISES ONLY 16 ARTS, MUSIC ASSOCIATES

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**ESWATINI National Council of Arts and Culture only recognises 16 associations in the kingdom.**

The associations are listed in the National Arts and Culture Association progress report for July-September 2019/2020.

These associations are beneficiaries of ENCAC, some of them are also members of the association while some are still applicants.

These associations include the Association of Christian Artists in Eswatini (ACAESWA). This association's activities include Gospel Sunday at the Eswatini International Trade Fair.

SWAMA is also one of the recognised members and its activities include hosting the MTN SWAMA Awards, Music Conference and Trade Fair gig. Another member is the Eswatini National Choral Music Association (ESNCMA) which is responsible for the Ntjilo Ntjilo talent search, Old Mutual Choral music competition

amongst many others.

There is also the AESTG which is responsible for establishing the new music circuit themed 'Ngoma Consortium'.

This association was also responsible for the MTN Bushfire Schools Festival.

Other members include ESTAM, Schools Culture (ESCCA), ESNUA Umboloho, Imigidvo Yesintfu, Motion in Pictures, Vanes and Composers Forum.

Pageant Eswatini which is also a member of the association is responsible for recruiting Miss Cultural Heritage, Miss Eswatini and jointly co-ordinate the SADC Fashion Show.

An applicant member of the association includes Poetry Association which was currently drafting its constitution for affiliation to the council. The Regional Arts Hub was also one of the associations listed on the

report. This association is said to have activities in the different regions of the kingdom. Then lastly, the Country and Western Music Association. These associations will benefit from the E4 732 467 estimated budget given to the association.

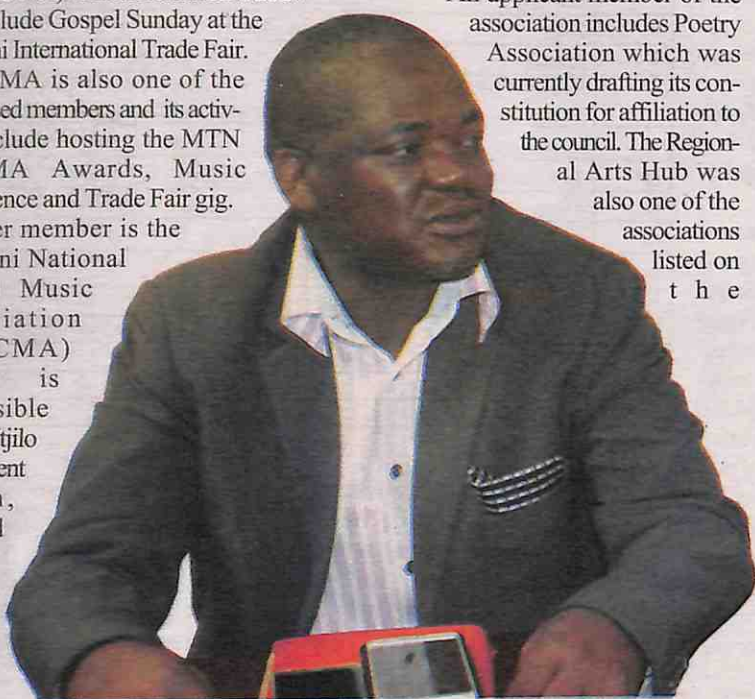
ENCAC CEO Stanley Dlamini said they would make sure that they gave all these associations a benefit from the estimated budget.

Dlamini said each association was allowed to submit their yearly plan so they see how they can assist them.

He said it was unfortunate that they would not be able to fund all activities by each association but they would make sure that the most important ones were covered.

## Associations:

- The Association of Christian Artists in Eswatini (ACAESWA)
- Eswatini Music Association (SWAMA)
- Eswatini National Choral Music Association (ESNMA)
- AESTG
- ESTMA
- Eswatini Schools Association Council (ESCCA)
- Pageant Eswatini
- ESNUA Umbholoho
- Imigidvo Yesintfu
- Motion in Pictures
- VANES
- Poetry Association
- Composers Forum
- Country and Western Music Association
- Umdlndla Writers' Association
- Regional Arts Hub



## MUSIC IN AFRICA ACCESS APPLICATIONS OPEN

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**THE Music In Africa Conference for Collaborations, Exchange and Showcases (ACCES) invites African musicians to apply for an opportunity to showcase at ACCES 2020 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from November 26 to 28.**

ACCES is organised by the Music In Africa Foundation (MIAF) in a different African city every year.

It offers a robust programme and platforms for performers to showcase their talent to a diverse audience of local and international delegates, including festival curators, promoters, booking agents, record labels and other influential audiences.

Music In Africa is the largest resource for information and exchange in and for the African music sector. It is also a non-profit initiative. Launched in Dakar in 2017 and held in Nairobi in 2018 and Accra in 2019,

the event includes training workshops, industry talks, keynotes, live performances, networking sessions, a collaborative recording studio, exhibitions and visits to key music industry hubs in the host city. The application deadline is on April 30. ACCES showcases are meant for emerging musicians who can deliver outstanding live performances and are ready for the international stage. ACCES' curators are also looking for musicians who will genuinely benefit from the opportunity to boost their careers internationally.

As this event is happening in Tanzania, emphasis will also be on local bands with a view to showcase the best in Tanzanian live music.

Applications are open to solo artists, bands, DJs and many more based on the continent. All genres are welcome, applicants should be export-ready, all participants must be over 18 years old and all applications must be based on live performances and original music. Performances supporting political par-

ties or religious faith will not be permissible. Applicants should be prepared to be available for the duration of ACCES and to perform on any of the dates November 26-28. Applications can be submitted by the artists themselves or by the artists/bands' representatives. Musicians based outside Dar es Salaam should be prepared to provide own funding for transport costs to and from Dar es Salaam.

The Music In Africa Foundation will strive to support musicians to apply for funding from available networks and partners but cannot guarantee that this will be successful, so please be sure that you are prepared for this before you apply. Only one band manager may be included in the travelling party and benefit from the same support offered by ACCES as the performing band members.

To apply, artists must create (if you haven't already) a profile on the Music In Africa Artist & Industry section using this link: <https://www.musicinafrica.net/user/register>.

Make sure that your profile is up to date, as this is the profile that the Curation Committee will review. Your profile must include a clear biography, a minimum of three tracks, one live performance video, two high-resolution promotional photos and social media links.

## Cleopatra to share stage with Somizi, Kelly Khumalo

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

**AWARD winning country music star Cleopatra is billed to perform at The Grand White Dinner in Pretoria, South African on April 4.**

The star will be sharing the stage with celebrated personalities such as Somizi Mhlongo, Kelly Khumalo to name a few.

Cleopatra said this opportunity meant her music was reaching different types of audiences.

"This is excellent and inspiring. I am excited about the event, I sure am looking forward to having a great time with everyone," she said.

Cleopatra highlighted that people should expect nothing but a splendid performance from her and the band. "I am happy about this new oppor-

tunity to present my music in such a grand platform," Cleopatra said. Cleopatra is set for greater heights in the industry.

"As her manager and number one fan of Country Music, I had to make sure that she get to be on that stage. We all can agree that Cleopatra is a star and it's about time her music is heard on bigger platforms" said Zakhele Dlamini.

Cleopatra's musical journey began shortly after she wrote a song titled 'These Memories' dedicated to her mother who had passed on in 2012. She met up with Dusty & Stones, an award winning country music duo both in the country and at international level.

## Borders

The country music songbird has been on the road since then, performing in different places and occasions in the country and beyond the borders.

The country music singer is also an MTN SWAMA Award nominee and won international recognition for being the very first female in the kingdom to be nominated and invited to perform at the 2019 Texas Sound International Country Music Awards, held in Texas, USA. She has been nominated in three categories, Entertainer of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, and Songwriter of the Year.



## Rapper Spakajo drops 'Everything Frozen'

BY MLUNGISI NDWANDWE

**WHAT may seem far from reach for upcoming rapper Spakajo might be an eye's cast across the ocean.**

The rapper has dropped his single titled 'Everything Frozen'.

The rapper said he recorded the song last year in winter hence its title; 'Everything Frozen'.

"So far I am impressed with how people are reacting to the track," he said.

"To be frank, I wasn't expecting a big move considering that I am still at the bottom," Spakajo added.

The rapper said he was hugely influenced by the likes of veteran MC Eminem.

He added that he was currently promoting his song.

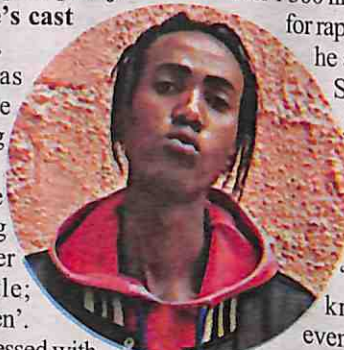
"So far I do a lot of marketing myself. I am currently pushing the song on

social media and my Facebook page just got the numbers on the score board pumped up, so that means more reach. Currently the page is over 1 300 likes and that is rare for rappers like myself," he said.

Spakajo started this journey when he was still young and he grew up around people who loved music. "Growing up I knew how to rap even though I didn't record any demos back then. I was looking at myself as a secret weapon until high school (2015) where I was kind of forced to record so that I could prove to my friends that I can really do it," he confessed.

The song is indeed a journey for the rapper as it was produced by two producers.

It is worth noting that Spakajo has remained anonymous and elusive for at least four years.



**MUSIC in AFRICA .net**





## PRE-REGISTRATION FOR LUJU FOOD EARLY BIRDS NOW OPEN

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

**THE Standard Bank Luju Food and Lifestyle Festival is back for a third edition.**

Slated for July 31 to August 1, pre-registration for the festival's early bird tickets is officially open.

The closing date for the pre-registration is March 18.

The early bird tickets will be available for purchase from March 25. "The early bird tickets are limited and will only be available for those who pre-register via the website."

However, members of the public are notified that due to high demand for early bird tickets, not everyone who pre-registers will be

guaranteed a ticket," Phiwokuhle Dhlamini said.

With its signature feast of delicious culinary exploits, lavishly vibrant fashion, amazing music and wholesome entertainment, the festival attracts thousands of revellers from Eswatini and beyond.

### Inspiration

Dhlamini said the festival continues to celebrate its theme, 'A Return to the African Future', which magnifies Africa's rich history.

"Captured in our strong fashion focus, our theme revisits vibrant trend eras, bringing back inspiration that influences current and future styles. We celebrate the root of creativity, diversity and culture in all its afro-futuristic boldness," Dhlamini shared.

Luju fashionistas will be excited to know that within this theme, the focus for 2020 is 'Hairvolution'.

"Our hair goes to great lengths to tell a story. It is not only an extension of who we are, but an expression of our power to influence, to challenge and to change. With this crown, we command attention and vocalise cultural beliefs. We effectively oppose conformist standards of beauty and ignite a movement."

### Tease

"This year, let your hair do the talking. Tussle up those 60s beehives, tease your TWAs and fleek those inches. Stir the honeypot and spice things up!"

The Luju Fashion Café's specially curated programme will feature an exhibition lounge with a photo-

booth, hand-made fashion and design traders, as well as a hair activism workshop.

"The theme will also stimulate some insightful and inspiring fashion dialogues and fashion shows with a regional focus to complement our full culinary and entertainment line-up. Members of the public are urged to purchase their tickets early to avoid disappointment as they are expected to sell out. With the festival taking place over two days, attendee scan also experience the best in luxury camping on-site with glamping packages also available."

This is a state of the art camping experience that includes en-suite hot showers and toilets, providing a home away from home.

## A2Z's Sibebe Resort performance lands them Lesotho deal

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

### MORE gigs for A2Z.

A2Z's performance at Sibebe Resort Family Fun Day last Saturday won the heart of a Lesotho international promoter, who, attended the event. A2Z will perform at the Tertiary Night on March 22 in Lesotho. The event will feature artists from Lesotho, South Africa and now Eswatini. According to Mavele from Lesotho, he fell in love with the style of music and energy the duo exuded on stage.

"I was shocked when I heard that

the duo is new in the industry. I am sure that they will rock Lesotho and would go far if they continue with their style," he said.

A2Z Manager Larry Mhlana confirmed their performance in Lesotho. "We are so excited and happy to be part of the Tertiary Night in Lesotho and I believe it will open door for the duo," Mhlana shared.

He said they were excited as their third single 'Dlala' will be dropping on March 14. "We have so much coming up and the support we are getting in Eswatini is amazing. A2Z is the future," Mhlana said.



YES: A2Z duo dance during their performance.

## Tsakasile's first wine tasting is here!

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**SINCE its establishment in 2018, Tsakasile Wines will host a wine tasting event on March 28.**

Tsakasile Wines is a brand that was established by a local Tsakasile Gembe with her wine-making colleagues.

The tasting event will be held at Cuba Nora where she will be showcasing her selected wine varieties for the first time.

Gembe said Tsakasile translates to joy and their core value was for their customers to experience joy with every glass raised, whether in celebrating small or big moments, enjoying dinner at their favourite restaurant or just unwinding at a local bistro or maybe just relaxing and enjoying a social chat with friends and family.

"Wine tastings are designed to offer enthusiasts a chance to try a diverse range of wines. Normally, participants of wine-tasting vary in terms of wine knowledge levels and tastings are to offer some background on wines," she said. She said since she launched the line, the response has been outstanding.

"Tsakasile Wines is still fairly new in the market. Nonetheless the response from our customers has been outstanding. I can safely say people enjoy and love the brand. We are hoping to reach our goals to being amongst biggest wine suppliers in the kingdom," she said.

She said that the response also highlighted the growth of the wine culture in the kingdom.

## Amadodana Ase Lwandle invade Siteki on Sunday

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

**THE countdown to commemorating 10 years in the gospel music industry by Amadodana Ase Lwandle Gospel Group has already begun.**

On Sunday, the acapella music group will host its first celebratory event at Emmanuel Wesley Methodist Church in Siteki under the theme 'It's all about surviving'.

The event starts at 1pm until 5pm and admission is E20 per head.

Kwakhe Mkhathshwa, leader and PRO, said they had a number of choirs in the line-up to delight fans on the day.

Buhle BemaSwati, Umkhosi Wamadodana, Imvuselelo YamaWeseli, Lunyazi Lwamadodana and Izwi LamaWeseli are the guest choirs expected to pleasure gospel music lovers and fans of Amadodana music on the day.

"We invite brethren from Siteki and surrounding areas as well as gospel music lovers from all corners of Eswatini to come join us in celebrating our decade long existence. This is a pre-launch celebration of our 10th anniversary with the main festivities to follow later in the year," Mkhathshwa said.

Amadodana AseLwandle started off with 12 members in 2010 and they now have 16. The group is under the Methodist Central Circuit Eswatini 1026.

## Win a Ticket Competition

Answer these two questions correctly and stand a chance to win a ticket to the House Music Festival presented by SwaziBoy Entertainment. Fill in the correct answers and send the cutout to Eswatini Observer Office at Lilunga House Mbabane, P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza.

1. Name two international acts lined-up for House Music Festival?

.....

2. Where is the festival going to be hosted?

.....

Name: ..... Cell: .....

.....

7TH MARCH 2020  
AT ESIBUYENI LODGE

TICKETS  
AVAILABLE

.....

DATE: 007\*3\*12#





# Celebville

International Celebrity News

## DJ Fresh on Thabethe's resignation from 5FM

**SANDTON** - Veteran broadcaster DJ Fresh is rallying behind radio personality Thando Thabethe after the star revealed that she had resigned from 5FM.

Thando announced her exit as the host of the SABC radio station's Afternoon Drive show on Tuesday, saying she was "dropping the mic after six years at 5FM and 11 years on radio."

ThaBooty, as she is known in these streets, added that she will host her last show today.

Fresh, who knows all too well how Thando may be feeling, reached out to her on Twitter, saying, "and was sadly probably not the most difficult decision to make! A sad loss for radio!"

### Terminated

Last year, Metro FM terminated Fresh's contract with immediate effect after he used "foul language" on air. In her resignation letter, Thando said, "This is probably the hardest decision I've had to make and it's a bittersweet moment as I bid farewell to something that I've been doing for the last 11 years, and grown to love and cherish so much."

Thando, who was the first woman to host the drive time show on 5FM, expressed that The ThaBooty Drive was her baby and a really big moment in her career.

ness. *Times Live*

## 'IT'S NOT GOODBYE, IT'S A SEE YOU LATER'



GOODBYE: Nomzamo Mbatha.

**MIDRAND** - The death of Nomzamo Mbatha's character in *Isibaya* has left her and viewers emotional.

The actress, who played Thandeka Zungu in Mzansi Magic's telenovela, had viewers grabbing for their boxes of tissues after they witnessed their long-time fave being shot in Monday night's episode. With farewell messages such as "You'll be sorely missed Thandeka", viewers took to social media to bid the actress goodbye as she sets off to pursue a career overseas.

Feeling the love from Mzansi, Nomzamo shared how much she was going to miss being on the telenovela and thanked everyone who was there during her journey.

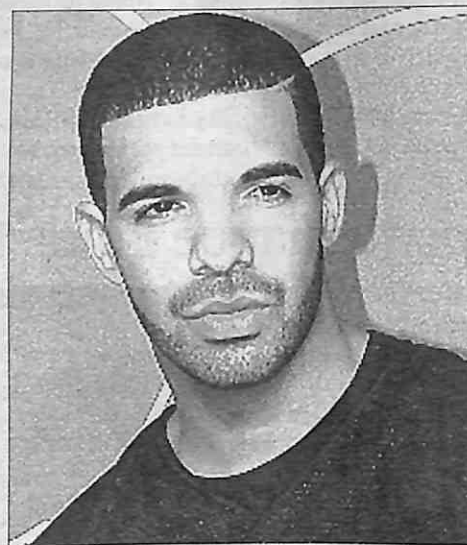
"Nkosiya, I'm weeping at this unexpected and heartbreakingly beautiful surprise. *Ngiyabonga* to my friends, my family. What a journey. Thank you for raising and challenging me into becoming the performer that I am today."

It's not goodbye, it's a see you later."

Actor Sdumo Mtshali, who played Nomzamo's husband in the show, said he was going to miss acting beside her.

He also thanked everyone who had been following their characters' love story for the past eight years.

*Sowetan Live*



BABY MAMA: Drake.

## Drake called his baby mama 'a fluke'

**NEW YORK** - Drake fans have been in war mode defending the rapper against the rest of the world after their idol dropped a freestyle in which he called his baby mama a "fluke".

The rapper recently dropped a song titled *When To Say When*, which included a line about the mother of his son, Adonis.

He rapped, "Baby mama fluke, but I love her for who she is", which caused chaos on the social media streets!

This wouldn't be a big deal, but it is because Drake's baby mama, Sophie Brussaux, was cast into the spotlight after a hip-hop beef between Drake and Pusha T last year.

Drake and his baby mama were always low-key about their relationship and until the song was released, had never said anything negative about each other.

The musician's freestyle left tweeps in their feels. *TMZ*

## Yvonne Chaka Chaka to be a part of Johnny Clegg tribute concert

**CAPE TOWN** - Songstress Yvonne Chaka Chaka is set to join a host of stars in remembering Johnny Clegg with a tribute concert.

Speaking to TshisaLIVE ahead of the concert

next month, Mam'Yvonne said the tribute concert was befitting of the legend Johnny was.

"The tribute is so befitting and

when I was requested to join the list of performers, I didn't ask why or when I just said, 'I will do it. It is a befitting tribute to Johnny because of his selflessness.'"

Set to take place on April 25 at the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens in Emmarentia, the concert will feature fellow musicians who will commemorate the life and musical career of Johnny.

A

close friend of Johnny's, Mam'Yvonne said being a part of the tribute meant a great deal to her because of the contributions he made musically.

"Johnny did a lot not only for SA but also for the children of this country. He was always interested in helping to fund raise reading material for children because education plays an important role. He was also a lecturer so he knew the importance of education. When people are educated they are empowered."

Mam'Yvonne believes Johnny deserves to be honoured and the tribute will make sure his legacy lives on.

"Whatever he had been doing, whatever he was interested in, whatever he contributed towards, we [who are still alive] should continue to do that. We need to continue his legacy by doing exactly like him."

Mam'Yvonne plans to sing one of Johnny's songs during her set.

*Times live*



TRIBUTE CONCERT: Yvonne Chaka Chaka.

## DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Yvonne on *Scandal* tonight.



Beauty is thrilled as Judas keeps his promise to come for her, the love of his life. Lillian and Saddam find themselves trapped in the middle of Judas' dramatic rescue plan.



Mayekiso's worst nightmare comes true. Cebisa sells her soul to help her son. Kgothalo shows Lefa two can play at his game.



A shocking truth is revealed to the royal family about Vho-Masindi. Matshidiso stirs up trouble between James and Marang. Warona discovers that Mbali has set her up and it's appalling.



Crazy J gets a nasty surprise at work. Mrekza is shocked to hear what his brother-in-law has come to ask. Fikile finally gets the answer she was so desperate to find.



Harriet races against time while trying to escape the Theron mansion. Goodness is desperate to make things right for Tshepo.



Zekethelo realises just how much MaNgcobu hates Nkunzi. Lilly stumbles upon a useful bit of information, and Sbu relapses.



Thembeke wins her target's heart but is conflicted by the road ahead.



## Real Men Put Their Clothes First, Then Apply Lotion To The Remaining Visible Parts



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

### Capricorn December 22 – January 19

You might find yourself in a difficult situation when faced with a person who doesn't necessarily approve of how you're handling yourself, Capricorn. It could be that someone misinterpreted one of your offhand remarks, and now is violently overreacting. Be careful of shooting back caustic remarks that could only aggravate the situation and elevate it to a damaging level. Your words will be taken more seriously than you think.



### Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Your interest in certain off-the-wall topics may be encouraged when you're engaged in a conversation with someone who shares similar thoughts, Aquarius. Perhaps you exchange ideas about UFOs and life on other planets. Suddenly you're looking at your life as if you were a character in a science-fiction novel. Exchange books and other literature with those of a similar mindset. You may not be the only one who thinks there is a conspiracy against them.



### Pisces February 19 – March 20

Take your leadership abilities to a new level, Pisces. Gather some friends and plan a trip that you've long been considering but were reluctant to act on. People will naturally look to you for leadership and guidance, as you always seem to know how to keep things fun and positive. When it comes to your workplace, this might be a good time to ask for more responsibility - and a raise.



### Aries March 21 – April 19

As the world economy continues to boom, Aries, don't be surprised if you're surrounded by new work possibilities. More than one chance to increase your income could come your way today. The problem will be wading through all these opportunities and trying to decide which is the most appealing and workable for you. List your options and outline the pros and cons of each. Writing things down can sometimes make them clearer.



### Taurus April 20 – May 20

Decisions don't have to be as hard as you make them, Taurus. You may feel as if a strong force is pulling you in a clear direction, so don't resist it. You'll only drive yourself crazy trying to list all the reasons why you should or shouldn't go the way you're destined to go. Make things easier on yourself by going with the flow instead of letting your mind interfere with constant chatter and resistance.



### Gemini May 21 – June 21

Look at things from a more philosophical perspective, Gemini. Instead of seeing everything from such an intensely emotional one. You may have a constant fear that everyone is out to get you. More than likely, you're blowing small instances out of proportion in your mind. Use your friends as a sounding board for your thoughts. More than likely, you'll understand the situation better by introducing this fresh perspective.



### Cancer June 22 – July 22

This is your day, Cancer, so don't waste it. Being the helpful, friendly person you are, you may find yourself catering to other people's needs and desires. Some could see you as the good Samaritan who can offer advice with a friendly attitude. Be careful of draining away all your energy on others. This day might be better spent by catering to you. Even though this seems selfish, you'll love yourself for it.



### Leo July 23 – August 22

Reward yourself for all the great things you've done for you and other people, Leo. You deserve to be treated like royalty, so make sure that you do. There are many times when you get so critical of the things you do that you end up punishing yourself unnecessarily. Give yourself a treat for being good instead of chastising yourself for being bad. At all times, however, you must remember that you're perfect just the way you are.



### Virgo August 23 – September 22

Put your wisdom into action, Virgo. There is no good in accumulating knowledge and then letting it sit, collecting dust like an old book on a shelf. Put your thoughts into motion and watch as magical things begin to manifest before your eyes. You have incredible opportunities today that only come when you're expressing yourself in your truest form. Wear something outlandish to remind yourself and others what an outrageous person you are.



### Libra September 23 – October 23

Enjoying the good times may be fun, but it may also get you into trouble down the road, Libra. Be careful of spending all your resources on pleasure without setting something aside for leaner times. The company you keep could encourage your self-destructive behaviours. Since they know you'll always be in for a good time, you could get swept away by the energy of the crowd. Better to stick close to those who support healthier habits.



### Scorpio October 24 – November 21

The surge of power within you is going to let others know that you mean business, Scorpio. Make good use of this fantastic boost of energy by conquering your own goals and demons instead of using it to wage war on anyone else. Other people should know to get out of your way when you have your mind set on doing something. If they don't, politely ask them to move instead of steamrolling over them.



### Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Be more adventurous than usual, Sagittarius. Feel free to take a trip somewhere without bringing a map or having any specific destination in mind. The sheer excitement of the unknown should thrill and enthuse you, not frighten and confuse. Your enjoyment of the situation has to do with your attitude toward it. You may not be able to control the hand you're dealt, but you can certainly control how you play it. You may find a new friend.



## BABY BLUES



## BLONDIE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## OCTO-CROSS 20

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| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 22 |    |    |    |    | 23 |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |

### Down

1. Marry
2. Eggs
3. Illuminated
4. Panache
5. Notion
6. System of beliefs and rituals
7. Stable gear connecting two animals
13. Reimburse
14. Yawn
15. Pitcher
16. Close
19. The night before
20. Ancient Roman deity
21. Nocturnal bird

### Across

1. Lupine animal
5. Frozen
8. Malevolent
9. Singing pair
10. Information
11. Large deer
12. Angry
14. Writing style
17. Wonderment
18. Currency
22. Vegetable
23. Affirm
24. Make a mistake
25. Shout
- en dowry (5)

## LOL Laughing Out Loud

### Moses on His Walkie Talkie

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt."

"When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely."

"Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements."

They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved. "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

### DID YOU KNOW

1. One man once survived two atomic bombs.
2. The cast of Friends still earns around \$20 million each year.
3. Pluto technically isn't even a year old.
4. Cows kill more Americans each year than sharks do.

### MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## The MOVIE QUIZ

### Yesterday's Quiz

1. Which film starring Morgan Freeman had the tagline 'Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free.'?

Answer: A. Shawshank Redemption

### Today's Movie Quiz

1. 1962 film starring James Stewart and John Wayne about a senator, who became famous for killing a notorious outlaw, returns for the funeral of an old friend and tells the

truth about his deed.  
Answers:  
A. The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance  
B. The Man who Couldn't Breathe





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**NEWS**



Ultimate Love

## EIGHT COUPLES **NOMINATED** FOR POSSIBLE EVICTION

**MICHAEL and Cherry (MiCherry) have become the first couple to be checked out of Ultimate Love, proudly Naija reality television show.**

The couple was evicted during the live check-out show on Sunday after they received the least number of votes out of the five nominated couples from the voting public last week.

It was, however, not all gloom as the couple went home with N350,000 in their portmanteau after they played the Jeopardy game on stage.

Meanwhile, eight couples were nominated for possible check-out during the live nomination show on Sunday.

The couples as announced by the show's hosts, Dakore Egbuson-Akande and Oluwaseun Olaniyan, are Jeriton, Roksie, ObiEbi, Bolar, JayKech, Chiva, DoubleChris, and Jelo.

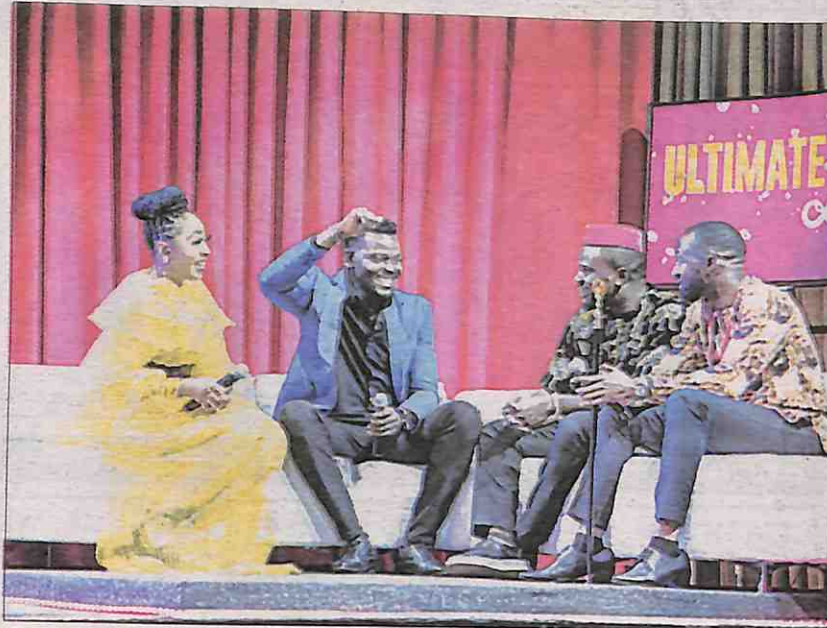
Jeriton led the pack this week again with four nominations; Roksie and ObiEbi had three nominations each; Bolar, JayKech, Chiva, DoubleChris and Jelo got two nominations respectively.

However, Auntie has the power to save one of the couples from possible eviction and the couple will be saved after performing a task as chosen by her.

The couples selected for the task by the show's Auntie (Adesuwa Onyenokwe) are ObiEbi and JayKech.

The couples with the least number of votes will be evicted during the live check-out show Sunday.

Voting will start on Tuesday at 21:00



CAT and will close on Thursday at 22:00 CAT. Voting can be done via the Africa Magic website and mobile platforms and DStv and GOtv Apps.

Ultimate Love is live 24/7 on DStv Premium, DStv Compact Plus, DStv Compact, DStv Family and DStv Access packages on channel 198; and on GOtv Max and GOtv Plus packages on channel 29.

For more information on the show, visit [www.africamagic.tv/ultimatelove](http://www.africamagic.tv/ultimatelove) and follow the social media updates on @ultimateloveng on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook using the hashtag #UltimateLoveNg.



**Jeriton led the pack this week again with four nominations; Roksie and ObiEbi had three nominations each; Bolar, JayKech, Chiva, DoubleChris and Jelo got two nominations respectively.**



## Shocking Tea on Upcoming Season of RHOP!

**NEW details have emerged about a new rift on the show**

The highly anticipated 5th season of the Real Housewives of Potomac might just be the reality show's best one yet.

The show, which recently concluded an explosive reunion special on 1Magic, DStv channel 103, is said to be filled with more drama, explosive fall-outs and one rift that escalates beyond the cameras.

And now Karen Huger has fans worried that she might have signalled her departure from the show!

In new reports, insiders are revealing that the looming season now has a new feud.

Karen and Candice might have been thick as thieves since Candice joined the show on season two of the show, but it looks like their friendship might have reached a dead end.

Karen took to Twitter to vent some of her frustrations with the said drama, and fans are worried that she might just walk away from it all!

Their strife, it's being alleged, started because of the ongoing feud between cast members

Monique and Candice.

It's now all over the news that the two, who kissed and made up during the season 4 reunion special, are said to have gone right back into the dark place their relationship has been in.

This time though, reports of a physical scuffle that apparently ended in court shocked even the most drama loving viewers of the show. It's quite clear there's no love lost between Monique and Candice.

Candice and Karen, that's a different story.

They've been supportive of each other and have given us all the BFF vibes we've needed in between the screamfests on the show.

But, according to those in the know, Candice's ways have gotten to Karen.

Candice wants Monique out of the show, and Karen disagrees with the way she's gone about it. This has led to a big blow out between the two.

Keep an eye on the 1Magic website and social media platforms for the latest tea on the Housewives shows, and stay updated on when the next season will air on the channel.

## The Most Explosive Beefs So Far – The Bachelor SA

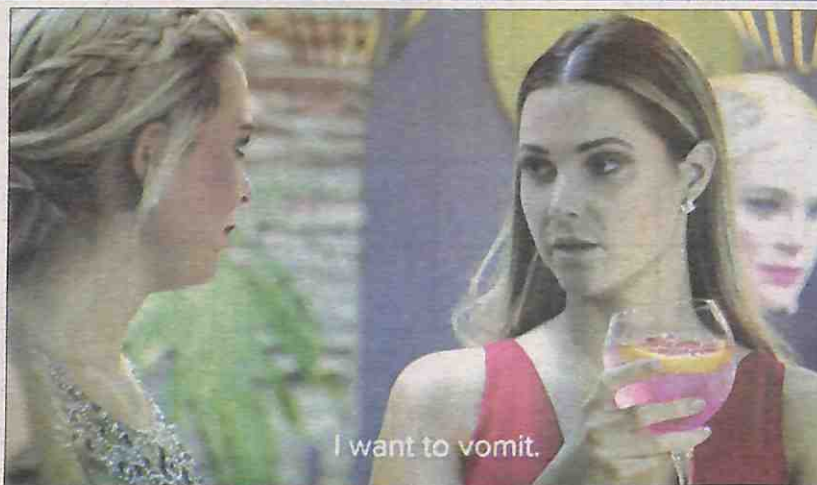
**These are the biggest and baddest feuds of The Bachelor SA Season 2**

"Hello, police? We're going to need a boxing ring!"

The Bachelor SA is only three weeks in, but already, we've seen more fireworks in the mansion than Mariah Carey's voice box has seen whistle notes. Here's a rundown of all the dramatic moments that have set the house on fire so far this season.

### BRIDGET vs QINISO

The first beef of the season comes courtesy of Bridget and Qiniso (although to be fair, Bridget seems to be the only one beefing.) Bridget immediately had her daggers drawn the moment she met Qiniso. As the very first Cocktail Party of the season swung into gear, Bridget found Pasha, plus a comfy corner, where she assessed "loud Q" with no interruption. Her conclusion? "Q has hectic I'm going to squash you energy." Qiniso on the other hand, has been none-the-wiser, because Bridget says all of these things behind her back and not to her face. Things came to a head this week however, when Qiniso scored a one-on-one date with Marc. Bridget, who has managed to successfully align



herself with a circle that is united in their dislike for Qiniso (Silke, Jess C and Jess R) made sure to make things uncomfortable enough for the rest of the house to notice that 'something in the water ain't clean.' "It wasn't nice that Qiniso danced around when she got back from the date because it upset a few people," Bridget said in her confessional, before offering up that she is not jealous that Qiniso had snagged an uShaka Marine date with Marc.

### BRIDGET vs NOLO

Bridget has been one busy gal, because

she makes our beef list again!

This blonde bombshell seems to be ruffling so many feathers in the house, one can't help but wonder if it's all part of one big strategy. After calling a truce with Greta, Bridget vs Nolo kicked off in spectacular fashion, prompting an impassioned "I don't want her in my space. I don't like liars."

Do I want her to go home? Yes! Will I be sad if she gets a rose? Yes!" tirade from the latter. The cause of the friction? Nolo's snarky reaction to Bridget, during the height of the Purple Room wars. Although Nolo has apologised



twice, Bridget still feels victimised and thinks it's all fake.

exactly how she feels about Q in a gossip session with her squad.

### JESS R vs QINISO

If paying close attention to things that don't concern you is your forte, then you, like us, will know exactly when this beef started. Remember in Week Two when Jess R interrupted Marc and Xia's "moment" at the Cocktail Party, prompting Qiniso to leap to the latter's defence? Exactly! Fast forward to last week and it is apparent that Jess R did not take kindly to Qiniso's actions and may still be harbouring some resentment.

This week, Jess R let us know

### JESS R vs PASHA

To be fair, we won't call this one a beef, because Pasha knows nothing of it. But we're adding it to this list because Jess R had some things to say about Pasha at last week's Cocktail Party.

While locked in a sizing-up-the-competition sesh with Bridget, Jess R had some choice words for Pasha, her nails, OTT jewellery and her choice of career.

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## OUR CONDOLENCES TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LOVED ONES



### DEATHS



James Ndelane  
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RN 173862



It's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength



Shirley Siphumelele  
Masango (LaKunene)

Kwatsiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Shirley Siphumelele Masango (LaKunene) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni ufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eMacetjeni (eMphosi) ngelisonfo 08/03/2020 emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Allen Duma Masango umnyeni wakhe.



Mvaelisani Elliot  
Dlamini

Kwatsiswa tihlobo, bantfwa benkhosi base Mbikwakhe kutsi mkhulu Mvaelisani Elliot Dlamini akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya kakhe eMacetjeni eMphosi ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 07/03/2020 emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngeMalangeni.



'Gudaguda' Motsa

Friends and relatives of Phumelela 'Gudaguda' Motsa are notified of his Demise. Funeral will be held at his parental home at Bulunga, Ndlamini on Saturday morning commencing at 06h00, 7th March 2020 after a night vigil. Announcement by his family.



Jabulane Mandla  
Mabuza

Kwatsiswa tihlobo nemndeni wa Jabulane Mandla Mabuza kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa nebasekhakhakhe baka Nhlengetfwa. Utawufihlwa mhlaka 08/03/2020 emuva kwemlindzelo ngeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkakhe egameni lemndeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eMphaphati.



Thulisile Otilia  
Phangisa

Friends and relatives of Thulisile Otilia Phangisa are notified of her demise. She passed away on the 28/02/2020 and She will be laid to rest on 07/03/2020 at her parental home at Mangweni Tingonini. Announcement by family.

### JOB 13:15

Though He slay me,  
yet will I hope  
in him; I will surely defend  
my ways to his face.

The LORD is close to the broken-hearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

It's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength

### ESTATE LATE:

BOY ZINTO TFWALA  
ESTATE NO. EM 43/2020

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within **thirty (30)** days after the date of publication of this notice.

DUDU MONICA TFWALA  
P. O. BOX 41  
MZIMPOFU

R/N 173859 Dx 05 MAR 2020

### ESTATE LATE: NTOMBIFUTHI MASEKO ESTATE NO. EH 98/2019

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch first floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21)** days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

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MFANUZILE MATSEBULA  
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LUVE

R/N 169856 Dx 05 MAR 2020

### ESTATE LATE:

GRACE SIMANGELE KUNENE  
NEE MANZINI  
ESTATE NO. EM 46/2020

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**CLASH:** The Gypsy King bulldozed the Bronze Bomber in their second clash in Las Vegas last month.



**RECORD:** A defeat against Wladimir Klitschko in 2014 is the only loss on Pulev's professional record.

## FURY'S PROMOTER LAYS OUT PLAN FOR NEXT 3 FIGHTS

*...Gypsy King bids for domination of heavyweight division*

**LONDON** - Tyson Fury's US promoter Bob Arum has said the boxer could face Deontay Wilder in July, Anthony Joshua in November and Dillian Whyte in February.

The Gypsy King bulldozed the Bronze Bomber in their second clash in Las Vegas last month as the American's corner threw in the towel in the 7th round.

Fury will look to do the same again in mid-July after Wilder seized the chance of a trilogy fight.

The 31-year-old will have two fights left on his contract after battling Wilder and he wants to take on fellow Brits Joshua and Whyte.

Arum said he agreed with WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman that Fury is clear to box who he wants over the next year.

He added to World Boxing News: "Fury will fight Wilder in July. He could then possibly fight the Anthony Joshua versus Kubrat Pulev winner in November. Then Dillian Whyte in February. Why not?"

Joshua, 30, holds the WBA, IBF and WBO belts. Whyte, 31, is the WBC mandatory contender but is not due to fight for it until February.

AJ previously promised to beat Kubrat Pulev in the 11th

- Fury bulldozed Deontay Wilder in their second clash in Las Vegas last month
- He will look to do the same in July after Wilder seized the chance of trilogy fight
- The 31-year-old will have just two fights left on his contract after battling Wilder
- The Gypsy King wants to take on fellow Brits Anthony Joshua and Dillian Whyte
- Arum agreed with WBC president that Fury is free to box who he wants this year

round of their heavyweight clash in June ahead of any showdown with Fury.

A defeat against Wladimir Klitschko in 2014 is the only loss on Pulev's record, but Joshua is confident of beating the 38-year-old.

Joshua told William Hill: "He's been in the game for a while, he went to the top level and then he got defeated.

A defeat against Wladimir Klitschko in 2014 is the only loss on Pulev's professional record

"So he knows his way around the ring. He's had his chance at the top level

and now he's coming back again, so he's probably going to try and get it right.

"I'll be expecting a more polished, smarter Pulev, and he can bang a bit as well. He's had a few knockouts

on his record as well, he can bang and he can box so he's a boxer-puncher.

"It's kind of like what

my style is as well so it will be a good match up for sure. We're going to box, people are going to see some skills, and they're probably going to see a knock-out as well because you've got two boxer-punchers."

When asked to give a prediction on the fight, the 30-year-old said: "Round 11."

The fight between Joshua and Pulev on June 20 means any potential clash with Fury would come after the summer.

The British champion predicted he would beat the Bulgarian in the 11th round of the fight

Meanwhile Whyte will put his WBC mandatory position on the line with a fight against Alexander Povetkin on May 2.

Whyte will go toe-to-toe with Povetkin at the Manchester Arena in two months' time.

### Beating

Whyte is the current WBC interim world champion after beating Oscar Rivas in July last year.

The 31-year-old Brit defended that title with a win over Maruisz Wach in Saudi Arabia in December.

His record stands at 27-1 with 18 KOs, whereas 40-year-old Russian Povetkin's is 35-2-1, 24 KOs.

Dillian Whyte and Alexander Povetkin will go toe-to-toe at Manchester Arena on May 2

Whyte said: "This is a great fight, Povetkin is an Olympic gold medallist, has loads of experience, he's a former World Champion and he's only lost to Joshua and Klitschko.

"He is still very dangerous, he gave AJ a lot of problems and then beat Hughie Fury. I am not overlooking him at all, he will come in shape, he's tough and very well-schooled.

"You only have to look at his resume to see that he's always been considered as one of the most fearsome punchers in



**Anthony Joshua will take on Kubrat Pulev on June 20 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.**



**AGREED:** Bob Arum said he agreed with WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman that Fury can box anyone.

the heavyweight division with big KO wins over [Marco] Huck, [Manuel] Charr, [Carlos] Takam, Wach and [David] Price.

British heavyweight Whyte's last fight saw him beat Mariusz Wach in Saudi Arabia in December.

### Dangerous

"He showed in Saudi Arabia that he still has a lot left in the tank and he is still very dangerous. I've got respect for him but I'm on to maximum violence, straight animal instinct.

"I want to be heavyweight champion of the world so anywhere in the world is my lion's den. If you aspire to be world champion, you

should be able to fight anywhere.

"Manchester is a great city with great fight fans and I'm looking forward to going back there."

Povetkin said: "I am pleased to fight Whyte, it has long been discussed but didn't happen for whatever reason.

"Dillian is a good strong boxer and it will make for an interesting fight. I am not about big announcements, I am about winning in the ring, and on May 2nd people will see a spectacular fight."

Whyte has put WBC mandatory position on the line against the 40-year-old Povetkin.

*Daily Mail*

**TWO FIGHTS:** Fury will have two fights left on his contract and he wants to take on Joshua and Whyte.





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## Lampard hails 'throwback' Chelsea midfielder Gilmour

LONDON - Chelsea manager Frank Lampard described 18-year-old midfielder Billy Gilmour as a "throwback" after the young Scot's superb display in the 2-0 FA Cup win over Liverpool on Tuesday.

Gilmour was handed only his third start in the fifth-round match, having also been selected for a couple of League Cup ties, and seized his chance with an assured performance in a high-tempo tie.

Lampard has given youth a chance this season with Mason Mount, a regular starter, also impressive against Liverpool.

The diminutive Gilmour really caught the eye though with his incisive passing, tackling and fearlessness on the ball.

Lampard could hardly contain the smile when asked about the player snapped up from the Rangers academy.

### Performance

"What an incredible performance for a young player," Lampard told the BBC. "He was a calm head in that first five or 10 minutes. He's a throwback of a midfielder."

"Can you put your foot in? Yes. Can you make angles to play the passes? Yes. He's only slight in stature but he's huge in personality. He deserves people to talk about him after a performance like that."

Goals by Willian in the 13th minute, courtesy of a ghastly mistake by Liverpool keeper Adrian, and Ross Barkley in the 64th minute, made it a great night for the eighth-time Cup winners.

They were indebted to recalled goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to keep them ahead though as the Spaniard, dropped in January, made three saves in quick succession from Sadio Mane, Divock Origi and Liverpool teenager Curtis Jones.

"I was really pleased for Kepa," Lampard said. *Reuters*

## Klopp blames FA Cup ball

LIVERPOOL - Jurgen Klopp suggested that the FA Cup ball played a part in Adrian fumbling Willian's shot into the net for Chelsea's first goal in their 2-0 win over Liverpool.

Willian's effort from the edge of the area slipped from Adrian's grasp after only 13 minutes of their FA Cup encounter at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday night.

But Liverpool manager Klopp was in no mood for blaming his players after a slack passage of play.

"The first goal, we lose a ball, what was it 18, 19 yards in front of the goal?" Klopp said.

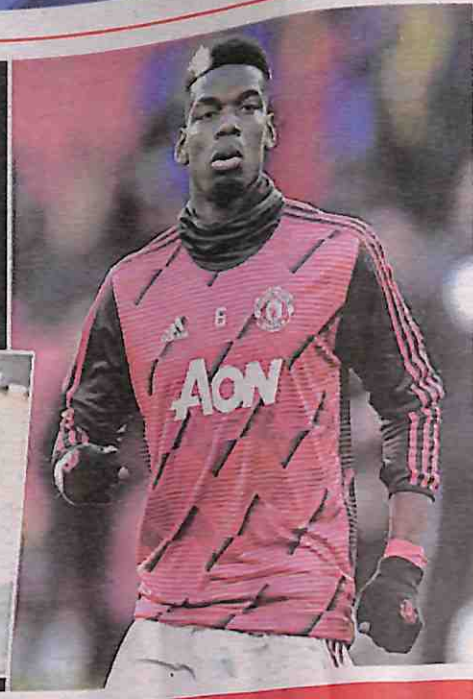
"The specific characteristic of the ball and Willian's shooting technique made life really difficult."

"Before that Adrian saved a sensational ball. He caught the ball and quick restart, which was a good idea, but not everybody was ready."

"Fabinho was surprised by the pass. We wanted to play like this but we lose that ball and they finish it off."

The defeat is Liverpool's third in their last four games after going down to Atletico Madrid and Watford.

*Dailymail*



## POGBA STEPS UP RETURN FROM ANKLE INJURY

MANCHESTER - Paul Pogba will return to full training at Manchester United next week.

The World Cup winner, 26, last started for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side back in September, and has made just two appearances as a substitute since, amid a troublesome ankle injury.

Pogba, who continues to be linked with a summer exit, underwent surgery in early January in a bid to finally rectify the situation.

He has since undergone rehab away from Carrington, but returned last week to United's training ground,

where he is stepping up his recovery with club physios. He has begun running again outside, and some minor ball work.

Speaking at his pre-match press conference yesterday morning, ahead of tonight's FA Cup fifth round clash with Derby County, Solskjaer confirmed that Pogba is set to begin training with the first team next week.

Then, Pogba will be given time to get fully match fit, as Solskjaer thinks about partnering him in midfield with new boy Bruno Fernandes. "Paul's still working with the phys-

ios outside and he won't be training with the first-team until next week.

"Then let's see how long that will take, he needs time to get his football fitness back."

United are in action against LASK Linz next Thursday in the Europa League last 16 clash, but that match will almost certainly come too soon.

The same can likely be said of the meeting with Jose Mourinho's Tottenham on March 15.

Should Pogba suffer no ill effects

and prove his fitness, then being on the bench for the second leg against LASK for a possible reintroduction to first-team action as a substitute - before the international break - is very much a possibility.

Solskjaer is keen to pair Pogba with Fernandes, after his storming start to life at Old Trafford.

And he was effusive in his praise of the Portugal international, and the start he has made to his United career. *Mirror*

## Sokratis hints at Arsenal exit

LONDON - Sokratis Papastathopoulos has insisted he will leave Arsenal before his contract expires if he does not get more game time under Mikel Arteta.

The 31-year-old Greek defender opened the scoring in the Gunners' 2-0 win away to third-tier Portsmouth in the fifth round of the FA Cup on Monday.

But that was a comparatively rare outing for Sokratis, who has often been left out by Arteta, with the Arsenal manager preferring David Luiz and Shkodran Mustafi as his first-choice partnership in the centre of the Gunners' defence.

Three of Sokratis' last five starts, including Monday's match at Fratton Park, have come in the unfamiliar position of right-back and he has not been named in a Premier League starting line-up since January 11.

Sokratis joined Arsenal from Germany's Borussia Dortmund in 2018 and his contract with the north London club runs

until the end of next season.

But he indicated he would not run down his present deal if he failed to gain more first-team action under Arteta. "I don't know," he replied when asked if he would leave next year. I have one more year here but me, I never sit on my contract.

"I don't care. If I'm not happy, I don't play enough or the coach doesn't like me, I don't care about the contract."

"For me the money is not important, it is important I feel good, I feel happy and the team is happy with me. If not, I take the road and I finish. I don't think about it, I think every day to be happy and help the team and in the end we will see but what I say is that I am not a player who sits on a contract - I don't need it."

Victory on the south coast maintained Arsenal's hopes of finishing the season with a trophy following their shock Europa League exit at the hands of Olympiakos last week.

*AFP*



## Spurs confirm Victor Wanyama exit

LONDON - Tottenham have confirmed the departure of Victor Wanyama with the club agreeing a transfer for the Kenyan midfielder with MLS outfit Montreal Impact.

Wanyama has not featured for Spurs since Jose Mourinho replaced Mauricio Pochettino and had made just four appearances in all competitions this season. A Tottenham statement read: "We have reached agreement with Major League Soccer side Montreal Impact for the transfer of Victor Wanyama."

"The midfielder made 97 appearances for us in all competitions following his move from Southampton in June, 2016, and scored seven times, including the opening goal in our final game at White Hart Lane."

"We wish Victor well for the future."

Wanyama joined Tottenham from Southampton in 2016 and was a regular in his first season.

However, he became a bit-part player ever since, making just 13 Premier League appearances last season.

The former Celtic and Southampton ace made six European appearances as Spurs reached the Champions League final though was left on the bench as Liverpool won 2-0 in Madrid.

He was left out of Tottenham's Champions League squad for the second half of this season after a January filled with transfer speculation.

And now he is finally set to get his move as he makes a transfer across the Atlantic. Wanyama will be joining a Montreal Impact squad, managed by Thierry Henry, who have only just started their new season. *AFP*





# MOKWENA JOINS CHIPPA AS COACH

## Goss, Doutie get lengthy bans for abusing official

**JOHANNESBURG** - Bidvest Wits players Ricardo Goss and Sameehg Doutie have been banned for eight games after the Premier Soccer League (PSL) disciplinary committee found them guilty of abusing a match official.

Four matches have been conditionally suspended.

The two players have been charged for assault on referee Masixole Bambiso during a heated Absa Premiership match between Wits and Cape Town City two months ago where the Clever Boys lost 2-0 away from home.

"The PSL Disciplinary Committee has found Bidvest Wits players Ricardo Goss and Sameehg Doutie guilty of abusing match official Mr Masixole Bambiso," the statement read.

The two key players will be missing at a crucial stage in the league run-in, which is a massive blow to coach Gavin Hunt as he still harbours ambitions of pipping pacesetters Kaizer Chiefs, Mamelodi Sundowns and Orlando Pirates to the finish line. In November Cape Town City midfielder Mpho Makola was suspended by the league's disciplinary committee after he was found guilty of manhandling referee Abongile Tom during a Telkom Knockout clash with Chiefs. *Times Live*



ASSAULTED: Masixole Bambiso.

**JOHANNESBURG** - Rhulani Mokwena has surfaced at Chippa United after Orlando Pirates announced yesterday that their assistant coach had left the club to join the Port Elizabeth-based side until the end of the season.

Mokwena becomes the fourth mentor to coach Chippa this season and steps into the seat vacated by Norman Mapeza, who resigned on Monday. Clinton Larsen started the campaign at Chippa and was replaced by caretaker Duran Francis in September, who was replaced in early October by Mapeza.

Mokwena himself was replaced as Pirates interim coach in December and German mentor Josef Zinnbauer assumed the reins following a string of poor results.

The upstart coach has now been tasked with the responsibility of steering Chippa away from the relegation zone with seven matches remaining this season for the Eastern Cape club.

He has some work to do as the



11th placed side are just five points away from the quicksand with just 25 points to show for their trouble in this campaign.

"Mokwena joins the Chilli Boys until the end of the season," Pirates announced yesterday.

"He will be joined at United by Michael Loftman."

United Chairman Siviwe 'Chippa' Mpengesi pledged to give Mokwena the support he needs to succeed in the Eastern Cape.

"Having worked with both

Mamelodi Sundowns and having steered Orlando Pirates during the current season, Chippa United FC is confident that he will prove to be an asset on all facets, including development," said Mpengesi in a statement yesterday.

Pirates also revealed that "Mokwena has recently returned from an overseas trip which saw him visiting some European football clubs for a benchmarking exercise".

### Technical

There was mystery over the status of Mokwena as a member of the Pirates technical team after he disappeared from the Buccaneers bench after his removal from the interim seat.

He sat on the bench as assistant once, in Zinnbauer's first match in a 3-1 victory against Black Leopards at Orlando Stadium on December 21. Chippa travel to Johannesburg to face Bidvest Wits in Johannesburg tomorrow and Mokwena will be on the bench for the Chilli Boys.

*Times Live*

## 'I FIX ROOFS FOR R4K P/M'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Former Black Leopards and PSL superstar Christopher Netshidzivhe has revealed how life has become much harder for him since hanging up his boots.

Netshidzivhe, who was known as a free-kick specialist in his heyday, used to earn around R25 000 a month just to chase a soccer ball, but these days he lives from hand to mouth.

While still playing for Leopards he almost earned

a dream move to his childhood club Kaizer Chiefs but the Limpopo side did not want to release him.

He retired from the beautiful game in 2013 playing for Dynamos.

"Ja we are trying, doing some odd jobs over here," Netshidzivhe tells KickOff.com. "We are busy doing roofing, I work for someone else. I'm just hustling so that I can at least eat you know. At least when I get that something small, life continues. I've been doing

this job for one year now, I started last year I think in June. "Before this job I was working in Alexandra at Fruitspot in Marlboro, it's like a Fruit and Veg. In terms of salary what I earn here currently is better than what I earned at Fruitspot. It's difficult to even share with you how much I earn."

"I have a family, I'm married... I have many children, yoh! You know *mos* when we were still playing football girls used to come after us."

## 'Coaches get fired at Chippa'

**JOHANNESBURG** - As Rhulani Mokwena arrives at Chippa United, ex-reserve team coach Daine Klate opens up about the realities of being a coach at the Chilli Boys.

The 35-year-old parted ways with United after serving only six months as coach of the MultiChoice Diski Challenge side.

Mbuyiselo Sambu is currently coaching the MDC team and could continue in that role following the head coach appointment of Mokwena on loan from Orlando Pirates.

Mokwena has replaced Zimbabwean mentor Norman Mapeza, who resigned on Monday.

Klate has expressed no hard feelings towards his own departure from the Chilli Boys and warns any new coaches at the club not to get too comfortable in the hottest seats in the PSL.

"Coach Clinton Larsen is the one who called me to coach the Diski team and be second assistant in the first team. We had a fantastic relationship," Klate tells KickOff.com.

"Somehow and somewhere when Larsen left there was breakdown in communication in terms of the Diski team being part of the first team.

### Turned

"Coach [Norman] Mapeza came in and started doing well and turned things around for Chippa, so we couldn't bother him with the Diski things.

"Obviously coach Larsen put me there and there was going to be a challenge for whoever comes in.

Whenever a new coach comes with his philosophy and what he wants, it's all about that communication breakdown.

"The club decided at the beginning of January that they no longer require my services. It's part of it.

Lots of coaches have been fired at Chippa and I was also going to be fired."

## ROCK-BOTTOM TEAM REFUSING TO TRAIN

**JOHANNESBURG** - KickOff.com has discovered that Royal Eagles players have downed tools over unpaid salaries.

According to an insider, some of the players are owed up to two months' salaries and they will neither go to training nor honour fixtures until the issue is resolved.

Contacted yesterday, the club's CEO Morgan Mammila could not be reached for comment.

"Ya some of the players didn't get paid and they didn't go to training, and the owner [Sbu Mpsiane] didn't pay them for two months," the source tells KickOff.com.

"Players didn't go to training because they want the money, and before Sunday's game [against Swallows FC] the players didn't want to play,



then he started to pay a few, then after he didn't pay other players. "Maybe if everyone knows about

this, he will start paying players. The whole squad didn't go today [to training].

We just gave them a letter, we won't go to training till we get our salaries."



## Mane makes bizarre title admission

**LONDON** - African Footballer of the Year Sadio Mane has made a strange admission about Premier League winners medals.

As Liverpool sit 22 points clear of second-placed Manchester City in the English top-flight, the Senegal international admitted that he didn't know players received individual winners medals after becoming champions.

"I heard yesterday that if we win the league, we will have a medal," Mane told BBC Sport.

After the 27-year-old was caught by surprise, he was candid in his response to the medal.

"I never knew that happened, but I don't care about medals."

The former Southampton attacker also opened up about the Reds' domestic campaign as the champions-elect.

"We know the Premier League is the best league in the world and every single game you have to give 100 percent if you want to win," he added.

"It's what we always try and I think it's working very well but we have to keep working hard to get what we want."

"Our target from the beginning was to win the league, so if we win it, it will be great for the club and for the fans."

AFP



**STRANGE ADMISSION:** Sadio Mane.

## 'Mayambela walks same path as Jesus'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Mark Mayambela has revealed when he will return to football after an uplifting spiritual journey to visit the holy sites in Israel with his brother.

The former Orlando Pirates winger parted ways with Cape Town City in January after falling out of favour under coach Jan Olde Riekerink, who replaced his old friend Benni McCarthy.

The Cape Town-born midfielder has taken some off time away from football for a holiday in Israel, where he visited the holy sites including Calvary, Galilee and Jerusalem.

Mayambela, who is a staunch member of Zion Christian Church, says visiting the places where Jesus Christ set foot will remain one of the most unforgettable experiences of his life.

"I took time off to actually unwind and take time away from football. I have been playing football for the past 13 years and this was my first holiday," Mayambela tells KickOff.com. "It was spiritually uplifting bro that I walked and stood where Jesus walked. It's intriguing."

The 32-year-old is now planning to go to Portugal with his younger brother Mhlabi, who plays for Bnei Yehuda Tel Aviv in Israel, for a pre-season training camp in June.

"I am targeting next season to come back," he reveals. "We are going for a pre-season bootcamp with my younger brother in Porto before pre-season starts."

KICKOFF

# MBAPPE, NEYMAR CLASH WITH PSG

**PARIS** - Superstar duo Kylian Mbappe and Neymar have reportedly clashed with Paris Saint-Germain's leadership, casting further doubt over their futures at the club amid speculation linking them with Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, respectively.

The two forwards reportedly have the same issue at PSG, with the French club seemingly not prepared to release them for the 2020 Olympic Games.

According to L'Equipe, Les Parisiens have sent a letter to the French Football Federation stating their opposition to Mbappe being called up for the Olympics, while Neymar is expected to get similar treatment.

Both players, though, are keen to take part in the tournament in Japan, where they could be drawn against South Africa's U23 national team.

The Olympics is not considered an official FIFA tournament, which allows clubs to oppose the release of their players.

The main issue stems from the fact that both Mbappe and Neymar seemingly want to play in two international tournaments in the off-season after the 2019/20 club campaign ends.

In Mbappe's case, that would be the 2020 UEFA European Championship plus the Olympics,



while Neymar wants to take part in the 2020 Copa America as well as the tournament in Tokyo.

This is the latest in what is becoming an increasingly strained relationship between Mbappe and PSG,

with some of the club's fans getting more and more frustrated with the 21-year-old's antics of late.

Real and Barca are said to be watching the situation from afar, and are reportedly prepared to offer PSG's two superstars an escape route.

Real and Barca are said to be watching the situation from afar, and are reportedly prepared to offer PSG's two superstars an escape route.

AFP

## Middendorp explains why Frosler had to be in the starting XI

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has explained why he played normal right-back Reeve Frosler at left-back in Saturday's 1-0 Absa Premiership Soweto derby win against Orlando Pirates at FNB Stadium.

Middendorp said he needed the defensive abilities of Kgotso Moleko on the right side of defence because Pirates' left side is far stronger in attack.

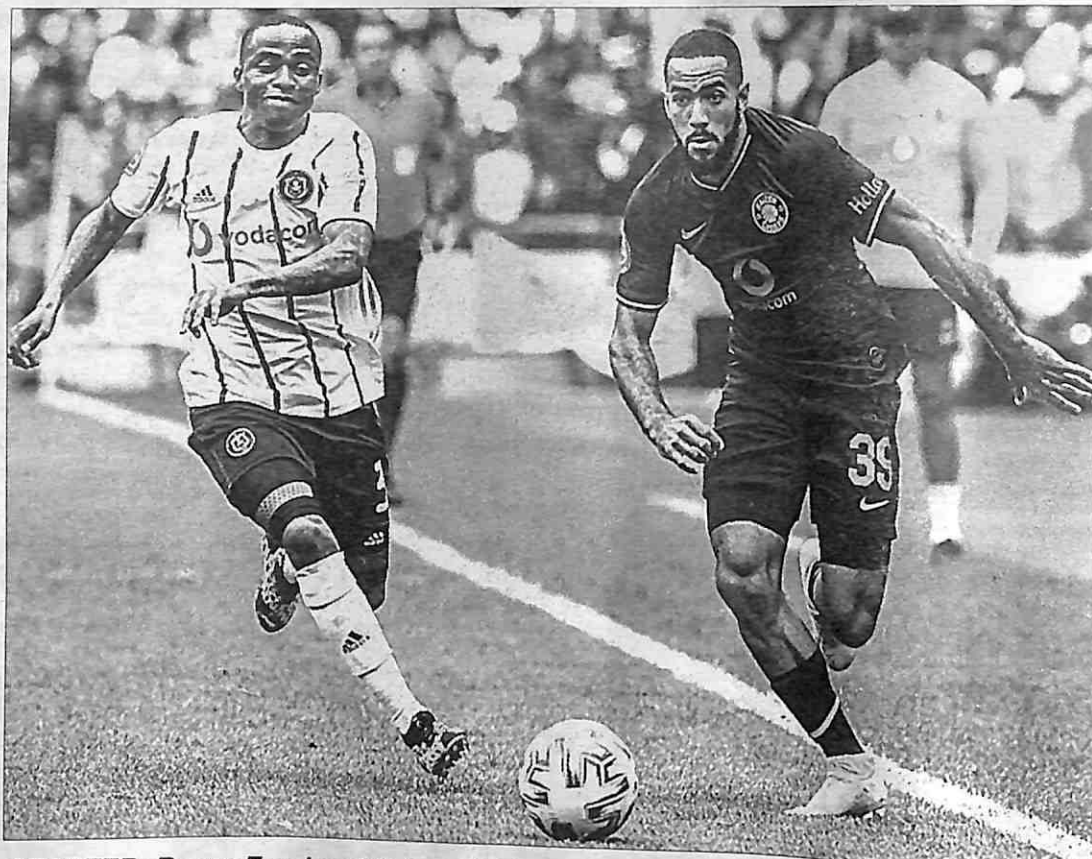
But the coach said he could not discard Frosler from his XI, who Middendorp considers a key component of his gameplan on defence and attack.

"If you watched Orlando Pirates' games - it doesn't matter if they were playing Black Leopards or Sundowns; and I followed them, going to the stadium - then you see 80 percent of their forward movement comes from the inverted positioning, Gabadinho Mhango to this [left attacking] side, Theminkosi Lorch from this side," Middendorp said.

"And for me it was very crucial to have a player with a heart, being robust, on a defensive level [on the right], which Kgotso Moleko did."

"So now, I have a problem at the next stage. An outstanding player like Reeve Frosler, I can't leave him out."

"He is able to contribute not just with the defence but to the forward movement. It was a big question for us. We found the solution to



**STARTER:** Reeve Frosler of Kaizer Chiefs and Theminkosi Lorch of Orlando Pirates during their Absa Premiership match on Saturday.

play him there [on the left].

"The right fullback we needed the defensive part, and the left more attacking, overlapping and so on. And I'm very happy at how it worked."

Questions will be asked about what this decision conveys to Siphosakhe Ntiya-Ntiya, the good attacking left-back who was on the

bench for Chiefs on Saturday.

In the end, Middendorp made a call on who served his gameplan best, and the match result would appear to indicate that, as with the brave decision to persist with man-of-the-match Daniel Akpeyi in goal, the coach got it right.

Moleko played more as right-centreback than right-back, so defen-

sive was he. Consequently right midfielder Kearyn Baccus operated more as a wing-back.

An effective 3-5-2 formation squeezed dangerous Bucs in midfield. Moleko did his job roughing up Pirates' left side of attack, and Frosler was dangerous on the overlap on Chiefs' left.

SOWETANLIVE



# Coronavirus will not derail Euro plans



**ZURICH** - UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said he was confident European football's governing body could deal with any worst-case scenario in relation to the upcoming Euro 2020 as the continent battles to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

COVID-19 has been detected in 76 countries worldwide, killing over 3 000 people with Italy the worst-hit nation in Europe.

The Italian capital Rome is one of 12 venues across the continent set to host matches at the European Championship in June and July.

A long list of sports events around the world have been cancelled or postponed in recent days to avoid spread-

ing the virus, including games in Italy's Serie A. The top two divisions of Swiss football have been postponed until the end of March.

"You don't know how many concerns we have when we organise a big competition," Ceferin said at a press conference after the UEFA Congress in Amsterdam. "We have security concerns, we have political instability concerns, and one of the concerns is also the virus, and we are dealing with it and we are confident we can deal with it." This week marks 100 days until the start of the 24-team European Championship, and Ceferin called on organisers to "not just think about dark scenarios, there will be time for that later." **AFP**

## 'Khune, I support each other like brothers'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Daniel Akpeyi says there is a great sense of unity among the Kaizer Chiefs goalkeepers and insists they won't let people divide them.

The Nigerian gloveman has had to battle to retain his place in Ernst Middendorp's Amakhosi side as a section of Chiefs supporters put pressure on the head coach to select Itumeleng Khune instead.

Middendorp stuck with Akpeyi for the Soweto derby last weekend and it paid off as they secured a 1-0 win over Orlando Pirates, to the delight of the entire goalkeeping department.

"In our goalkeeping department, we are all very close. It's just unfor-

tunate that people want to put me up against Khune. We are pushing each other and we are brothers," Akpeyi told SowetanLive.

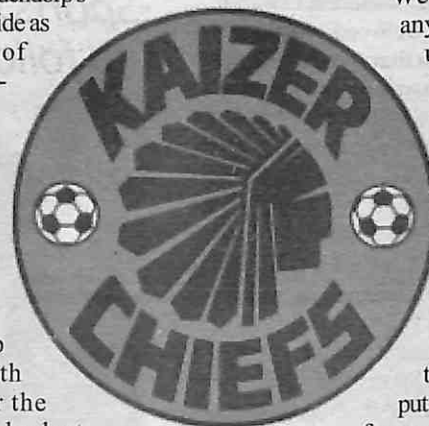
"We just told ourselves that we are family and should stand together at all times.

"We will not allow anything to divide us. That is why at the end we all celebrated together."

"I assure you that if Itu, Bruce Bvuma or even Bontle Molefe was called upon, they would have put up a brilliant performance."

He added: "It was a great feeling to get the backing from the coach. My job was just to help my team after two consecutive losses going into the derby."

**Team Talk**



## Top MDC graduates - five years on

**JOHANNESBURG** - It's a little over five years since the Multichoice Diski Challenge was introduced and there have been several hits and misses.

The reserve league now has an U21 age limitation, but that wasn't always the case with fringe players from the senior team in the Premier Soccer League able to get game-time to fight their way back or gain match fitness following injury.

Menzi Masuku was the first success story a few months after he'd turned 21 and joined Orlando Pirates from Jomo Cosmos.

The attacker was loaned out two seasons later to Chippa United never to return back to the Buccaneers as he is now at Bloemfontein Celtic and a key player there. Percy Tau is currently living a fairy-tale as he's ticked off the Santiago Bernabeu and Old Trafford off his bucket list as a footballer wearing the Club Brugge Jersey.

Tau featured prominently in the MDC for Mamelodi Sundowns during the 201/15 season and the rest, as they say, is history!

### TOP LIST:

1. Menzi Masuku joined Pirates in 2014
2. Percy Tau is now at Club Brugge
3. Zitha Macheke was promoted to the senior team in 2014
4. Lorenzo Gordinho made an impact in the Chiefs
5. Pule Ekstein left Chiefs last season
6. Simphiwe Mtsweni, 25, is currently without a club
7. Khotso Malope now plays for Richards Bay FC

**SOCCERLADUMA**

Kaizer Chiefs were also quick to promote from their youth to the senior team even long before the launch of the MDC - players like Lorenzo Gordinho, Zitha Macheke, Khotso Malope, Pule Ekstein and Simphiwe Mtsweni all getting a look during the era of Stuart Baxter and Steve Komphela at Naturena.

These players were part of the Amakhosi youth structures and grew in stature in the new Diski Challenge league.

Gordinho had some success, but officially left the club permanently to join Bidvest Wits in January, while Macheke never got going at Chiefs.

## Nyatama happy with his move

**JOHANNESBURG** - Musa Nyatama left Orlando Pirates for Highlands Park because he was tired of watching from the sidelines, especially when he felt he could make a telling contribution.

"It wasn't an easy decision to leave a team as big as Orlando Pirates, but I had to because I wasn't playing," Nyatama said in explaining his January move from the Buccaneers to the Lions of the

North.

A crowd favourite given his silky touches, Nyatama was a vital cog in the Pirates midfield in the past two seasons.

So influential was he that two seasons ago he swept the boards at the club's end-of-season awards function, Nyatama scooping all of the Player of the Year, Players' Player of the Year and the Fans' Player of the Year awards.

But things took a turn for the worse

for the player some refer to as Kaizer Soze at the beginning of this campaign. Game time became a rare commodity for the player who had previously starred for the likes of Mamelodi Sundowns and Bloemfontein Celtic.

The arrival of Fortune Makaringe, who quickly formed a formidable partnership with Ben Motshwari, limited Nyatama's time on the pitch.

"I wasn't happy with the fact that I wasn't playing. I wanted to contribute. But it is part of the game."

**The Mercury**



**TURIN** - The Coppa Italia semifinal second-leg match between Juventus and AC Milan in Turin slatted for yesterday was postponed indefinitely because of concerns about the coronavirus outbreak, the city government said.

Sports events have been banned in three regions of Italy - Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna - plus two provinces although top-flight soccer matches can go ahead behind closed doors, an option which the Serie A league has preferred not to use.

The Piedmont region where Turin is

## Juve-Milan cup match postponed

located was exempted from the ban on Sunday and Juventus immediately said the game would go ahead with spectators, although those from Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna would be barred under the government ruling.

However, Turin prefect Claudio Palomba told the Gazzetta dello Sport in a video on Tuesday that the city council had decided to call off the match.

### Contagious

The decision came as the Civil Protection Agency said that 27 people had died of

the highly contagious illness in Italy over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of dead to 79, while the number of cases rose to 2 502.

Napoli are due to host Inter Milan in the other match today.

Palomba said it was not practical to determine who was from the affected regions and who was a local. "It is not always possible to identify where people come from at the entrance to the stadium," he said.

**Reuters**







SHUKUMA



ESWATINI

BY DUMISANI NTIWANE (ESRC Media Officer)



# DAWN OF AN ERA!

**SHU...Shu...Shukuma Eswatini!** Greetings beloved readers of this column that seeks to enlighten all Emaswati about our operations.

We are the Eswatini Sport and Recreation Council (ESRC). This column is proud to congratulate every sport association, administrator, leader and indeed all of our stakeholders for making it to the Sports Bill validation workshop, that was staged at the Hilton Garden Hotel. The Sports Bill validation process is indeed at advanced stages, as evidenced by the workshop, which was attended by the office of the attorney general, sports associations and our main partners the Eswatini Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (EOCGA).

This surely marks the dawn of a new era for local sports. Things are about to change for the better and we can only look forward to a bright future ahead of the country's sports. Needless to say, this is definitely in line with His Majesty King Mswati III's vision, which is to see the country attain first world status by 2022.

We are fully aware that this is a process and it cannot just happen

*...Sports Bill validation workshop sets the tone of what is to follow for local sports*



overnight. However, with the support and cooperation of every stakeholder, rest assured, we can all make this dream a reality, sooner rather than later.

On the same vein, our sports associations are reminded of the ongoing annual review meetings with our office. We did express our gratitude and appreciation to those

associations that have come through for the annual review meetings. This, as this column has been repeatedly stating, is the only way an association can get to operate legally here and also get to enjoy the privileges that come with being recognised by both the Eswatini Sport and Rec Recreational Council and the Eswatini Olympic and

Commonwealth Games Association (EOCGA). Sports Associations are urged to liaise with their respective development officers for the appointments.

There is no doubt that the country's sports are headed towards the right direction. Let us unite, fight for a common goal and make this work.

*Shukuma galore, get ready to sweat*

AS per our promise, we will be delivering our first Shukuma initiative of the year 2020 just next Saturday.

Yes, next Saturday all roads will lead to the Ludzeldze Inkhundla for our now popular mass participation flagship programme Shukuma Eswatini.

And the good news is that for three weeks running, our dynamic team will be rolling out this programme to the different tinkhundla centres. Yes, believe it or not, for three Saturdays running, we will be mingling with the masses and doing what we love doing.

On March 21, we will then invade the Nkilo Inkhundla for the same activity, while on March 28 we will be at the Ngwemphisi Inkhundla, which will sum up the three activations we have planned for our people.

*Kusazobamandi!*

## King's love for sports evident

**THIS weekend, the MVA Ingwenyama Cup reaches its climax with the eagerly anticipated finals in football pitting Correctional Services ensemble, Green Mamba up against Mbabane Highlanders.**

This one is surely not for the faint hearted. We do hope that the throngs of football lovers will be well behaved on the day to truly make it a spectacular event.

Worth noting is that the soccer final will not be the only attraction but the stage is also set for the cultural section of this unique tournament that blends sport with culture so perfectly, it is now the envy of the region if not the whole continent.

Congratulations are in order to a person of no less stature than His Majesty King Mswati III for such a brilliant initiative. His Majesty's love for sports and his people is evident. We can only say Bayethe Wena Waphakathi! Indeed, Uyimbube uyabekelwa ulla emathole ezinyathi!

### Contact us

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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"In pursuit of your goal, doubt will always creep in, and when you start to doubt, laziness follows. Then it's easy to give up" – Thato Raphael

## TZD Lubombo Marathon on

**FOLLOWING the tremendous success of the Tuff One race, which was staged over the past weekend, focus now shifts to the TZD Lubombo Marathon.**

The race organisers have already declared that they are expecting over 1 000 runners to take part. It should be one of the biggest races in our calendar. Professional runners, social athletes and just about everyone in the athletics industry surely cannot wait for the first TZD Lubombo Marathon, that is slated for March 28 in Siteki in the Lubombo region.

Well, we have news; it is on and it is hot. It will cater for all the age categories and has impressive prizes up for grabs for the excelling runners. It is not one to be missed. The winners in the main race, which is the 42.2km will take home E5 000 each in both the men and women categories, with their respective runners-up winning E3 000 each. There will be plenty of other prizes at stake and everyone is encouraged to join in on the fun. It is not only about winning but exercising should be the main priority. It will provide stiff competition

to our local runners, as the marathon is expected attract runners from all over the region, especially South African runners, who have already indicated that they would be taking part. The event will also feature track and field events. Interested runners can register at the Siteki Hotel in Siteki, Simunye Club in Simunye, Sneakers Sports Shop in Mbabane, YEF Butchery in Buhleni and at the Assegai Inn in Hlatikulu.

In South Africa, interested athletes can register in the Riverside Mall, Sneakers Edition, Editions Sports at Courtside, Edition Sports at Ilanga Mall, Sneakers Edition at the Mombela Stadium, Mr. Matata in Phongola and Vryheid and at the Sneakers Edition in Promenade Centre.

## Motor Sports heralds country's coming of age

**HISTORY was made in Nkonyeni over the past weekend when the worldwide celebrated Motor Sport took off for the first time in the country.**

It says a lot about the country in as far as sports development is concerned. It says a lot about our ability as a people to attract new sports. With Motor Sport, expect huge positive spin offs for the ordinary man on the street to the elite. The country's tourism sector will definitely soar and thrive with the introduction of this sport, which attracts participants from far and wide. By far and wide, we mean international racers, who will now grace our country. The 'birth' of this sport in the country is something to be celebrated.







CHAMPS: Simunye United players celebrating with their trophy.

## Simunye United wins RSSC Siyakha Under-15 tourney

STORIES BY SPORTS REPORTER

**SOCCER - SIMUNYE United** are champions of the RSSC Siyakha Under-15 knock-out tournament after beating Tambankulu Celtics 2-1 in a tightly contested final played at Tambankulu Stadium on Saturday.

The one-day tournament comprised of 14 teams that first battled it out in a round robin format before qualifying for the knockout semi-final stage. The team with the most number of points qualified for the semi-final stage and these were Lomkhehle FC, Brave Lions, Simunye United and Tambankulu Celtics.

In the semi-finals, Simunye United beat Lomkhehle FC 1-0 while Celtics came from behind to beat Brave Lions 2-1 in the other semi-final, thus setting a date against each other in the

final. It was during the final where everything came to a standstill as United and Celtics square up. With a lot at stake, both teams demonstrated great hunger for glory, something which made their encounter an interesting one.

Celtics were the first to open the scorers chart early in the first half, but lapse of concentration and fatigue proved costly for them as they allowed United to equalise. Just when the football lovers were predicting that the game will be decided on penalties, a howler by Celtics goalkeeper gave United the lead and eventually winning the game.

Scenes of jubilation were the order of the day as United won their maiden trophy, at the expense of dominant sides like Lomkhehle FC who usually reign supreme in tournaments of this magnitude.

The games attracted huge specta-



torship from the sugar belt and surrounding areas.



TOP GOAL SCORER: Brave Lions striker Thandukwazi Dlamini receives his trophy.



IMPRESSED: A section of spectators present.

## Celtics' Mabhanisi is best player

**SOCCER - TAMBANKULU** Celtics defender Mabhanisi Sibiya scooped the Best Player Award after helping his side reach the final of the RSSC Siyakha Under-15 Knockout tournament.

The 10-year-old player was instrumental in steering his side rear-guard as he marshalled the defence with aplomb.

Winning the top goal scorer award

The awards:

Champions - Simunye United

Runners-up - Tambankulu Celtics

Most Organised team - Tambankulu FC

Best Player - Mabhanisi Sibiya (Celtics)

Top Goal Scorer - Thandukwazi Dlamini (Brave Lions)

Best Goal-keeper - Wakhele Mbatha (Celtics)

was Thandukwazi Dlamini of Brave Lions, who scored a total of five goals.



BEST PLAYER: Tambankulu Celtics defender Mabhanisi Sibiya displaying his trophies.

## Equator beat Rovers to maintain lead in RSSC Siyakha League

**SOCCER - RSSC Siyakha North West Seniors League table toppers, Equator FC beat fellow title contenders Tsambokhulu Rovers 3-0 to maintain their lead in the 14 team-league.**

Meanwhile, Brave Lions massacred Born Again 5-1 to jump to second spot while wounded Rovers were pushed to third. In 16 games, Equator are sitting at the top with 39 points while sec-

ond placed Brave Lions, who have since gate-crashed the race, have 38 points. Rovers have 35 points, with Revelations completing the top four with 31 points. The latter beat Tongaat Young Stars 4-1 to remain on course in the title race. Basement side, Mhlume Highlanders beat rivals Mhlume Professionals 2-1 to jump to 9th spot with 13 points, and they are tied with 8th placed Njakeni United.

## Zamalek face Silver Stars in RSSC Siyakha League

**SOCCER - RSSC Siyakha North East League table-toppers, Zamalek FC will be hoping to extend their lead as they visit struggling Silver Stars at Mphelandzaba Sports Ground on Saturday.**

Kick-off time is 3pm. Zamalek, who are leading the title chasing pack with 35 points are facing a tight competition from other contenders Bacambi, Shewula Professionals, and Zwelabantu. Second placed Bacambi are tied with third placed Professionals at 32 points while fourth placed Zwelabantu have 28 points. According to the week 15 fixture, Bacambi host Zwelabantu at

THE FULL FIXTURE:

Saturday at Mphelandzaba Sports Ground

Juventus vs Summerise 11am

Classic vs Rhinos 1pm

Silver Stars vs Zamalek 3pm

Sunday at Mphelandzaba Sports Ground

Free At last vs Arsenal 11am

Bacambi vs Zwelabantu 1pm

JB vs Professionals 3pm

Mphelandzaba on Sunday, in what is arguably a pick of the week. This game will be preceded by another potential thriller between Professionals and revamped JB. The league is made out of 12 teams who are competing to qualify to the Super League promotional play-offs.





● Birmingham City and England Under-17 midfielder Jude Bellingham, 16, is set to become Borussia Dortmund's record signing for a fee of 35m euros (£30.4m). *(Bild - in German)*

● Tottenham will face a battle to hold on to talismanic striker Harry Kane, 26, in the summer if they fail to qualify for next season's Champions League. *(Telegraph)*

● Spurs manager Jose Mourinho says he is not planning to have a summer overhaul of his squad. *(Evening Standard)*

● Barcelona have joined Liverpool and Real Madrid in the race for 20-year-old Valencia winger Ferran Torres. *(El Mundo Deportivo via Daily Mail)*

● Real Madrid have asked former Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino to keep them informed of his plans as they consider hiring him to replace Zinedine Zidane. *(Independent)*

● Manchester United forward Alexis Sanchez, 31, will need to accept a significant drop in wages if he wants to complete a permanent switch to Inter Milan this summer. *(Tuttosport via Daily Mail)*

● West Ham will firm up their interest in Brentford's 22-goal striker Ollie Watkins, 24, in the summer if the Bees are not promoted to the Premier League. *(Sun)*

● Everton are interested in a number of midfield options including Espanyol 23-year-old Marc Roca. *(Liverpool Echo)*

● Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti has ordered his new backroom team to improve their English as they adapt to life in the Premier League. *(Guardian)*

● Cardiff City owner Vincent Tan has reportedly sold half his stake in MLS club Los Angeles FC - and plans to sell the other half. *(LA Times)*

● Aston Villa are interested in Marseille midfielder Morgan Sanson, 25, but know their chances of signing the former France Under-21 international hinge on their Premier League survival. *(Birmingham Mail)*

● Newcastle manager Steve Bruce says reports of a bust-up between him and 22-year-old French forward Allan Saint-Maximin, who has been linked with Wolves, are "total nonsense". *(Newcastle Chronicle)*

● Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster says a summer transfer to Tottenham is purely 'paper talk'. The former England international, 36, is out of contract in the summer. *(Watford)*

# SRFA distribute equipment worth E45 000

BY COLISILE SACOLO

**SOCCER - THE Shiselweni Regional Football Association has presented its zones with playing equipment worth E45 000.**

This was during an event held at Sobhuza Memorial Stadium on Sunday.

The equipment was presented by the regional executive committee led by Bhekani Khumalo and it included soccer balls, nets, corner flags and substitution boards.

This was confirmed by Shiselweni Regional Football Public Relations Officer Lucky Dube.

He said the equipment was not for certain individuals but should be used by the zones.

## Equipment

"I would like to thank the association for the equipment and we really appreciate their efforts towards the improvement of football in the region. I urge teams and the competitions committee to look after this equipment."

He said this equipment would definitely change the image of the



**PRESENTATION:** The teams officials displaying some of the equipment they received on the day.

region. "Teams in the different zones will now have well-equipped facilities."

## Women shooting competition on cards

BY COLISILE SACOLO

**SHOOTING - THE Eswatini Shooting Association will later this month host a women shooting competition at a venue yet to be announced.**

The association's President Sipho Nshalintshali said the tournament was aimed at commemorating women's month.

"We are inviting all teams to bring their female players for the competition."

He said they would confirm the prizes in due course. The president said males were also urged to come and support the ladies since it was women's month.

"As an association we have seen it proper to support them as a way of celebrating their month. Our main aim is to balance the gender and do away with the perception that shooting is for males. He said the public should know that the shooting sport

was for everyone.

Ntshalintshali said everyone was welcome to join the competition even if they were not affiliated to any team.

"It is true most of the participants are from the security forces teams and as an association we want to see more females joining the sport. Individuals, who are interested to come and join the sport, can freely do so. We want to see the sport improving in the country."

Meanwhile, Eswatini Shooting Association executive member Jabu Vilane said they were very happy about the upcoming women competition.

He said they were looking forward to the competition as it would be the first women tournament to be hosted since the association was formed.

"I must emphasise that we want more females to join the sport. This sport is not for males only and we want to completely do away with that perception."



**NEW TEAM:** Newly formed Volleyball ladies outfit Scorpions posing during the Eswatini National Volleyball pre-season tournament held over the weekend at Mavuso Sports Centre.

## Two new volleyball teams formed

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**VOLLEYBALL - THE Eswatini National Volleyball Association (ENVA) has welcomed new kids on the block in Scorpions Ladies team.**

The capital city side is one of the two teams that have joined the Ladies Premier Division alongside UNESWA Ladies. The two teams made their maiden appearances in local competitions over the weekend during the pre-season tournament held at the Mavuso Sports Centre.

ENVA Vice Secretary Eric Zwane confirmed the news when contacted yesterday.

"We have been joined by two teams in the ladies category after they met all our require-

ments. We would like to welcome the two teams into the league and we strongly believe their arrival will help improve the standard of volleyball in the country," he said. Meanwhile, Scorpions Manager Paris Dlamini said they were happy to be part of the volleyball family.

## Excited

"We are quite excited to be part of the volleyball family and our main aim is to develop the sport at grassroots level hence we have recruited young players in the team," he said.

Dlamini further thanked their technical sponsor Slomoos Corporation for supporting them.

"We are grateful to the company for supporting us with the kit we used last weekend during the pre-season tournament and we are proud to be associated with such a big brand," he said.

## Goodie bags for first 500 at TDZ Lubombo Marathon

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**ATHLETICS - THE first 500 finishers in the Lubombo Marathon will get goodie bags.**

This was confirmed by the TZD Sports Public Relations Officer (PRO) Victor 'Mavukane' Dlamini yesterday.

"We have goodie bags for the first 500 finishers. This has been done to encourage participants." The second edition of the marathon is set to take place on March 28 in Siteki. The race is hosted by TDZ Sports Club and will start at Siteki Hotel. The race which will be staged under the #Take the challenge and will feature four categories in the 41.2km, 21.1km, 10km and 5km. Dlamini said registration was still open at Hlathikhulu Assegai Inn, Nhlanguano Emantungwa Motors Spares, Buhleni YEF Butchery, Siteki Hotel, Mr Matata Stores and Mbabane Sneakers.

Registration is E100 for all events for license holders and E130 for non-license holders.

Dlamini said they had also organised a track races in 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x1 and 4x4 meters.

Dlamini said they were looking forward to a maximum of 1 200 entries and urged Lubombo people to register for the marathon. He said the event was aimed at encouraging the people of Lubombo in sports.

## Eswatini Judo pulls out of African Champs

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**JUDO - THE Eswatini Judo Federation has pulled out of the 2020 African Judo Cadets Championships scheduled for this month in Dakar, Senegal.**

This follows reported cases of the coronavirus at the West African state. Eswatini was supposed to send three cadets to the international assignment in Lamulela Magagula, Helena Benedito and Wenzwiwe Harding. EJJF President Princess Thobile confirmed the news when contacted yesterday. "We are no longer sending our cadets team to Senegal due to the reported cases of coronavirus in that country. We will now try other ways of keeping the team active. We will announce new details regarding an international competition in due course," she said. Eswatini is also expected to compete in the two new international competitions to be announced by the African Judo Union soon. The first edition of new competition is likely to take place in June at a country yet to be announced by the continent's mother body (AJU).



# IT'S A MUST WIN FOR US - BANELE

BY COLISILE SACOLO

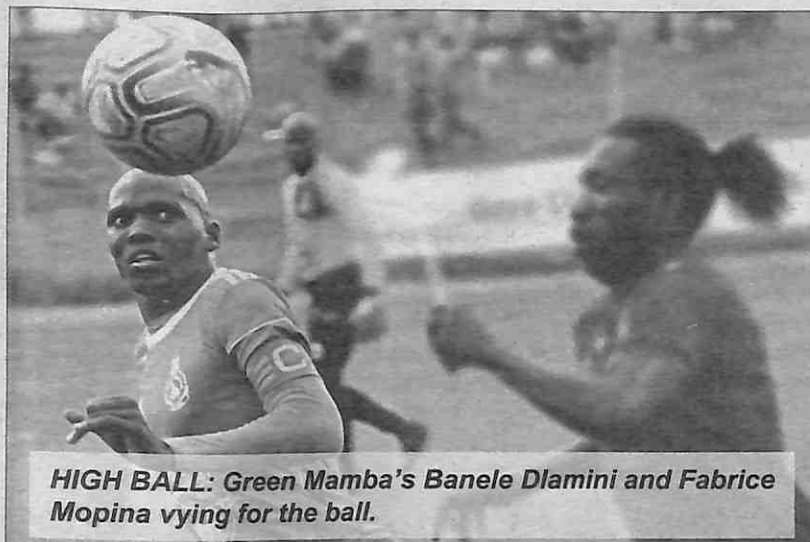
**SOCCER - GREEN Mamba captain Banele Dlamini says they need to win their game against Mbabane Highlanders in the Ingwenyama Cup final.**

The match will be played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday and entrance is E50.

The player said they were well prepared for the game and were looking forward to positive results. "We are more than ready for this match and it's a must win for us. We have prepared well and the spirit is high in the camp." He said they know Highlanders well, having met two times in the league.

"Highlanders are a big team, we respect them but not inside the field of play. They have good players, who are also experienced, but I can tell you now that we are more than ready for them."

He said they would not make the mis-



**HIGH BALL: Green Mamba's Banele Dlamini and Fabrice Mopina vying for the ball.**

take of underestimating Highlanders.

"We want this cup and we will do everything to win it," he said. Dlamini thanked the team's president and the management

for always supporting them. "They are always there to supporting and that is why we want to make them happy by winning the Ingwenyama Cup."

## Esibayeni Lodge U-17 League continues this weekend

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**SOCCER - THE Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 League will be in full swing this weekend at different venues in the country.**

The headlining encounter will see Manzini Wanderers take on Denver Sundowns at UNESWA Sports Ground.

This is according to the latest fixture released by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati.

Manzini Sea Birds have a date with police side Royal Leopard while Mbabane Highlanders will clash with Tambuti.

Other matches will see Mbabane Swallows playing against Correctional Services side Green Mamba at Prince of Wales Ground.

At Mhlume Stadium, Moneni Pirates will take on Lubombo-based outfit Mhlume Peacemakers on Saturday.

### ESIBAYENI LODGE U-17 LEAGUE FIXTURE:

|                                     |    |                |        |
|-------------------------------------|----|----------------|--------|
| Saturday at Prince of Wales Ground: |    |                |        |
| Mbabane Swallows                    | vs | Green Mamba    | 10am   |
| Saturday at Mhlume Sports Ground:   |    |                |        |
| Mhlume Peacemakers                  | vs | Moneni Pirates | 12noon |
| Sunday at UENWA Sports Ground:      |    |                |        |
| Manzini Sea Birds                   | vs | Royal Leopards | 9am    |
| Mbabane Highlanders                 | vs | Tambuti FC     | 11am   |
| Manzini Wanderers                   | vs | Denver Sundown | 3pm    |

### ESIBAYENI LODGE U17 LOG:

| Team              | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | PTS |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Green Mamba     | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 4  | 17  |
| 2 Royal Leopards  | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 9  | 16  |
| 3 Manz Wanderers  | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 19 | 13  |
| 4 Mba Highlanders | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 13 | 11  |
| 5 Moneni Pirates  | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 14 | 10  |
| 6 Tambuti         | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 10  |
| 7 Mba Swallows    | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 10  |
| 8 D. Sundowns     | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 7  | 9   |
| 9 M. Peacemakers  | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 8  | 19 | 3   |
| 10 Manz Sea Birds | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 36 | 0   |

## ERU first 2020 meeting a success

BY PHUMLANI GUMEDZE

**RUGBY - THE Eswatini Rugby Union hosted its first 2020 meeting at Caritas in Manzini on Saturday and it was a huge success.**

All the eight teams' representatives attended the event.

The meeting was to discuss what clubs should expect in the current year since the union was given a mandate by the Eswatini Sports and Recreation Council last year.

The council advised the union to put in place a few issues, including registration and the number of players per club among others. The union will be recognised once they meet the requirements.

Clubs were also advised on what the union was expecting from them in relation to players' registration and annual subscription fees. Clubs were requested to provide information such as the team structures, contact details and the number of players every club have.

ERU President Simanga Magagula emphasised on the development of the sport.

"As a union, we have put in place various developmental strategies for the development of the sport. We want to help clubs from grass-roots level up to the seniors," he said.

He then outlined the developmental strategies, which involve the inclusion of schools throughout the country. "The development programme will be done by the teams in their communities and nearest schools,

The union will also deploy rugby ready agents in all schools to introduce and teach rugby to children."

He said they would help the clubs in establishing relations with schools.

"We want to help in grooming the children."

One of the teams' representatives, Mbabane Jaguars Chairman Siphosihle Dladla said they were happy with the feedback.

"We are pleased with the way the union is carrying out its activities and the fact that we as teams are involved in all developments pertaining to rugby in the country. We are looking forward to a successful year."

On another note, the union is expecting the national team, Sizeze Eswatini, to compete internationally.

"We are looking at taking a huge step forward in as far as our national team is concerned."

"We expect the squad to compete in international games."

Sizeze competed in the International 7s tournament in Lesotho last year.



**As a union, we have put in place various developmental strategies for the development of the sport. We want to help clubs from grassroots level up to the seniors**

## I have confidence in my troops - Dominic

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**SOCCER - NEW Sihlangu head coach Dominic Kunene says he is confident with his squad.**

The former Young Buffaloes mentor will be guiding his troops today in preparation for his first assignment as Sihlangu head coach.

The players will today start their mini-camp at the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Technical Centre in Lobamba in preparation for Sihlangu Semnikati's away game against Congo Brazzaville on March 26.

The gaffer said he wanted to win his first match in charge against Congo Brazzaville.

"The camp is of great importance as we need to win at least two games to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2021 Qualifiers," he said.

Kunene stated that they needed to meet international standards if they want to



**CONFIDENT: Sihlangu head coach Dominic Kunene.**

beat the best if the continent. "We just have to train hard because it pays off."

Meanwhile, CAF has also appointed four Nigerian referees for the upcoming 2021 Total AFCON Qualifier match between Congo Brazzaville and Eswatini. The match will be an away match for

the nation's pride.

They are Joseph Odey Ogabor, Samuel Pwadutakm, Efosa Celestine Idudia, Quadri Oloade Adebimpe, Alim Konate Aboubakar (match commissioner - Cameroon) and Waldabet Koissoual (referees assessor - Chad).

## MONTIGNY NO FIRE GAMES KICK-OFF FRIDAY

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE

**SPORTS - THE Montigny Schools' No Fire Challenge games will commence tomorrow at Ntsetse Sports Ground.**

This follows a draw held at the Montigny Training Centre last Friday, where representatives of the 29 schools convened.

The soccer and netball tournament was initiated four years ago and has grown ever since. Montigny Chief Executive Officer Andrew Le Roux described the tournament as a strategic activity under the company's

image building and protection pillar aimed at enhancing stakeholder relations.

"The No Fire Games form a crucial part of our corporate social initiative, and they target 15 tinkhundla centres; 10 at the Usuthu area and five in Nhlanguano. Last year we had 24 schools and we have successfully registered 29 schools in 2020," he said. Montigny has increased this year's sponsorship to E200 000 from E150 000.

Meanwhile, Crime and Intelligence Manager Sihle Mavuso stated that the tournament was so big this year such that there would be seven venues for the games.

### THE DATES AS DETERMINED BY THE DRAW ARE AS FOLLOWS:

March 6 – Group A at Ntsetse  
March 11 – Group B at Mhlambanyatsi  
March 13 – Group C at Bhunya  
March 18 – Group G at Ngwempisi  
March 25 – Group F at Mankayane  
March 27 – Group D at LaMgabhi  
April 3 – Group E at Malkerns

The fixture is as follows for this Friday:

|                |    |                 |
|----------------|----|-----------------|
| Sigangeni High | vs | Siphocosi High  |
| Motjane High   | vs | Masibekela High |

"We had to increase our venues to seven, instead of six because participation has increased," he said.

The schools that would take part in the tournament are Masibekela, Mpuluzi,

Inyandza, Mlindazwe, St. Anne's/St. John Bosco, Siphocosi, Holy Rosary, Magubheleni, Siphumelele, Nokuthula, Dvudvusi, Sigangeni, Motshane, Phumtile, Bhunya Secondary, Sikanye, Mankayane, Bhunya Central, Osuthu, Vulamasango, Ndwandwe, Dwalile, Encabaneni, Lundzi, St. Christopher's, Siyendle, Eric Rosenberg, Ngcoseni Central and Ngcoseni Community High Schools.

"The games will start on Friday and thereafter, they will be played every Wednesday and Friday until we are done with the group stages," said Mavuso.



## RULANI JOINS CHIPPA



# Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed



Thursday March 5, 2020

## Top African legends for Eswatini

**SOCCER** – TOP African legends are expected to arrive in the country as they have been invited to take part in an international friendly against their local counterparts later this month at a venue yet to be finalised.

Some of the legends expected to grace the match include former Barcelona star and Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto, ex-Chelsea and Ivorian talisman Didier Drogba and former Nigeria star Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha.

Legends who are likely to appear for the local side include Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini, John 'Shisa' Mdluli, Sifiso 'Barnes' Mkhulisi, and Jerry 'Mbazo' Gamedze, to mention the few.

A source close to the matter asserted that the Eswatini Football Association had already tasked a Senegalese soccer consultant to organise the logistics of the match.

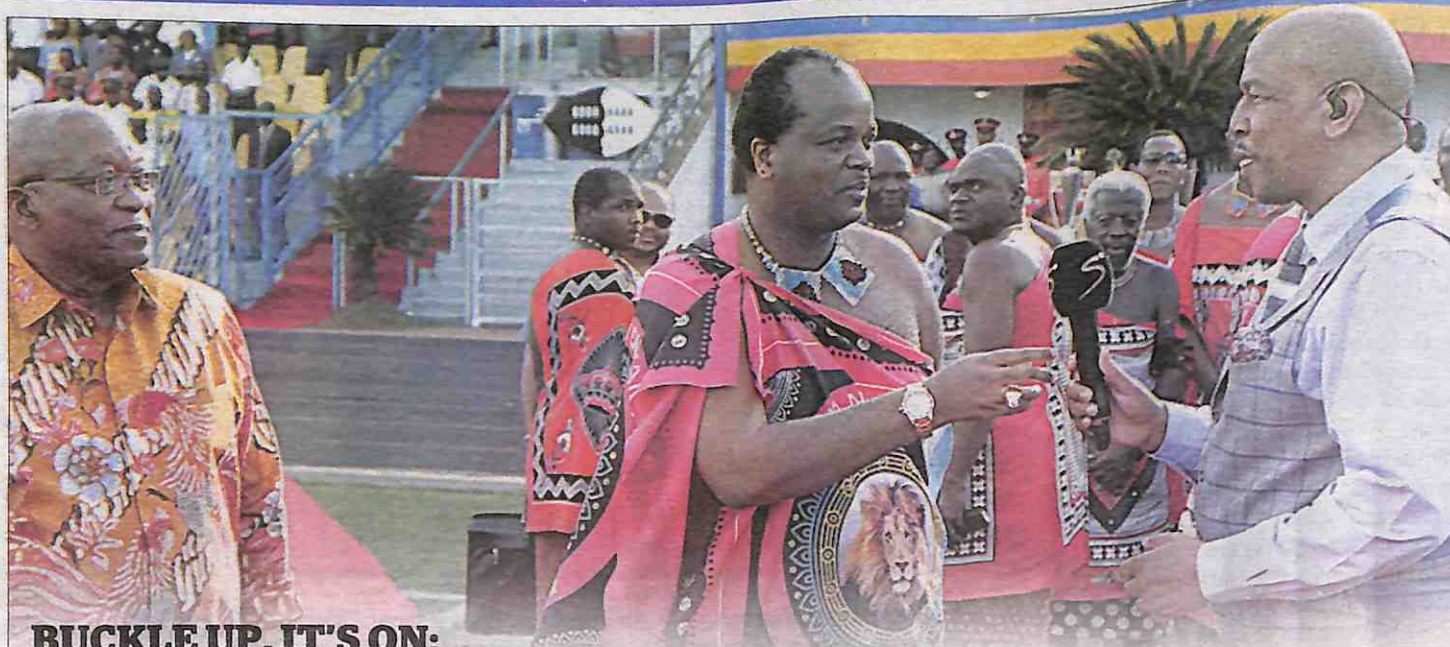
"Preparations for the match are already underway as the consultant has already sent invitations to some of the African legends and they are expected to confirm their participation within the next fortnight. Eswatini will field legends who have played for the national team.

"Details of the match will be communicated in due course once the visitors confirm their participation," the source said.

EFA acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nkhosimandla Mavuso said he was yet to get an official briefing about the match when contacted yesterday.

"I am yet to get a briefing from the CEO Frederick Mngomezulu once he returns home from his assignment in South Africa," he said.

Mngomezulu is currently out of the country in Port Elizabeth, South Africa where he is attending a FIFA international course alongside the organisation's Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe.



BUCKLE UP, IT'S ON;

# FINAL LIVE ON SUPERSPORT

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**SOCCER - POPULAR sports channel SuperSport will once again broadcast the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final between Mbabane Highlanders and Green Mamba live on Sunday.**

This comes after the global commercial broadcaster successfully acquired rights to screen the final.

The two teams will meet in the showpiece match of the fifth edition of the prestigious competition at Somhlolo National Stadium at 3:30pm.

The game is already on the Supersport 10 weekend line-up and the broadcast will start at 2.30pm

until the end of the match around 5:15pm.

The two local clubs will be looking to outfox each other for the first prize money of the five-year-old tournament that blends football with culture. Ingwenyama Cup Secretary and Premier League of Eswatini COO Pat Vilakati could not be drawn for comment on the matter as he was reportedly locked in a meeting for the better part of yesterday afternoon.

Highlanders will be playing their second consecutive final after losing the previous edition 1-4 to Young Buffaloes while Green Mamba will be making their maiden appearance.

The winners of Sunday's final will pocket E1.4 million, making

the Ingwenyama Cup the richest knockout competition in the country.

Meanwhile, it will be E50 to watch the final.

Ingwenyama Cup PRO Nkosilenhle Masuku said the tickets were already on sale at various outlets in the country.

"We are hoping supporters will buy ticket at the respective selling points. A limited 5 000 tickets will be made available to the public," he said. Masuku further mentioned that the Ingwenyama Cup Management Committee, Premier League of Eswatini and the sponsor SMVAF were currently working on the possibility of selling VIP tickets. He said the VIP tickets would be limited.

### Tickets outlets:

Mbabane  
Total Gardens Filling Station opposite Spar  
Ezulwini  
Total Valley Filling Station next to Gables  
Shaks Cellular and Sound MTN at Gables  
Matsapha  
Robs MTN at Mahhala Shopping Complex  
MTN ETOP - Up at Bihunu Mall Manzini  
MTN ETOP - Up next to FNB Main Branch  
Ingwenyama Cup Programme on Sunday:  
6am - Gates open  
6:15am - Vendors  
8am - Social (MVA vs PLE/EFA)  
9am - Culture performance  
11:45am - Social (CEO's vs MP's)  
12:40pm - Culture grand closing  
1:35pm - Social (Princes vs Chiefs)  
2:15pm - Trophy parade /Team warm-ups 14:15 pm  
2:55pm - Introduction of teams to guests of honour  
3pm - Kick-off (Mbabane Highlanders vs Green Mamba)

Action packed...  
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