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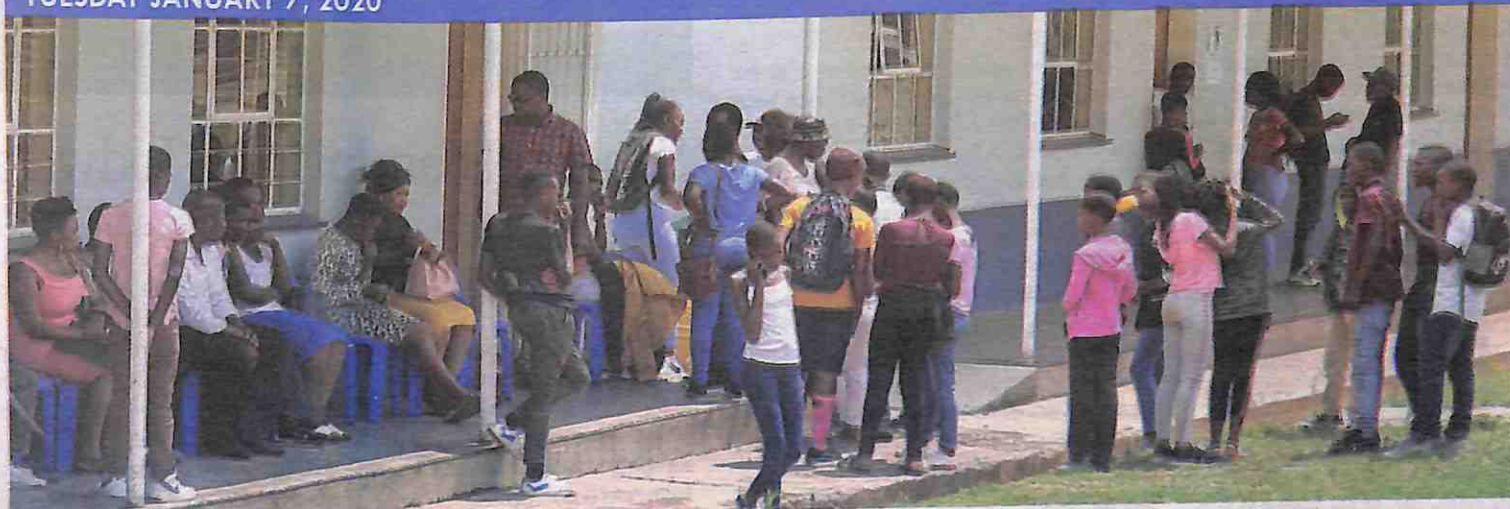
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DOC:21101



**HOPE:** Guardians and pupils queue for Form One admittance at Woodlands High School yesterday, this marks a back to school frenzy as schools are about to open. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

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DOC:20350



# 'INGWAVUMA GIVEN TO ESWATINI'

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**KING Goodwill Zwelithini on Sunday confirmed that Ingwavuma had been given to the Kingdom of Eswatini in 1982.**

Speaking on Sunday in Kokstad where he welcomed about 280 initiates, the king accused the apartheid regime of having cut up his kingdom.

The Kingdom of Eswatini to this day is still fighting for the large chunks of land lost to the Republic of South Africa, both in the South which covers Ingwavuma, the West up to Pretoria, what used to be the Transvaal and the entire Mpumalanga Province as we know it today.

Prince Guduza who led the Border Restoration Committee is still pursuing the issue with the African Union and the Republic of South Africa including a number of chiefs who pay their allegiance to Ingwenyama.

During his speech he spoke about the 1982 failed attempt by the apartheid government to cut off Ingwavuma from the then-homeland of KwaZulu and incorporate it into the Kingdom of Eswatini.

He said the apartheid government negotiated with King Sobhuza to block some insurgents from using the Ingwavuma crossing point.

In return, the king demanded that the apartheid government give his country the Ingwavuma portion, which he claimed historically belonged to his kingdom. The

apartheid government agreed and signed the incorporation agreement. However, the move was aborted when Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi, as the chief minister of the homeland, challenged the move in court and won.

"They once divided the Zulu kingdom and said Kokstad was in Natal and Umzimkhulu was in the Eastern Cape. These people were very arrogant. How can you come and divide other people's land and its people, give it to others without consulting them?"

The division even led to people to use

passports to cross over, when we used to visit each other without a problem. They did this just to undermine us. Just like what they did in 1982 when they wanted to take Ingwavuma land and give it to certain people (Eswatini). We fought hard to stop that," the king said.

Zwelithini labelled the move as "unheard of nonsense".

The king said it was puzzling that the business hub of Kokstad had once been removed from KZN and designated as a white South African territory.

He further said the apartheid government was so brazen, it even created a border in the town of Umzimkhulu.

The king also spoke against gender-based violence, telling men to stop killing and raping women. He said true men know that a woman deserves to be treated with respect. "From the beginning of this month, everyone, wherever they are, must, when meeting with a woman, protect her instead of thinking of sleeping with her and later killing her. The best respect a man can afford a woman is to protect her and escort her home safely. From now onwards in the Zulu kingdom, the killing of one another must come to an end," he said. He also expressed his joy that all the 280 boys who took part in the health department's supervised process of circumcision came back alive. He blasted unqualified people for carrying out circumcisions, resulting in loss of life.



King Goodwill Zwelithini.

## Sandile Dlamini joins Lidwala

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Mbabane

**FORMER Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) long-serving Chief Executive Officer Sandile 'Chief' Dlamini is reported to have joined Lidwala Insurance Group.**

It is understood Dlamini has been engaged by the insurance company as its new CEO.

When contacted on his new appointment, Dlamini said he was not in a position to comment as the rightful people to do that were Lidwala's board members.

"Please contact the board at Lidwala Insurance Company, protocol must be observed and they are the ones to comment," he said.

A message from the social media, purportedly from Dlamini seemed to have informed close friends that he has joined the company. The message read: "I'm grateful to inform you colleagues that effec-

tive from today (yesterday) I joined Lidwala Insurance as CEO. Your continued support will be most appreciated going forward."

One of the Board of Directors Moses "Mkhulu" Motsa was called several times and he couldn't be reached for comment.

Dlamini left his previous employer in November last year after his contract was not renewed because he had already attained the retirement age of 60.

It was gathered that whilst the retirement age within the organisation was recently reviewed to be 65, because he was working on a contract basis, he could not be covered.

Dlamini has overseen the development of the insurance industry, growth in fund managers and introduction of re-insurers.

When bidding farewell to FSRA in December, Dlamini challenged his former staff to re-open the controversial forensic probe of the Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF).

## Dagga thief left arm, fingers cut dumped in field

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

**AN alleged dagga thief's left arm and three right hand fingers were chopped off by irate men manning their dagga fields.**

The men are alleged to have attacked the man after finding him helping himself on the loot.

The incident is reported to have taken place at Luhlangotsini last week. His left arm was accidental-

ly burnt by the Pigg's Peak Police when they went to the scene to inspect and then set alight the dagga field.

It was gathered the police only discovered the burnt left arm after burning the field.

During the violent incident the four attackers who are still at large used bush knives to carry out the assault after which they left him for dead.

Fortunately, he was saved by a passerby. The survivor Simiso

Mbhamane was ferried to Pigg's Peak Government Hospital through the Emergency Medical Services ambulance.

Mbhamane is currently being treated for his injuries at the hospital.

When reached for comment the alleged dagga thief Mbhamane refused to speak to the media hurling a few insults in the process.

Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the violent incident.



ENTER: The Pigg's Peak Government Hospital where Simiso Mbhamane is being treated. (File-pic)

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# KEYBOARD PLAYER RAPES MINOR IN CHURCH

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**RELATIVES of a 16-year-old girl could not believe their eyes when they allegedly caught their church's keyboard player red handed having sexual intercourse with the minor inside the church.**

The incident happened on Saturday at Joy of God Church situated at Jubela area, near Mkhuzweni.

The notorious keyboard player was arrested on Sunday and charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act 15 of 2018. He is employed by Power Trade Wholesalers in Manzini.

This incident follows that of a Worship Centre keyboard player in Mbabane who impregnated several girls from the same church.

The incident happened in July last year, and he was suspended from his

*...the young man is reported to be fathering a child with the teen's mother, who is also a church member*

duties in the church.

According to sources, it was the teen's birthday on Saturday so she informed her mother that her friends have hosted a party for her in Manzini.

It is said she left home on the day as she was presumably in Manzini celebrating her birthday with friends.

At around 5pm, it is said she returned home with a brand new cell phone which she told her friends it was given to her as a gift by the keyboard player, whom she addressed as uncle.

It is said the girl used to brag and talk about the keyboard player more often, even to her mother. This is said to have sparked suspicions from the mother, but she said nothing nonetheless.

At around 8pm, the girl is said to



**CONFIRMED: Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni.**

have disappeared from home and a search for her proved futile.

During the search the mother and

other members of the family are said to have seen light coming from church. Remembering that the keyboard player usually sleeps in the church on Saturdays, the girl's mother reportedly led the search party towards the house of God.

When they got there, sources said the door was locked from the inside, so the girl's mother peeped through the window to see if there was anyone inside. Just about that time, the door is said to have opened and the girl allegedly emerged. The mother then asked who else was inside the church and to her shock, she found the keyboard player hiding behind curtains. The keyboard player is alleged to also have a baby with the teen's mother.

Sources claimed that he and the older woman got intimate sometime last year while they were at a church camp, the same time that the woman conceived.

When the woman asked the keyboard player what he was doing with her child, he is said to have told her that he enjoyed being with the teenager more than her.

Thereafter, the accused person is said to have bolted out of the church and the teenage girl followed suit.

## Returned

The mother is said to have then reported the child missing at Mafutseni Police Station. However, the girl is said to have returned home later on.

The girl reportedly informed her family that since the beginning of this year, she and the keyboard player were having an intimate relationship. According to the girl, she had consented to the sexual activity. However, Section 2 of the Sexual Offences and Domestic (SODV) Act 15 of 2018 states that a child below the age of 18 years cannot consent to sexual proposals.

When sought for comment on the matter, Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the arrest of the keyboard player.

## KOBE ACHIEVES 95 PER CENT PASS RATE IN IEB EXAMS

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**KOBE-Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy has achieved a 95 per cent pass rate in the 2019 Independent Examination Board (IEB) Examinations.**

The IEB is an independent assessment body offering certified assessment including the South African National Senior Certificate (NSC). The IEB is accredited by UMALUSI, a quality assessment body in South Africa.

School Principal Thuli Makgatho, on behalf of the directors and management of Kobe, congratulated the learners for achieving such results. "Yes, they spent sleepless nights and this is the outcome, which is good. I would like to advise those who would consider taking a gap year not to think about it, but they should go straight to tertiary. Time waits for no man. Those who did not make it should not give up, but try again. To our educators, we say thank you. They worked tirelessly to produce such results," she said.

She added that 2019 was a year full of challenges, but they managed to rise above the tide. She congratulated Noubissi Silienou Jisca for obtaining a distinction with 95 per cent in French as Second Additional Language. Jisca obtained a qualification that will allow her to study a diploma course in any university or col-



**Simelane Lungelo.**



**Temnyandzeni Maphalala.**



**Temvelo Dlamini.**

lege in South Africa. "The academic office believes that if the examinations were offered in French, Jisca would have obtained even better marks than what she got. We wish her a successful future," she said. The principal said they were able to record 100 per cent in some subjects.

"We achieved 100 per cent in Afrikaans as a First Additional Language, SiSwati as Home Language, 98 per cent in Business Studies and English as Home Language followed by Life Orientation at which we obtained 95 per cent and 84 per cent in Mathematical Literacy," she said.

Kobe-Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy had 64 learners sitting for the 2019 IEB examinations. Only three learners could not qualify to study in any institution in South Africa.

Meanwhile, 36 learners qualified to study for Bachelor's degree in any university in South Africa, 18 qualified to study for diploma courses and seven qualified to study for higher certificate courses in TVET colleges in South Africa. "We are very much touched and concerned about those learners who did not qualify in these exams. It is our wish as a school to have all learners in our care to progress in their academic life. "We can only say to those who did not make it - it is not the end of the world. Our doors are opened for a refocused attempt to these examinations," the principal stated.

Kobe-Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy is a private school located at Ezulwini Valley, which is one of the fast growing towns in Eswatini.

er, a parent, teachers and the school, we are all focused towards greatness," said Dlamini. He invited parents to enrol their children at the school as they were to work hard to achieve even better result in coming years and beyond. "May we also pay our tribute to the works of the late Geoff Ramokgadi. It is our responsibility to maintain the good legacy he left. As a school, we will rally behind the Ramokgadi family in pushing beyond limits and to have a very successful school for generations to come," he said.

## KOBE INTRODUCE IEB PRIMARY

**THIS year Kobe Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy will offer the IEB Primary Schools Initiative (PSI) Programme in Grades 1 to 6.**

Speaking about the new initiative that the school would embark on, Human Resources Manager Sabelo Dlamini said learners would have an opportunity to get a good background of the IEB at an early stage. The school has all along been offering lessons in Grade 8 to 12. "We have

seen it necessary to introduce the IEB programme at a very early stage in the education programme of learners and we believe that this initiative will bring about a better change for parents and learners hence they will do even better in Grade 12," he said. The school attributes the 2019 NSC results to the hard work put in by the stakeholders. "The IEB programme puts dedication first, hard work and pursuit of success to all of us. "Be it a learn-

## PUPIL STEALS INYANGA'S E24 000 FROM INDUMBA

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**A 20-year-old Form II pupil of Ncabaneni High was arrested and charged with house-breaking and theft after he stole his father's money that was in a consultation house (indumba).**

The pupil of Ntandozi, whom we cannot name because he is still school going, who is a traditional healer stole E24 000 from his father.

The pupil is said to have broken into the indumba during the night after learning about that there was money.

The inyanga is said to have received the cash from clients who had bought his four beasts. The clients are said to have paid him a sum of E44 000 which he had intended to deposit into the bank.

Narrating the ordeal in court, the father said he realised the following morning that the indumba had been broken into and he discovered that his money was short so he notified some community police.

Upon reporting the break-in, the inyanga informed the community police that he suspected his son because he was a wayward child.

Indeed, when members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) conducted an investigation, it transpired that the son was the culprit as suspected by his father.

On the day of his arrest, the pupil was at the Somhlolo National Stadium where he and his two friends gone to watch a football match. The trio was taken in by the Lobamba police, and one of them was a taxi driver.

He told the police that he was paid E1 000 to drive the young men around. The taxi driver said this was after the pupil had gone on a shopping spree where he bought clothing items and liquor amounting to E6 000.

Among the clothing items that were bought with the stolen money was a pair of All Star sneakers and a T-shirt which were bought for the taxi man.

He said he was further given some cash.

According to evidence brought before court, the youngster also bought groceries for his sister who resides at Ngwane Park.

## Mitigating

The police recovered E12 650 of the stolen money.

When mitigating before court, the pupil said he stole the money because he needed to buy some clothes which he knew his father would have not bought for him if he had asked.

The 20-year-old also mentioned - that to use the money to go to Somhlolo National Stadium to watch a soccer match.

"I was deceived by friends into stealing the money," he pleaded.

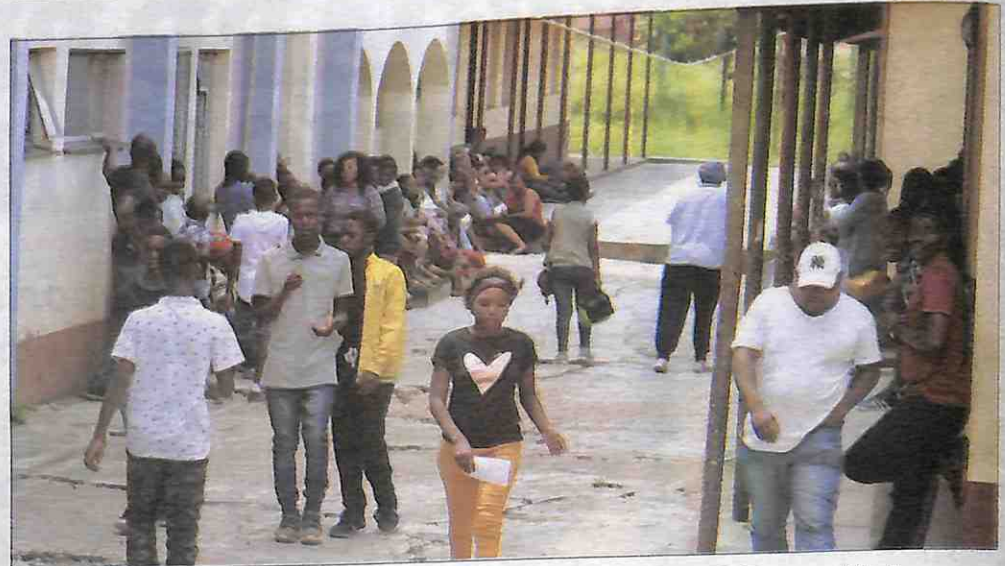
He was sentenced to three years imprisonment with an option of E10 000 fine.



# BACK TO SCHOOL FRENZY BEGINS



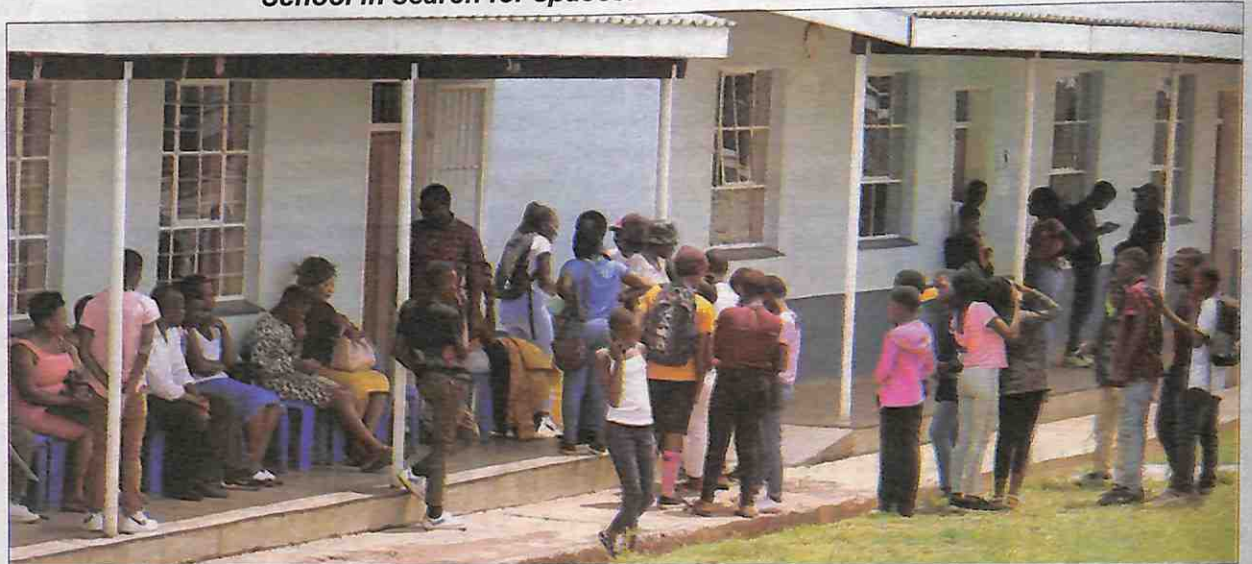
**FIRST COME FIRST SERVE:** Parents and pupils waiting for their turn to come as they queued for Form One spaces at KaBoyce High School yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



**DEMAND:** Parents and pupils have started flocking KaBoyce High School in search for spaces.



**AT WORK:** Some of the teachers ready to assist the pupils on admission and registration at St Marks High School.



**HOPE:** Some of the pupils found at Woodlands High School yesterday.

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**SAFE:** Police officers have already been deployed to some schools to maintain peace and order.

**FUTURE:** Pupils arrive in search for spaces at St Francis High School.

**PACKED:** Pupils and their parents fill in the admission forms at the St Marks School Hall.

**READY:** St Marks school uniforms are already on display for the pupils.

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# LATE INKHOSIKATI LAKUNENE WAS A PACESETTER - SPEAKERS

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Lobamba

**INKHOSIKATI LaKunene, wife to the late Prince Sobandla, has been described as a pacesetter, humble, educated, respectful, trustworthy and a woman of valour by different speakers.**

This was during a night vigil held in her honour at KaNdlela on Sunday night.

Her friend Bonsile Ntshalintshali said as friends they learnt a lot from Inkhosikati as she was a prayerful woman who loved God so much, loved peace and read her bible at every given chance even during office hours.

"She was humble such that one wouldn't have even realised that she was royalty. She also loved education, when she graduated in Namibia for her MBA last year in April; she said she wanted to be referred to as Dr. Makhosazana after which she enrolled for her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) post graduate degree. Unfortunately, death reached her before she could achieve that, good-night 'Dr. Makhosazana,'" said a visibly emotional friend.

Ntshalintshali said the late Prince's wife also warned that wives were not supposed to speak too much because they had to hear from God.

Meanwhile, Auditor General (AG) Timothy Matsebula said *Make* LaKunene was a trustworthy person



**REST IN PEACE: The late Inkhosikati LaKunene.**

whose life resembled that of Christ and who made an effort to have a

great rapport with everyone at work. He said Inkhosikati worked with integrity, with diligence and would ask when she didn't understand.

At times she would even take work home when the need arose, hence the leadership role.

## Faithful

"The AG's office and government suffered a great loss. She joined us in October 2009, was of much help to government, Parliament and the Christian fraternity. She is in a better place.

Please read **Hebrews 13:15**," concluded the AG.

Inkhosikati LaMavuso, who spoke on behalf of Assemblies of God (AOC) Church Mothers where the deceased was a member, said they

were proud of Inkhosikati LaKunene and the things she had done for the church's different ministries.

She described the late Prince Sobandla's wife as someone who always smiled and faithfully attended every conference they held.

"If we do well, we will see her as we know she is in paradise. We are happy that she lived up to what we are always taught in our women conference; to respect our husbands always.

She also loved God and would bring her children early to attend Sunday school before the main service. That on its own indicates her commitment," said Inkhosikati LaMavuso.

Lozitha AOG's representative Majuba Dlamini said as a church they were happy that Inkhosikati died in the Lord. As the Word says, she was blessed as she had given herself to Christ.

## Take care of each other - Their Majesties

**THEIR Majesties have urged royal family members to take care of each other.**

Represented by Shortgun Simelane, Their Majesties also urged the children to stand united. He said Inkhosikati LaKunene would have helped improve the country through her knowledge attained from her education.

"*Bekalifungo lekwakha liguma*. This is a challenge to the *Emalangen*i to take care of the children as their own. To Prince Sobandla's children, remain respectful as you did when your parents were still around and live the life that the late Prince preached, so that you are seen as his children through your characters," he said.

Adding, Simelane said Their Majesties appreciated the support received in emotionally challenging times stating the nation still had a spirit of oneness.

He read Ecclesiastes 12:13 which reads thus; let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. "This is the Word I was given by Their Majesties.

Fear the Lord above all else. *Bayethe! Wena WaPhakathi*," he stated. Speaking on behalf of the royal family, Prince Hlangabeza urged the children to be united. He said it was pleasing to hear the children say they had accepted their parents' death as that meant that they were not challenging God's will. "Pastors, thank you. We can sin all we want but we know that Jesus died on the cross for us. *LoNkulunkulu wachamuka lakitsi emajobeni siyamati*," he said. The prince explained that men always consider their families; their biggest fear was dying and leaving no legacy.

## THANK YOU - CHILDREN

**THE late Inkhosikati LaKunene's children appreciated God for everything especially His presence in the past few months.**

Princess Temakhosi described the interval as hectic and strenuous for them. She appreciated support from Their Majesties, the royal family, their maternal family, friends and the Christian fraternity. "They prayed for us. The Kunenes and the royal family members would come see us even when both parents were hospitalised.

We have an amazing family and thank you for strengthening us. To our friends and relatives, thank you for trusting and hoping with us even when the situation seemed hopeless. To our grandmothers, *Gogo Mbingo* and *Gogo Mdluli*, we wouldn't be here if it were not for you, we will continue loving and respecting you as we did before," she said.

She also appreciated the late Prince Sobandla for being there from the first day when their mother was sick; he was there even when he was sick himself.

"To my siblings thank you, I love you and you are amazing. You were strong taking care of our parents. Let us accept this as hard as it is, God will see us through, they will rise again. **Isaiah 41:10**," she concluded. Her brother Prince Mandlakhe echoed her. He also said they had accepted what had happened as God's will, something they couldn't change. "Please read **Luke 6:43**. Do not cry for us, cry for yourselves. Just position yourself well with God so that when your time comes, you are ready. We had hoped for creating more memories with Inkhosikati after attending her graduation. She was good hearted and spoke well of everyone," he said.

Different pastors also shared the Word of God comforting the family. These included Pastors Jinoh Nkambule, Senzo Hlatshwayo, Khanyiso Gamedze and more. They shared on different topics; God must be trusted, God's love and God shows up even in intense situations.

## PRAY FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY - INDVUNA GAMEDZE

**INDVUNA Gamedze asked the pastors to pray for the royal family as there had been frequent deaths in the past few months.**

He welcomed the people then apologised for not keeping time as they had minor hiccups with the funer-

al parlour. "Please continue preaching, praying and communicating with God so that He intervenes in the royal household and these deaths stop. Our sincere condolences to *sigodlo* and the entire family for this sad reality. You are welcome saints,"

he said.

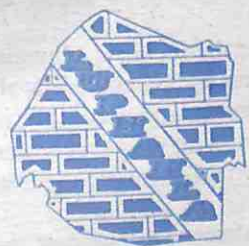
In addition, Sankolweni Chiefdom representative Indvuna Mdungazwe Matsebula urged the royal family to take care of Prince Sobandla's children as all their parents had passed on.

## Obituary:

**INKHOSIKATI LaKunene responded to the Lord's call on December 28 at the age of 45 years at Netcare Milpark Hospital after a short illness.**

She was born Makhosazana Kunene to the late Josiah Kunene and Martha Kunene (nee Mdluli). She attended her primary education at St. Florence then moved to Ndawandwe Secondary school before completing at Materdolorosa High School in 1990. The late Prince's wife obtained her first degree in 2002, a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) majoring in Financial Accounting, Somerset West in Cape Town. In 2019 April, she was conferred with her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) majoring in Management Finance by the University of Namibia. Through her discovering her academic excellence and the grace of God she enrolled for a degree in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) study case focusing on Southern African Customs Union (SACU). Between 2003 and 2008, she worked for FIPS as an auditor. In 2009, she worked as an Audit Examiner and served for four years. In 2013, at the AG's office, she was promoted to senior auditor operations manager where she led and engaged audit firms of different entities. She was also entrusted as a principal auditor every now and then, a position she served diligently. *Make* LaKunene loved God, was thirsty for knowledge, a devoted wife, a dedicated mother who raised an army of children. She looked after the late Prince Sobandla when he was sick until scales tilted and the prince had to look after her.

She lives behind her children, mother, siblings and a lot of people she considered family.



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## Three cars stolen over the weekend

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**THREE** cars were stolen in the country over the weekend.

The police are seeking assistance from the public in locating three cars that were stolen in the country on Saturday and Sunday.

The first car is a black BMW 116, registered SSD 799 CM and valued at E55 000. It was stolen while parked in a garage at St Mark's. It was stolen on Sunday at around 1630 hours.

Police are pleading with anyone who might have information which may lead to the arrest of the suspect(s) and recovery of the stolen motor vehicle to contact Hhohho Regional Crime Branch Officer Senior Superintendent Sikhubuzo Fakudze at 7603 7984, Desk Officer Assistant Superintendent Derrick Makhanya 7608 9712 or Mbabane Police at 2404 4122.

The second car stolen on the same day was a grey Mazda 3, registered NSD 251 AS. It is valued at E50 000 and was stolen while parked at the owner's home at Mzimnene in Manzini. A 42-year-old woman of Mzimnene discovered at 0500 hours that her car had been stolen.

Anyone who might have information which may lead to the arrest of the suspect(s) and recovery of the stolen motor vehicle can contact Manzini Regional Crime Branch Officer Senior Superintendent Clement Sihlongonyane at 7612 7994, Manzini Desk Officer Inspector Mphatsi Shabangu 7604 3738 or Manzini Police at 2505 2221.

The third car stolen on Saturday was a silver grey Toyota Voxy, registered XSD 173 CM. It is valued at E65 000 and belongs to a 29-year-old man of Gonco.

It was stolen while parked at Mathayeleni Compound in Big Bend.

Police are pleading with anyone who might have information which may lead to the arrest of the suspect(s) and recovery of the stolen motor vehicle to contact Big Bend Desk Officer Inspector Mandla Dlamini 7614 6446 or Big Bend Police at 2363 6416.

Deputy Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the crimes and said members of the public could also contact the emergency line for information which is 999 or 9999.

# MOTORISTS WARNED AGAINST DODGING NEW PARKING SYSTEM

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**MUNICIPAL Council of Manzini has issued a stern warning to motorists to refrain from attempting to cheat the new parking system as they would be caught.**

The new Manzini parking system has proven difficult to cheat as it recaps all outstanding fees owed by motorists whenever they sought parking within the city.

Motorists using the city's parking bays have been encouraged to ensure that they do not have outstanding parking fees as they

would have to clear them before qualifying to park within the city. Those who have cheated the new parking system by leaving without payment have reportedly had the shock of their lives upon return to the city as parking marshals with the aid of their gadgets reminded them of all their outstanding parking fees.

Motorists have taken to social media to warn one another to ensure that they have no outstanding fees.

One of such posts read, "One of these days ask the parking attendants in Manzini to check if your car has any outstanding fees, you

will be shocked as apparently you have to make sure before you leave that you have not been charged for additional time."

The parking system is monitored by Eswatini Parking whose offices are situated at Manzini Shopping Mall opposite the SNPF building.

Manzini Municipality Public Relations Officer Mathokoza Thwala said they have had reports whereby some motorists left their parking spots without paying whenever there was no parking marshal in the vicinity.

He however mentioned that whenever such motorists returned to the city, when scanning their

registration plates, it was discovered that they had outstanding fees.

### System

He said the system was designed in such a way that whenever a motorist utilised the parking space, the gadgets carried by the marshals recorded all the necessary details about that particular vehicle for monitoring.

He added the system was linked to a similar one in other cities such as Cape Town and Johannesburg in South Africa and Harare in Zimbabwe.

"If a motorist was to drive to these cities, they would be noti-

## SA Company wants Swazi Boy to release marquee, truck

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
High Court

**A South African company which had its truck and a marquee attached by SwaziBoy Entertainment stable has since made an urgent application in court to have its items released.**

The application by the company follows a move by Swazi Boy Entertainment stable which obtained an order to attach the truck and the marquee after the company delivered a wrong marquee to Swazi Boy Entertainment last week.

The marquee, according to Swazi Boy Entertainment Director Mthunzi Zwane, had been ordered to be used during the crossover party held at Esibayeni Lodge.

The matter appeared before Judge Maxine Langwenya yesterday. The company, Unlimited Fam has argued that the seizure of the items has had a detrimental effect to business since they are used for hire.

The company which is the applicant in the matter applied for an order compelling Swazi Boy to release the marquee and truck.

The argument was that the attached items did not belong to Lehlohonolo Moeketsi with whom Swazi Boy Entertainment made a deal with. It was submitted that Moeketsi had in turn leased the marquee and the truck from the applicant in his personal capacity.

Zwane, in his affidavit annexed in court papers,



**ATTACHED:** The inside of the decorated marquee SwaziBoy entertainment were not happy about after a South African company allegedly defrauded them.

stated that on December 12, Moeketsi concluded an agreement with SwaziBoy Entertainment. He alleged that in terms of the agreement SwaziBoy sourced for the provision of a marquee.

The director of SwaziBoy told the court that Unlimited Fam accepted the said offer, hence the agreement between them was concluded. However, yesterday proof that the truck and the marquee did not belong to Moeketsi was presented before court.

Linda Dlamini, who represents SwaziBoy Entertainment, argued that it was a deliberate stunt by the South African company and Moeketsi to defraud SwaziBoy Entertainment.

Dlamini pointed out in court that it was unfortunate because they had little time to go through the application made by the applicants in the matter to respond to the merits of the case. He asked to be given time so that he filed papers opposing the application.

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Magistrate's Court

**'DO not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals.'**

These wise words taken from the Book of Corinthians should resonate true for two friends who are facing trial after they were said to have committed two violent robberies last year.

Recalling the events of the fateful incident, Siyabonga Mtsetfwa claimed that he was making his way to the funeral of his late school-mate that evening, when he was attacked by two men.

"A friend of mine, who was also my

school-mate Sakhile Dube, told me that I would meet him by the Royal Kraal at Lobamba, so that we could walk together to a funeral.

As we walked towards the home-stead, I realised that we were being followed by two men that I did not recognise.

I quickened my pace as it was dark and unsafe for us," said Mtsetfwa.

Mtsetfwa claimed that the two men, quickened their pace too in

an attempt to catch up with them.

Mtsetfwa claimed that when he looked back again, he noticed one of the men was catching up with them, whereas the other had lagged far behind.

### Approached

"The duo approached us and asked where we were headed. We responded that we were attending our late schoolmate's funeral, while pointing at the home.

One of the suspects produced a bush knife, and started hurling

insults at us. He further ordered us to hand over our belongings, which we did. Dube managed to escape raising an alarm near where we were headed," Mtsetfwa recalled.

Mtsetfwa claimed that as he fled, the suspects started chasing after him, hurling insults at him.

"At that point there was nothing more I could do.

There was no way that I could fight for my belongings, as they were brandishing the bush knife, with the intention to hurt me. I

then decided to run away," he added.

After the incident, Mlungisi Dlamini and Sambulo Thwala were arrested and charged in connection with the robbery that occurred at Esitjeni on November 22.

In addition to that incident, the duo was further charged with having allegedly committed another robbery, where they were said to have threatened Mtsetfwa's friend, Sakhile Dube for his cell phone.

## Bad company corrupts good morals





fied of outstanding fees they have in the Kingdom and would be forced to clear them before being granted parking space," he said.

He said the parking fee for 30 minutes was E2.50 and whenever the 30 minutes lapsed, motorists would be expected to pay a top up fee of E2.50 to cover the next 30 minutes of parking even if they spent less than the allowed

time.

He said another option that has been introduced is called 'Umlamuleli' which enables motorists to purchase a pre-paid parking card at a cost of E50 once off.

#### Marshal

He said these cards could be purchased from any parking marshal around the city. "Once in possession of the card, a motorist would have

to load whatever amount they desired like airtime and recharge whenever the amount was used up."

He said this method charged E1.25 per 15 minutes and the card had to be put on display in the car's dashboard or windscreen for easy access for the marshals to scan. He encouraged motorists to utilise the service as it made parking more convenient.

## People want more transparency on E755m Global Fund allocation

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Mbabane

**PEOPLE feel that the E755 million Global Fund allocation that was recently announced will not fully serve its purpose.**

This was during street interviews randomly conducted recently. This was the general feeling as much as some differed.

Nontobeko Motsa wondered if the money would reach the affected persons and make the much needed difference in their lives. She said money had been misused in the past and not used for implementing what it was proposed for.

Motsa noted that Emaswati didn't know how to use money. She said when a funder injected money, it got finished even before it served its purpose as it would be spent on expenditure for accommodation in hotels and food in the name of training workshops.

"I can make a typical example of one institution (name withheld) which helps children. They orient teachers in workshops in these so called hotels but these teachers don't come back to share information or even help the beneficiaries.

My question is how does it benefit the children if they don't eventually get the much needed assistance from the money donated? Even in this regard, will the terms and conditions be met?" she wondered.

She suggested that the money should build TB centres all over the country so that patients can be quarantined, ARVs stock should be replenished, food bought for those who cannot afford.

In addition, Makhosazane Dlodlu said it was a norm that the country sought financial assistance and people's sicknesses were being used. However, those people don't get the help even if the money is made available.

Xolani Dlamini angrily said he didn't even want to justify this until they received their Cost of Living Adjustment. He said he was aware that some people would benefit but only a small sum of the money.

"Come to think of it, I can bet less than E200 million will reach the designated destination.

Then you ask yourself, what happens to the rest? No one will respond even if they are audited. What is the point then of even speaking about it?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Nombulelo Masondo said looking at the statistics of the decline in new infections and mother to child transmission of HIV; the allocation was justified, not unless of course the statistics are not a true reflection of the status in the kingdom.

She said even if not all the money would be used for the initial purpose, it had an impact no matter how little. "Taking TB and malaria into consideration; since the involvement of Global fund, the death rates have dropped.

As much as I appreciate this gesture, I also feel that the timing for the contribution was off side because of the instability in terms of strikes and disagreements between Public Sector Associations (PSAs) and the government.

#### Essential

Otherwise, the contribution in itself was essential since we are one of the key beneficiaries of the fund," she said.

Adding, Masondo said the amount will make a difference if allocated correctly; it has to depend on how each of the three epidemics affected the nation the most. Allocation may not be equal but it should be flexible to change when need arose.

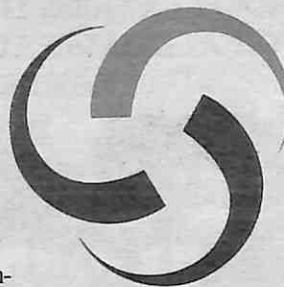
She said right now HIV was under control but Tuberculosis (TB) was not, that on its own should be considered when allocating the money within the country.

Mbongiseni Simelane on the other hand, said the amount will make a big difference in the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria.

He said the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and all other stakeholders should come up with robust programmes that will seek to reinforce the mitigation of sporadic effects of the three diseases.

He also said the contribution of US\$ 6 million by the King in France was a good move which indicated the country's commitment in fighting these diseases.

"It was justified to some extent. This is because it was like an investment that was fruitful with the US\$ 54 million (E755 million) received," he added.



**OPTIMISTIC:**  
Guardian Mandisa  
Kunene.



**PRESSURE:**  
Ncobile Dlamini.



**CONFIDENT:**  
Kuyenzeka  
Matsebula.

## Expectations high for JC results

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO  
Mbabane

**AHEAD of the announcement of the Junior Certificate (JC) examination results tomorrow, parents, guardians and pupils are confident that the results will be much better than those of last year.**

Welcome Motsa, who is a parent, said he hoped for improvement, stating that pupils in the country were capable.

Motsa said despite schools in rural areas which normally lacked certain equipment, he hoped the pupils still thrived to be the best in the country.

"I think there have been very little interruptions compared to 2018 as the country was proactive despite the slight strike, so I can say that we have learnt from our previous mistakes and we can only wish the pupils the best," said Motsa.

He further thanked teach-

ers and appreciated their efforts, stating that they were all products of teachers who always went the extra mile to teach and conduct extra classes.

Mandisa Kunene was of the view that the urban schools were most likely to thrive due to resources like the internet, which the schools in rural areas are not exposed to.

#### Motivation

Ncobile Dlamini, who is awaiting her results, said the pressure was now on and that they could only hope for the best.

The 15-year-old said despite her late nights and early morning study sessions nothing was certain.

"I am not saying I might fail but I just don't want to get hurt when the results come out," she said.

16-year-old Kuyenzeka Matsebula, said she was pretty confident that her upcoming results would be good, stating that she and her friends worked rather hard during the

exams.

"We had study sessions at the Library and because we were a group, we helped each other.

I am although anxious and nervous but I also trust what I wrote," said the pupil.

Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard Mabuza is expected to announce the Junior Certificate (JC) examination results tomorrow, while media houses are scheduled to publish on Thursday.

Last year's number of candidates who registered for the 2018 junior certificate examination was seen to be the highest since the year 2009, yet worst in 10 years.

Mabuza stated in last year's press release that the number of candidates who had passed in the 2018 examinations was 15 045 reflecting a pass rate of 81.07 per cent which was a decrease of 0.25 per cent when compared to the 2017 pass rate which stood at 81.32 per cent.

### LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **27 JANUARY 2020** starting at **10.30am**.

#### Region LUBOMBO

1. **MADVODZA C. MAMBA**, P. O. Box 1 **SITHOBELA** renewal of a **WINE & MALT** Liquor Licence situated at **SITHOBELA** known as **SITHOBELA WINE AND MALT**.

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD  
P.O. BOX 451  
MBABANE

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It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **27 JANUARY 2020** starting at **10.00am**.

#### Region LUBOMBO

1. **SIPHO SIKHWEHLE**, P. O. Box 1 **SITHOBELA** grant of a **WINE & MALT** Liquor Licence situated at **SITHOBELWENI, LUHLANYENI** known as **ONLY FRESH BAR**.

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD  
P.O. BOX 451  
MBABANE



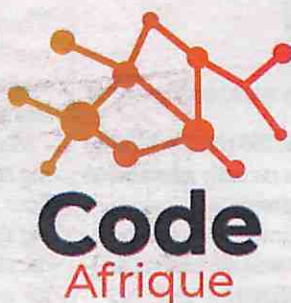
# GOOGLE, FACEBOOK SPONSORS CODING BOOT-CAMP FOR YOUTH

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

SILICON Valley's finest Google and Facebook are among the sponsors for the upcoming Code Afrique coding boot-camp for high school and university students in Eswatini.

The Code Afrique coding boot-camp which will be held this week Thursday and Friday, seeks to introduce high school and university students into the world of computer science and its vast potential for development in the era of technology.

The Code Afrique team was invited to Eswatini by The Knowledge



Institute in partnership with the Eswatini Foundation for STEM Education.

The Royal Eswatini Science and Technology Park and the Eswatini Bridge Project are participating local technology industry organisations,

whilst the venue is sponsored by IDM. Other sponsors besides Google and Facebook are the ACM, BBN, VMware and Cornell University.

Co-founder of the Knowledge Institute Thandolwethu Dlamini explained their plans for the two-day boot camp. "The first day will be for introducing the students to basic programming skills and giving them the chance to try their hands on some programming exercises.

## Discussion

There will also be talks by Cornell University Professor Hakim Weatherspoon and Professor Robert Vanresse, and the day will end of with a networking session.

On the second day there will be a panel discussion with the Code Afrique team and a presentation of an introduction to web and app development.

Students will be given the opportunity to ask panel members questions and design a basic website using HTML, PHP, and CSS," he said.

## Impact

Dlamini said The Knowledge Institute and its stakeholders hoped to impart knowledge on coding, other computer skills, and further explained how coding could impact the ailing Eswatini economy.

"We hope that the participants will be equipped with foundational knowl-

edge on how to write code in python and also learn about opportunities that exist for them to apply their computing skills in various industries.

In terms of economic impact, the economy is becoming digitised daily and people with coding skills can drive problem solving in various industries through their coding skills.

Moreover, coding is the basic skill that software developers possess and software developers are sought after all over the world. There are numerous opportunities for learning, employment and entrepreneurship and this is all good for the economy of Eswatini," said Dlamini. 220 participants split between high school and college/university students are expected to participate and registration is already closed.

Top performing participants are going to be awarded with laptops on the last day.

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Nothando Zwane

EGD- 72 (6)  
Geography- 76 (6)  
English HL- 75 (6)  
Life Orientation- 85 (7)  
Life Sciences- 76 (6)  
Mathematics- 77 (6)  
SiSwati HL- 87 (7)



Phiwa Shongwe

Business Studies-75 (6)  
Geography- 70 (6)  
English HL- 71 (6)  
Life Orientation- 75 (6)  
Life Sciences- 76 (6)  
Maths Lit. - 86 (7)  
SiSwati HL- 76 (6)



Mbali Tsabendze

Agric Science- 70 (6)  
Geography- 75 (6)  
English HL- 71 (6)  
Life Orientation- 82 (7)  
Life Sciences- 74 (6)  
SiSwati HL- 84 (7)



Wakhile Mkhabela

EGD- 82 (7)  
English HL- 70 (6)  
Life Orientation- 76 (6)  
Life Sciences- 76 (6)  
Mathematics- 71 (6)  
SiSwati HL- 77 (6)

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DOC.20979

## Man demands audience with principal magistrate

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

MEMBERS of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) had to escort an elderly man out of the Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday morning after he demanded an audience with Principal Magistrate David Khumalo.

The man, who was only identified as Nxumalo, arrived at around 10am at the Registry department where he was assisted by clerks of the court.

When he stated his reason for the meeting with the principal magistrate, he informed the clerks that he wanted to discuss something with Khumalo. Even so, Nxumalo said during his last visit to the court, he was told by the magistrate to return to court next Tuesday.

Worth noting is that Nxumalo's nephew has a pending rape case before the principal magistrate. However, yesterday, he said he wanted to talk to the principal magistrate about a matter, involving some people who had damaged his fence at his home.

After being told that the principal magistrate was engaged at the time, Nxumalo made further demands, citing that what he had to talk about was urgent so he would

“

Worth noting is that Nxumalo's nephew has a pending rape case before the principal magistrate. However, yesterday, he said he wanted to talk to the principal magistrate about a matter, involving some people who had damaged his fence at his home



## KOMBI LOSES CONTROL AT MBABANE GOLF COURSE



**INTO THE BUSH:** This kombi landed on this position after its driver lost control due to a faulty braking system at the Golf Course traffic circle yesterday morning. Passengers were rushed to the Mbabane Government Hospital. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



**BROKEN:** The passenger's door was also damaged during accident.



**BRAVE:** A traffic police officer recording a statement from the driver.



**I WANT TO SEE HIM:** The man identified as Nxumalo with police officers outside Manzini Magistrate's Court. (Pic: Bongiwe Dlamini)

not leave until he had met Khumalo.

Noting that Nxumalo seemed dissatisfied with the responses by several of the clerks, the Chief Clerk Khetsiwe Dlamini also attempted to reason with the senior citizen, and asked him to return on the set date.

Still unhappy, the man pretended to understand what he was being told, only for him to storm the magistrates' chambers where he demanded to be allowed entry into the principal magistrate's chambers. The receptionist stationed just outside the chambers is said to have tried to tell Nxumalo that he could not go into the chambers, much to the man's frustration so he bellowed.

Fearing for the magistrate's safety, police officers had to be called to escort the man out of the court premises. Even then, Nxumalo gave the officers of the law a tough time as he gave conflicting reasons for his demand to see the principal magistrate.

After a lengthy verbal altercation with the officers, Nxumalo was told to report his matter to the police or even take it up the hierarchy if need be, and forced out of the premises.

# 6 FOR E65

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## PUBLIC THRILLED RESULTS WILL NO LONGER BE PUBLISHED IN MEDIA

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

THE public has come out to laud the decision by Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza to stop releasing Eswatini Primary Certificate and Junior Certificate results through mass media.

The minister announced the decision during a press conference last week when releasing the 2019 Eswatini Primary Certificate (EPC) results.

The topic was abuzz on popular social media platform Facebook as most users were also for the idea.

"This has been long overdue I don't even understand why we have been doing this because the trauma the children go through is unimaginable.

And the worst part is that these are very young children, to have all their dirty linen out in the open for all relatives and friends to see was never a good idea at all," said one user.

Another user who identified himself as a trained therapist also echoed this point. "I can definitely say it's lauded that government has taken a step towards this direction. It was never a good idea from the first place to have these children's business put up for all to see just like that.

Personally, I have a nephew who couldn't even eat knowing that the results would be released and all his age-mates here at home were going to see just how



LAUDED: Minister of Education Lady Howard-Mabuza.

well or bad she had performed.

I felt sorry for the poor child and asked myself when this thing would be sorted, so I'm really happy to hear about this, said the second user.

On the other hand, the minister mentioned that government had noted the negative consequences of publicising the results.

"Let me alert the nation that in due course, we will be issuing a notice informing the nation that the publicising of the

external exam results will no longer be made going forward.

We are progressing and it has come to our attention that publicising the results is not the right thing as it has dire consequences," she said.

Notably, during the press conference, the minister was quick to state that the decision had been taken without the involvement of other stakeholders, but stated nonetheless that they would be informed about the latest developments.

## Man pleads not guilty to drink-driving

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man spent a night behind bars after being nabbed for driving under the influence of alcohol.

During his trial Mfundu Mavimbela is said to have refused to provide police officers with his breath specimen, an act which made police officers suspect he was guilty.

According to evidence given before the court by one police officer identified as Magongo, Mavimbela was defiant during his arrest.

"We attempted to stop Mavimbela by flicking police lights an indication that we wanted him to pull over by the side of the road.

He continued driving, until we blocked his way," Magongo testified.

Magongo stated that even after he was nabbed, when Mavimbela was ordered to conduct a breathalyser test, he did not take the exercise seriously.

"He pretended to blow into the device several times, and after some time we decided he was not taking the whole exercise seriously.

He then resisted arrest, stating that he wanted to sleep at home," Magongo stated.

Stated

When giving his defense, Mavimbela stated that he did not think it was a police van indicating for him to pull over, that day.

I only realised that it was police officers when the van blocked my

way.

With the breathalyser test, I blew into the alcometer the way I was instructed to do so by the police officers, to the extent that one of the officers commented that I was blowing into it as if I wanted to break it," Mavimbela recalled, much to the amusement of the court.

Mavimbela was given an opportunity to parade his own witness, who was identified as Ntshalintshali. Ntshalintshali corroborated Mavimbela's statement, stating that he had only asked Mavimbela to pick him up from a local watering hole after work.

"We were chatting along the way, when we saw a random car flicking its lights at us.

We did not know it was a police vehicle until it pulled up in front of us and blocked our way.

I was definitely already drunk, but I remember every detail from that night," Ntshalintshali stated.

**He pretended to blow into the device several times, and after some time we decided he was not taking the whole exercise seriously**

## MVUTJINI CARE POINT ADDS SIX MORE CHILDREN

BY DELISA THWALA  
Mbabane

AUDREY Mabilisa, who is the founder of a care point at Mvutjini, has added six more children under her care.

Mabilisa said the children meant a lot to her and the more she can care for the better.

"I want to see smiles on their faces and have good time with as many children I can think of, hence my decision to take in six more children in the care point. As long as my budget allows I will do it," said Mabilisa.

She said she was in need of clothes, toys, food and any other materials that

could help the children have a normal day at the care point. "I have been through a lot myself and need to restore the spirit of giving. I used to look after 22 children and now I will have 28," explains Mabilisa.

The care point is located in the heart of Mvutjini and the children usually start arriving at 8am leaving at noon. Not only are they fed but they are clothed, given mind lifting tasks and plenty of play time which allows them to be open and carefree.

When randomly asked, the children mentioned that things like toys, ice cream, new shoes make them enjoy being at the care point.

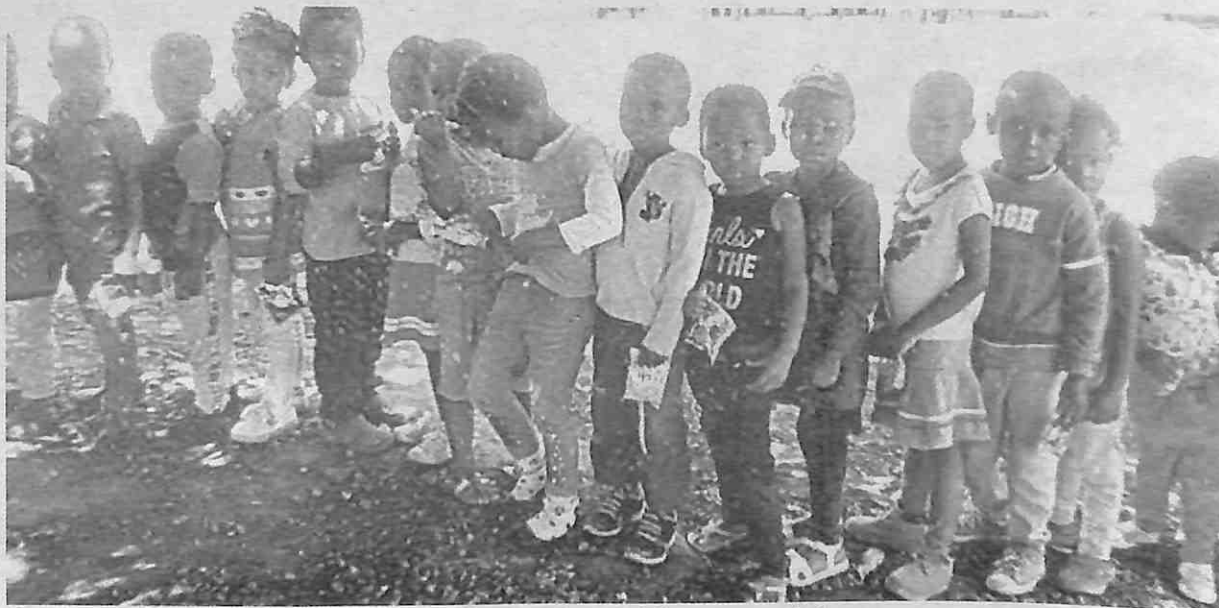
Mabilisa recently opened up about

abuse she endured at the hands of her boyfriend for many years.

Her reason for opening up, she said was the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign' which commenced on November 25 ending December 10.

"I took charge of my life and since I needed something to focus on this care point came about, now all I ask is for the public to help me make sure the children get a decent start in life," closes Mabilisa.

Those willing to help can visit the care point which is open everyday and has someone by the gate waiting for the donations.



Some of the children who spend their mornings at the care point.

## Man charged with statutory rape granted E50 000 bail

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
High Court

A 29-year-old man from Mhlabatsini has been granted E50 000 bail by the High Court after he was charged with statutory rape.

Chawe Theophilous Dlamini (29) was arrested by police on January 2 at Malkerns.

He appeared at the Manzini Magistrate's Court on charges of statutory rape which falls under the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act (SODV).

According to the charge sheet on December 14, at Luyengo the accused person had sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old child.

It was stated that according to the law the 15-year-old was incapable in law of appreciating the nature of the sexual act.

Dlamini applied for bail at the High Court.

When motivating for his bail Dlamini submitted that he intends to plead not guilty to the charge.

Dlamini said exceptional circumstances existed for his release in custody.

He said being in custody had become intolerable as he now suffered from severe headaches and was exposed to pneumonia due to the cold jail cell as there were not enough blankets.

Dlamini further submitted that he looked after his sickly mother back home as all his siblings were away at work.

The accused person was eventually granted bail by the High Court fixed at E50 000.

He was ordered to pay E4 000 cash and provide the remaining E46 000 in a form of surety.





# TV MAN SUFFERS SERIOUS HEAD INJURIES AFTER ASSAULT

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man has suffered serious head injuries at the hands of men he considered his brothers.

Eswatini TV senior technician Ncamiso Tsabedze narrated to the court that he still did not know why Leonard and Ncedo Sithole assaulted him severely.

"I have watched both men grow up before my eyes. I would at times give them lifts to school. What happened that day has scarred me for life. My doctor informed me that I might lose my eyesight," a teary Tsabedze stated. Relaying the tragic events that took place on October 26, 2019 at Ntabande, Tsabedze recalled that he had sent one of his children on an errand when the Sithole men passed by a van.

"As my child was waiting for them to pass so that he could cross the road, one of the accused started hurling insults at him, and told him to pass the insults to me. Fortunately for me, I was nearby so I heard all the insults. I was shocked. However, they managed to get away before I could con-



LAW: Mbabane Magistrate's Court entrance.

front them," Tsabedze recalled.

Tsabedze stated he only confronted them the next day when he met them by the river which is situated about 500 metres from his home. "I approached them and asked what I had done wrong for them to insult not only me but my child, and they were unable to give me a satisfactory answer. 'This must have angered them, as Leonard alighted from the van brandishing a metre long iron

pipe. He threatened to assault me with a pipe. 'That was when I took flight, as I could see that the argument was quickly turning violent,' he stated. According to Tsabedze, the Sithole men chased and caught him. "I managed to grab the iron pipe from them. However, before I could do anything, I felt a hard knock in the back of my head. That was when I lost consciousness, only to wake up hours later," he stated.

## We acted in self-defence - brothers

WHEN given an opportunity to cross examine Ncamiso Tsabedze's statement before the court, Leonard Sithole disclosed that they had a long-standing feud with complainant.

"Do you remember that you came to us one day, while brandishing a bush knife? You told us that you were ready to mobilize your friends from Matsapha, and we should get ours so we could fight?"

"The feud we have with you is not new, you know exactly why that happened that day. We had to defend ourselves from you, as you looked ready to use your bush knife," Leonard stated. Leonard added that before the incident that occurred that day, Tsabedze had once threatened the brothers with a gun.

Leonard and Ncedo Sithole were arrested and charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily

harm. They allegedly assaulted Tsabedze with stones in his head.

Tsabedze is said to have sustained several head injuries, which he described in court as lifelong injuries.

"I am not even sure whether I will be able to return to work, as I sustained three head fractures, internal injuries and spinal cord injuries. I was admitted to Mbabane Clinic for two weeks, then which I was transferred to Medisun Clinic. I was admitted for almost a month," Tsabedze added.

## Leaders must accept criticism - Bishop Masilela

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

CONFERENCE of Churches President Bishop Steven Masilela says leaders should not be afraid to be criticised as they go about their duties.

Masilela was speaking during an all-night event hosted by the Voice of the Church at Mavuso Trade Centre over the weekend.

He was speaking on the importance of praying for leaders from all spheres of life. He said it was important for Christians to pray for their leaders.

He said the prayers should not only be for religious leaders, but should also be extended to the country's leaders from Their Majesties to Parliament and chiefs.

"It is important to pray for our leaders because if we don't pray for them,

the country is likely to lose its peace and stability," he said.

However, Masilela said it was not easy to pray for leadership because it not everyone was satisfied with it. He added that every leader had a challenge of satisfying everyone as some might dislike their style of leadership.

### Criticise

The bishop said even in church, leaders were not liked by everyone and were constantly judged by congregates and people in general. "They will criticise you.

Even after death; they will have something to say even about your coffin," he said.

Therefore, he urged leaders not to be discouraged as they carried out their leadership duties because they would be criticised constantly.

He added that leadership was not easy as it requires a degree of patience.

## ... 'LOVE AND PRAYER GO TOGETHER'

BISHOP Steven Masilela has stated that one needs to love the leaders first before praying for them.

He said one cannot pray for someone he or she does not like. He quoted the book of John in the Bible when he was sent by God to Nineveh, but instead he went to Tarshish. "As we pray for our leaders, we must understand that we need to love them first because you cannot pray for someone you do not love," he said.

He added that the nation should learn to love and appreciate their leaders because they were responsible for making decisions about everyone's life. He further pleaded with the nation to also pray for them to repent from their sins and serve the living God. He pleaded that prayers should not only be limited to the country's leaders, but leaders all over the world should be filled with the power of the gospel so as to they make sound decisions as they lead.

Masilela said it was high time Christians claimed positions which were perceived



LOVE AND PRAYER: Some of those who attended the all-night service at Mavuso Trade Centre.

to be unholy and change them. He said once Christians succeed in those positions, the nation would start to believe in the power and existence of God. "No one can stop the gospel and no one can hinder the gospel and the gospel has power to reach everywhere and everyone. We need to change our attitude and pray for their salvation. We also need to pray for the decisions they make

letters which were first reported by Station Manager Thamsanqa Mndzebele to be withdrawn from our personal files since they have a great possibility to tarnish our future progression to apparent within the fire station," read the letter.

The shop steward said they cannot sit and relax while there were letters filed unlawfully by a manager who was out to spite them. He added that the absenteeism letters have a great potential of ruining their future within the organisation and outside.

### Promotions

He made an example that should there be a room for promotions, there was a possibility that they might not be considered for such positions because of the false letters of absenteeism.

"Therefore, we humbly request for your intervention before the 13th of January 2020. Should this fall on deaf ears, will be left with no alternative but to take legal action to clear these false accusations and victimisation from the station officer of Lobamba fire station," he said.

The officers said they were still awaiting a response from Ndzimandze before next Monday, after which, the workers would take legal action to clear their name.

## Senior officers against recent reshuffle

FOLLOWING the recent reshuffle announced on December 24, 2019, some of the affected managers are not pleased with the changes.

Highly placed sources said some of the reshuffled senior officers were refusing to move, saying they would not leaving their place of work. Worth noting is that the reshuffle will be effective as of next Monday.

It is alleged that the managers stated that National Chief Firefighter Jabulani Ndzimandze should have

acted on the Lobamba Fire Station matter and the other affected fire stations, not everyone.

### Formal

Meanwhile, the chief firefighter said as nothing formal was communicated to him by the affected managers.

However, the junior officers, through NAPSAWU, appreciated the chief officer's reshuffle and promised improvement of service delivery. "Let us appreciate your positive response to the demands we made to your office," they stated.

because they have to be acceptable in the eyes of the Lord. This also goes to Parliament. They should make decisions that will elevate the country's two-faced status".

"This will only be possible if we pray. Some laws passed by Parliament should be stopped if they are ungodly and lack morals. This can only be possible through prayers," he added.



# SA MAN NABBED WITH E30 000 UNDECLARED CASH

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Magistrate's Court

A South African man nabbed with close to E30 000 (which was in Rands) in undeclared cash at Ngwenya Border claims to have simply 'forgotten' to declare the money.

Nathi Dlamini (29) of Nkomazi, South Africa is said to have been travelling from South Africa into the Kingdom of Eswatini on December 31, through the Ngwenya

Border Post.

Dlamini was said to be driving a silver grey Toyota, when an immigration official stopped his vehicle to conduct a random routine search, where she discovered the undeclared cash.

According to court records, Dlamini is said to have failed to report to Eswatini Revenue Authority (ERA) officers and to the police that he had money amounting to R29 902 in South African currency in his possession at the point of entry.

He was then arrested and charged

for contravening the Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (Prevention) Act of 2011.

## Representation

Dlamini appeared before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu, where he exercised his right to legal representation, as he was represented by a lawyer, who pleaded with the court to grant his client bail on his own recognisance.

The lawyer, stated that Dlamini was a liSwati national and that he had no reason to leave the coun-

try, as his family was based in the Kingdom.

On the other hand, the prosecution led by Senior Crown Counsel Christopher Sibandze made an application in terms of Section 52 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, for E9 000 of the E29 902 found in Dlamini's possession to be detained, an application which the court duly granted.

Dlamini was further remanded back into custody until January 13, 2020 for setting of his trial date.

## Nhlangano Central Primary principal lauded for impressive results

BY STARSKY MKHONTA  
Nhlangano

**NHLANGANO Central Primary Principal Nomsa Nkambule has received accolades for helping the school attain impressive Standard Five results.**

The school which is located in the heart of the notorious and densely populated Mathendele Township recorded a relatively impressive performance in the 2019 external examination as it also had a pupil listed in the top 10 in Bukhosibetfu Yenzile Matse who attained a 77 per cent aggregate.

Nhlangano Central Primary is one of the schools with a highest enrolment in the region and last year a total of 118 pupils sat for the examination and all of them have passed.

Overall, the school had six merits, 18 first class, 90 second class and four third class passes with no failures, these results make the school one of the top performing schools in the Shiselweni region.

Nkambule took over from Vivian Kunene who has since retired. Mathendele Township elders have thanked Nkambule making the community proud.

Pat Gamedze said as elders, they were following all activities of the school including academic performance.

Gamedze said as the township was known to be notorious, the school's performance has however marketed them well.

## Man 'tempted', breaks into woman's home

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Magistrate's Court

A man admitted before court that pure greed led to him stealing.

Phumlani Shongwe was arrested and charged with housebreaking with intent to steal and theft, as he is said to have broken into Nomvula Mnisi's house and stole items worth E3 000.

According to court records, Shongwe is said to have committed the offence on December 30, at Manzana.

The items stolen by Shongwe are said to have been a Samsung cell phone worth E1 500, a

Mint cell phone worth E250 and a radio valued at E300 amongst other items.

It was also ascertained that Shongwe had been charged with an additional charge of assault common, as he is said to have, on December 15, at Manzana, assaulted one Abel Mkhabela several times with open hands.

During his appearance before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini on Sunday, Shongwe explained that he was driven by temptation to steal from Mnisi's home.

"I am not a criminal however, on that day I saw the items lying idle from the window and thought of my own financial challenges hence I stole the items.

In respect of the assault common charge, the community police from the area have since sat Mkhabela and I down, and we have managed to resolve our issues.

He has forgiven me for having assaulted him, and I hope that the court can also consider this fact when meting its sentence," Shongwe pleaded.

After hearing his mitigation, Shongwe was sentenced to serve two years in prison, with an option to pay a fine of E2 000 for housebreaking.

For assault common, he was sentenced to pay a fine of E500, and in default of payment serve five months in prison.

## I could have beaten 'Manyovu' to a pulp - assaulted man

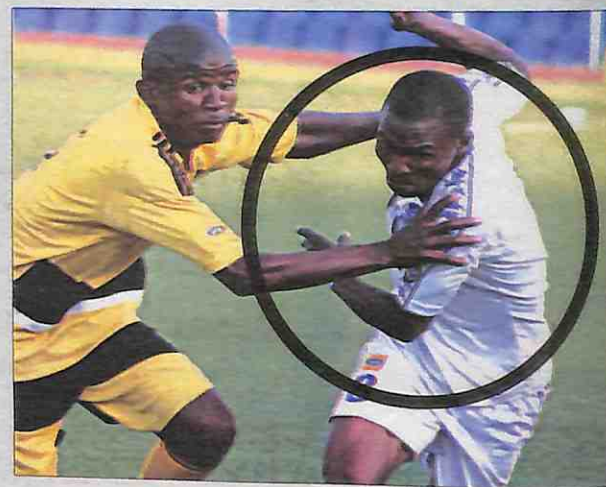
BY STARSKY MKHONTA  
Nhlangano

THE man who was allegedly assaulted by a Royal Leopard striker at Lavumisa says he could have beaten the player to a pulp, had he not contained himself and retaliated.

Bheki Zwane (57) was assaulted by the soccer player Bonginkosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini (29) who is also a police officer by whipping him with a sjambok (*imvubu*) several times on his body while at a filling station at Lavumisa in December last year.

"He should thank his ancestors that I was able to control myself and not retaliate. I could have beaten him to a pulp for humiliating me in public," Zwane said.

He said he had all the chances of dealing with Dlamini but as someone who was aware of how that could taint his reputation, he decided not to fight back. Zwane who is from Somntongo is as a transport



**WASINDZA: Royal Leopard striker Bonginkosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini**


operator based in South Africa. On the day in question, he had gone home for a special family gathering. Zwane was attacked by 'Manyovu' on December 28 after Zwane requested him (Manyovu) to reverse his car to give way as he wanted to leave because the queue to the pumps was too long.

Zwane was in the company of his brother Mphiwa when Dlamini decided to whip him claiming he didn't like the way he talked to

him when making the request.

The soccer player appeared at the Nhlangano Magistrate's Court for the assault charge and Zwane stressed that worse could have happened had he retaliated by fighting him back.

He stated that all what came to his mind was his family, business and the fact that the special family gathering was in memory of their late father, hence everything could have been spoilt as he could have ended up in jail.



ESWATINI GOVERNMENT

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

RFI NUMBER : 121 OF 2019/2020

#### FOR THE PROVISION OF TSC ELECTRONIC FILE AND RECORDS MANGEMENT SYSTEM

The Ministry of education and Training is interested in soliciting information from potential suppliers for the provision of TSC Electronic File and Records Management System.

The Ministry of Education and Training now hereby invites qualified vendors to submit a Request for Information (RFI) to participate in an upcoming competitive procurement exercise for the above mentioned services. The Request for Information (RFI) document can be obtained at The Ministry of Education and Training, Secretary to Executive Secretary, TSC and through the government website ([www.gov.sz](http://www.gov.sz)) at no cost.

The key requirements for the business to be involved in service are : Companies shall provide key technical people with relevant skills in a variety of skills that include BUT are not limited to Information Technology . Bidding companies shall also provide proof of similar projects in other countries and or systems. Proprietors shall also provide technical specifications of what they wish to provide and how this would be provided . The description of the technology may include any equipment that the proprietor would provide in furtherance of the job description. Vendors may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The evaluation will follow the Public Procurement Regulations, 2008, be competitive and result in a 'short listing' of vendors . Following this process, it is the intention to invite the short listed vendors to provide proposals for the requested services.

All documents should be labeled according to the stipulated requirements and translation of the same into English Language.

The Request for Information (RFI) should be deposited in the Treasury Tender Box situated at Treasury Building, MBABANE at the latest by 17 January 2020 and 9:00am. Late applications will not be considered.

The envelop must be clearly marked: Request for information for The Provision of TSC electronic file and records management systems) The Secretary to the National Tender Board , Treasury Building," RFI No: 121 of 2019/2020

Failure to submit requested documents and mark the envelope clearly and accurately will result in rejection of the application.

Requests for the clarifications, must be in writing in English Language , should be addressed to the following: Executive Secretary, Teaching Service Commission , Hospital Hill Road, [tsc@gov.sz](mailto:tsc@gov.sz) 268 24045134/+ 268 2404 4351

**BETRAM B. STEWART**  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

DOC 2942



# ACCIDENT VICTIM DEMANDS E20 000 'COMPENSATION'

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Magistrate's Court

A motorist has been left confused after the woman whose car he bumped, is now seeking over E20 000 from him.

Relaying his version of events to the court, Dumsani Shiba stated that he bumped into another vehicle at Nkhamba in November.

"After the accident occurred, the woman whose vehicle I bumped into disappeared before I could get her contact details.

However, I was able to get them from police officers at a later date. The strange thing is that, when I

approached her the first time, she told me that she was not bumped by me. Instead, she thought that she was bumped by a man driving a van," Shiba explained.

Shiba recalled that he relayed the woman's version of events to police officers, who told him that he had to appear before the court, thus summoning him.

"After some time, the woman changed her tune and started demanding that I pay her E20 000 in damages for her vehicle, even though she had stated that I was not the one who caused the accident.

I am left confused over this whole matter, and I am pleading with the court to allow me to repair her vehi-

cle using my own contacts, as I believe that she is conning me," he stated.

Shiba was said to have been driving a Toyota quantum when the accident occurred. He was later charged with negligent driving, as he failed to keep a safe following distance, and failed to apply his brakes.

## Explanation

Upon hearing his explanation, Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini stated that the woman was taking him for granted, especially because they were meant to sit down and discuss a way forward.

"You are already facing criminal charges, as you were negligent in the manner you were driving. Issues of compensation should not be handled

in that manner.

Rather, seek quotations from various repair shops so that you have a clear idea of how to repair her vehicle.

Do not let her take advantage of you," the judicial officer warned.

After warning Shiba, the court sentenced him to serve three months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E400.

In another matter, a man who has 25 years driving experience, claimed he did not know what led to his vehicle overturning at Maguga.

Steven Dlamini was said to have been driving his Chevrolet when he failed to negotiate a corner at Maguga, causing his vehicle to overturn.

## TRAFFIC WARRANTS ISSUED:

1. Sicelo Mncina
2. Sibusiso Shongwe
3. Bongani Shongwe
4. Zakhele Makhanya
5. Thulani Maseko

Fortunately for Dlamini, he escaped with minor injuries.

"Your Worship, I am pleading for just a warning as I am an experienced driver and I do not understand what went wrong that day," Dlamini pleaded.

After hearing his mitigation, Dlamini was sentenced to four months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E500. His sentence was suspended for a period of two years, on condition that he was not to commit any traffic offences during that period.

Sabelo Thwala was also charged with negligent driving for bumping into a parked vehicle at Ngwenya on December 17.

After finding him guilty as per his own plea, Thwala was sentenced to pay a fine of E500 and in default of payment, serve four months in prison.

## 'Rapist father should face 33 counts not nine'

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

THE Zionist father who allegedly repeatedly raped his three daughters over a three-year period should be facing more than 33 counts of rape instead of nine.

This is according to police officers handling the matter following the arrest of the Zionist father. The name of the girl's father has been deliberately withheld to protect his daughters aged between 24 and 18.

The rapes occurred at Buhleni between 2016 and 2019. The incident only came to light after the Buhleni police received an anonymous tip off where the alleged perpetrator was arrested.

It is alleged he would ask his daughters to bath him before proceeding to rape them on numerous occasions.

The police said the current charge sheet at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court needed to be amended to include more rape counts against the accused father.

"The charge sheet that is at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court should be amended as the victims were raped more than 33 times by their father over a three-year period.

Unfortunately, the accused father has legal counsel and his lawyer may not allow the amendment of the charge sheet."

Additional information is very important pertaining to rape cases as each rape is recorded as a count meaning if the father is convicted of only nine counts of rape his sentence will be lighter than that of 33 counts of rape," they said.

The police added that public prosecutors at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court should work hand in hand with the investigating officers.

When drawn for comment Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer (DPICO) Nosipho Mnguni said investigating officers in a matter were allowed to amend a charge sheet by instructing Crown counsel.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### UPWARD REVISION OF STATUTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

All employers are notified that the ceiling amount of wages for the purposes of statutory contributions of the Fund is increased from **E2,700** to **E2,900** per month bringing the maximum contribution per employee per month to **E290 (E145:E145)**. The statutory increase of the ceiling upon which statutory contributions can be calculated is in line with section 14 and 15 of the **SNPF order No 23 of 1974**.

The statutory contribution increase will come into effect **1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**, a contribution table is available on the **ENPF website (www.snpf.co.sz/forms)**.

By Managment

REAL MEN DON'T  
**RAPE!**

ESWATINI NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND



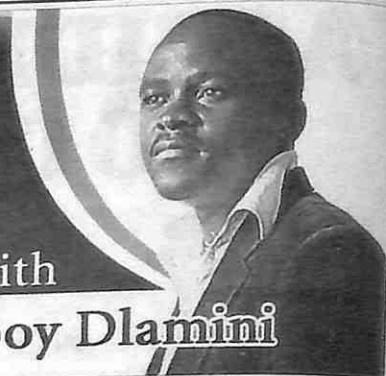
## LUBOMBO NEWS

Siteki Office

Siteki Market Offices, 2343 5779  
Office No: 15Cell: 7643 6549  
Email: observersiteki@realnet.co.sz

...With

Wonderboy Dlamini



# Siteki Town Council records safe, crime free festive season

**THE Siteki Town Council has commended residents and visitors of the town for good behaviour which translated to the town recording a safe and crime free festive season as there were no incidents of violence.**

The central town in the region has over the past two weeks been a hive of activity as members of the public were busy shopping in preparation for the festive holidays.

During such times, criminals also take advantage and pounce on unsuspecting members of the public.

Prior to the holidays, Siteki Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane urged members of the public to act responsibly and avoid engaging in criminal activities. Speaking during an inter-

view yesterday, Simelane reported that the festive season had been a safe one for them, with less incidents reported.

Simelane attributed this to vigilant police officers under the Crime Prevention Unit, who issued precautions to members of the public.

## Behaved

The town clerk noted that residents and visitors of the town behaved accordingly, something that also saw businesses running smoothly.

Simelane said the council was also happy that members of the public adhered to warnings issued by the council.

"This year there were no complaints of residents engaging in unbecoming behavior and disturbing others in res-

idential areas," she said.

Meanwhile, Simelane said the town would intensify on programmes meant at ensuring environmental and social safety.

She said the council would use this programme to get the contribution of residents in the development of the town.

The town clerk said the council was looking forward to a clean and well managed town that would attract tourists.

The town also acts as a conduit for tourists between neighbouring Mozambique and South Africa.

For this reason, Simelane said residents and businesses must ensure that the environment was kept clean and friendly at all times.

## Livestock theft drops during festive season

**THE level of livestock theft in areas around Siteki is said to have decreased over the past two weeks.**

The festive season, over the years, would record an increased number of stolen livestock. Some of the stolen cattle would be recovered in neighbouring Mozambique and South Africa. Lugongolweni community police leader Kaizer Mathonsi said even though there had been some cattle that had been reported stolen, the number had decreased when compared to the previous year.

Mathonsi attributed the decline to the cooperation of farmers who adhered to precautions issued by police.

He noted that farmers kept their cattle safe, with only a few loitering unguarded.

## Urged

On another note, Mathonsi urged farmers to keep their livestock away from maize fields this farming season. Some farmers are said to have complained that livestock farmers let their goats and cattle graze on their fields, destroying their crops in the process.

## Mphundle parents laud for teachers on impressive results

**PARENTS at Mphundle Primary School have lauded the principal and teachers for the impressive results in the 2019 Eswatini Primary Certificate (EPC).**

The school situated at rural Maphungwane chiefdom recorded an impressive 100 per cent pass rate. A total of 16 pupils got with first class passes while 38 recorded second class passes. Only two pupils got third class passes.

## Welcomed

Considering the background of the school, parents were happy with the 2019 results and labelled them as excellent.

Mphundle Primary School Principal Stella Matiwane attributed the good results to a high level of commitment by teachers who at times sacrificed their holidays and conducted lessons when they were supposed to be resting. Matiwane said some teachers would come to school even on weekends and conducted revision classes to ensure that the learners were ready for the examinations.

The principal said at the beginning of the year, teachers at the school set themselves targets for the end-of-year exams.

In the same vein, Matiwane also thanked the parents for their cooperation as they allowed their children to attend classes even on weekends.

Without the cooperation of the parents, Matiwane said the teachers' efforts would have been in

vain.

"We are happy when we produce good results to the community as that is our mandate," she said.

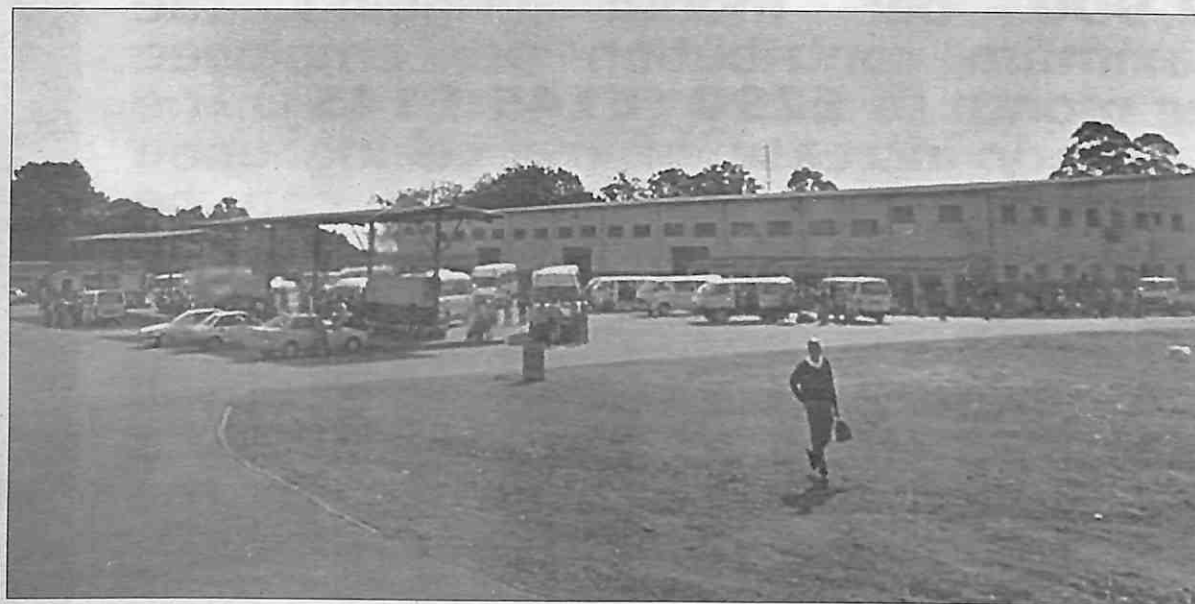
On another note, Matiwane said the school still faced challenges that impacted on the teaching and learning process.

Mphundle is said to be one of the many schools facing acute shortage of housing for teachers. A majority of teachers commute from Siteki on a daily basis.

Some teachers would be compelled to absent themselves on rainy days as there would be no transport in the area.

Matiwane said the environment also made teaching difficult as education was not taken seriously in the community.

"We are placed at an absolute rural area, and people here do not take education seriously," she said. Nonetheless, Matiwane said they were hoping for even better results at the end of this year.



## Dvumane, Sitsatsaweni lead in high rate of failures

**DVUMANE Primary and Sitsatsaweni Primary are the worst performing schools in the region.**

Dvumane Primary School recorded a shocking 47 per cent failure rate while Sitsatsaweni Primary School recorded 30 per cent in the 2019 Standard Five results.

Previous records indicate that Sitsatsaweni has been recording poor results for the past five years.

In 2018, the school recorded almost 50 per cent failures after 24 pupils failed.

On the other hand, Dvumane dropped performance if the 2018 results are

anything to go by.

Parents in both schools have expressed their disappointment, calling for the ministry of education and training to conduct some investigations to ascertain the cause of the poor results.

At Sitsatsaweni, parents have attributed the poor results to poor administration at the school.

## Applied

"Teachers at that school do as they please because the principal is always absent from work," said a parent at Sitsatsaweni.

Meanwhile, at Dvumane the parents blamed each other for the poor

performance of their children.

The school is situated at area known for cultivating dagga.

Some dagga farmers are said to have employed the pupils to work in their fields.

This resulted in some pupils missing classes as they would go to work in the fields.

Meanwhile, other rural schools that managed to record excellent results include Sulutane Primary which is situated at Malindza and Mambane Primary.

The two schools recorded an impressive 100 per cent pass rate.

**We are happy when we produce good results to the community as that is our core mandate**



# BISHOP MACULUVE'S TEKA CEREMONY GETS PEOPLE TALKING

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Manzini

**THE** recent teka ceremony of controversial Bishop Vusumuzi Maculuve of Mount Salvation Ministries and his new wife got social media abuzz.

Following the recent wedding through Siswati customary law of *kuteka* of his new find Nombulelo Shongwe, people went on social media as they seemed to have been agitated by the man of the cloth's decision. Most people went on social media to express their utmost disappointment in Maculuve's actions of replacing his first wife with a younger woman.

Some said his first wife was a good wife for the clergyman in that she supported him during hard times in their marriage. This was after an incident that happened back in 2009 where he was arrested by Mbhuleni, community police officers after finding him in an uncompromising position officers with an underage girl from the area.

The bishop announced to his congregants during the recent cross-over service that he was taking a new spouse which he eventually did over the past weekend.

Giving reasons for his marriage with Shongwe, Maculuve mentioned that he took this decision because he had divorced his first wife



**NEWLY WEDS:** Controversial gospel singer Bishop Vusumuzi Maculuve and his wife after the *kuteka* ceremony.



**MY DAY:** Bishop Maculuve's wife Nombulelo Shongwe during the ceremony.

Nomvumelwano Lukhele. Worth noting is that Shongwe was a back-up singer for the Maculuve's gospel music group.

Maculuve claimed his ex-wife was the one who came up with the idea of them separating.

He further mentioned that he had contested the divorce about four times, but Lukhele maintained her stand.

However, social media users seem to be against the marriage, and this is what they had to say. Some used unpalatable language which cannot be repeated due its sensitive nature.

## Facebook comments

● **Facebook user 1:** Kona akenti kahle umuntu lomdzala ngalesento sakhe.

● **Facebook user 2:** Angihawuki ncono umkakhe wekucala bekawafihla emahlazo akhe titojika tintfo.

● **Facebook user 3:** He's going to use her then dump her like he did his innocent wife.

**Facebook user 4:** Litsini libhayibheli? Lokungiko ngukuphi? Ungatibulali

ngalokwentako mnaka Maculuve.

● **Facebook user 5:** If I was one of the congregants I would find myself another church. Sekudlalwa ngaSmakadze mosi lana.

● **Facebook user 6:** Hawu mosi bebahlabela kanye kanye. Ngabe umfundisi bekayindlela yekubakhulisa eNkhosini.

● **Facebook user 7:** Sitayicela ivutisiwe lana.

● **Facebook user 8:** Nankha emehlo esphundvu ngiwabekile. Uyabona Simakadze batsi ushayana ngelulaka lolubi mine ngifuna kumbona kemanje.

## NO JAY WALKING ARRESTS FOR PEDESTRIANS

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

**PEDESTRIANS** failing to use a Zebra crossing cannot be arrested for jay walking if they cross the road in a vertical manner without disturbing traffic.

This has been disclosed by traffic police officers who were manning traffic within the town.

The police said pedestrians can only be arrested for Jay walking if they fail to cross the road vertically.

"The public needs to be reminded that the term jay walking refers to individuals who cross the road unlawfully with disregard to traffic flow and their own personal safety, if a pedestrian crosses the road vertically without hindering and disturbing traffic no arrest can be effected," they said.

The police added that motorists used their own discretion pertaining to Zebra crossings.

"As police we would like to remind the public that Zebra crossings are the safest place for pedestrians to

cross the roads.

However, there is no law that states that a motorist is forced to stop for pedestrians at a Zebra crossings. Motorists use their own discretion at Zebra crossings and pedestrians should respect and observe traffic at all times to stay safe," they added.

When sought for comment Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer (DPICO) Nosipho Mnguni said the traffic police officers were correct but needed to revisit the local traffic laws for more information.

“

**The public needs to be reminded that the term jay walking refers to individuals who cross the road unlawfully with disregard to traffic flow and their own personal safety, if a pedestrian crosses the road vertically without hindering and disturbing traffic no arrest can be effected**

## DRUNK-DRIVER VOWS TO QUIT ALCOHOL

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

**A motorist who was nabbed for driving while under the influence of alcohol vowed to quit alcohol in court.**

Samkelo Hlatshwako (38) had appeared before Acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe facing a charge of contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007. He is said to have wrongfully and unlawfully driven a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

A breath test confirmed that the accused person had alcohol content in his blood

system reading 0.62 mg/l. The charge was accompanied with particulars which included that the accused person had difficulty maintaining his balance and was talkative as he conversed with the traffic officers.

### Charge sheet

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused person pleaded guilty as he was conducting his own defence. His plea was accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove evidence. He was found guilty by the court.

On mitigation, the accused person first asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence, saying that he did not have

enough money to pay the fine.

The accused person told the court he went drinking with friends to celebrate the end of the year, which he said had been stressful.

He said initially, he had made a promise to himself that he would stop drinking alcohol this year.

The accused person said this was his personal resolution which was not motivated by the arrest. He said he was unlucky to be nabbed by the traffic officers as he was already on his way home.

The accused person was then sentenced to six months in a correctional facility with an option to pay a E1 000 fine.

## TAKING A NAP FAILS TO REDUCE ALCOHOL CONTENT

**ONE** of the accused persons who appeared before the Magistrate's Court after being nabbed for driving while under influence of alcohol said he was surprised to record a high content of alcohol even after taking a nap before going behind the wheel.

Mbongeni Maziya (26) recorded 0.54 mg/l after a breathalysers test was conducted on him. This is above the legal limit which stands at 0.38/1. The accused

person pleaded guilty to the charge. During mitigation he asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence, claiming to be a first time offender.

### Satisfied

The accused however said he was not satisfied with the manner in which he got arrested. He said before taking to the steering wheel, he took a nap which lasted for over an hour, hoping that by the time he woke up, the alcohol content in his system would have

decreased.

However, this was not to be as he was arrested a couple of kilometres from the drinking hall.

On the charge sheet, it was stated that the accused person reeked of alcohol.

He was further said to have had difficulty maintaining his balance. The accused person was sentenced to six months in a correctional facility with an option to pay a E1 000 fine.



BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO

KENTUCKY Fried Chicken (KFC) has partnered with different companies for the past three years in distributing food parcels to those in need at soup kitchens in Mbabane and Manzini.

Recently, KFC donated food parcels on Christmas Day at various care points.

The food parcels include chicken pieces that were donated by Swazi Poultry Processors (SPP) and prepared by KFC. Pick n Pay Lojaf donated soft drinks and arranged transport while OBC Butchery donated sweets and marshmallows.

According to KFC Marketing Manager Belinda Forbes they are a well-established company that prides itself in providing assistance to the homeless and those in need as well as serving the entire nation.

The Scara Thindwa Soccer Foundation volunteers assisted in dishing out the goodies to the less privileged.

Manzini South Member of Parliament, Thandi Nxumalo lauded KFC for their kind gesture of donating food parcels to the soup kitchens.

"It's always refreshing to see companies and foundations come together to help out in communities. We would like to thank KFC for what they have done," said the MP.

Nxumalo then urged the nation to support KFC as they were a company that was connecting with local communities. Meanwhile, former Mbabane East Member of Parliament Esther Dlamini also appreciated KFC for their continued support to the soup kitchens.

"Despite the increase in the number of orphans at the soup kitchens, KFC was able to donate to all the children in the different soup kitchens.

"The communities were very happy, especially those that don't have anything to celebrate with on Christmas Day," said Dlamini.

Forbes stated they were planning to extend the kind gesture to other parts of the country in the near future.

"Our goal is to reach other care centres in other regions other than Mbabane and Manzini," said Forbes.

She said Alliance Food and KFC were proud to be involved in community projects, as this was part of their social responsibility programme.

# KFC DONATES FOOD PARCELS TO ORPHANS



One of the trucks that carried the food parcels that were donated to orphaned and vulnerable to children at soup kitchens on Christmas Day.



One of the children walking away with her goodies.



The KFC team making sure everything was in order.



It's always refreshing to see companies and foundations come together to help out in communities. We would like to thank KFC for what they have done, said the MP.



**JOHANNESBURG -** The red berets say a bank that believes in African entrepreneurs would be a key solution to addressing high levels of unemployment among Africans.

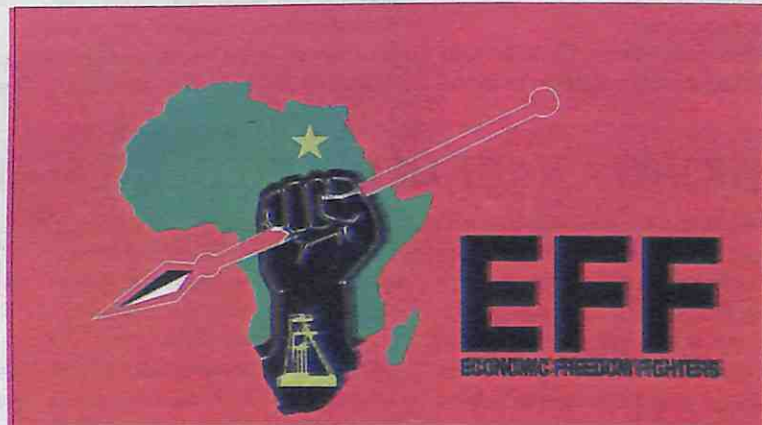
The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) have called on the government to establish a state-owned bank "that will prioritise investment in young African entrepreneurs" in memory of an "African business legend and icon, nate Richard Maponya".

Dr Richard John Pelwana Maponya died early yesterday morning after a short illness.

He was 99 years old and was the founder of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) in 1964, and later the founder and chairperson of the African Chamber of Commerce.

The Limpopo-born entrepreneur,

**EFF calls for state-owned bank for 'African entrepreneurs' in memory of Maponya**



often referred to as "the father of black retail, co-developed Soweto's Maponya Mall in 2007.

In a statement following Maponya's

passing, the EFF said: "To truly honour Maponya is to believe that African people can be enterprising, innovative and creative; that there are many

like him in our country and continent but lack financial investment and support for their business."

The red berets said a state-owned bank that would invest in African entrepreneurs and "a bank that believes in them" would be a "key solution" to addressing the high levels of unemployment among Africans.

The EFF expressed its "heartfelt and revolutionary condolences" on the passing of Maponya.

"We send special condolences to the family, relatives and close friends; may they find comfort in this time of loss."

The red berets said Nafcoc was established "to look out for African business interests in an apartheid-era where black Africans were regarded as hew-

ers of wood and drawers of water".

The party said Maponya represents the few formidable Africans who managed to create wealth despite the restrictions apartheid placed on black businesspeople, adding that his passing is a loss of an icon.

"In his last days, he was very worried about the high levels of unemployment and strongly believed that entrepreneurship was the solution to this. He wanted to establish an academy to train youth to become business giants as formidable as he was," the party said.

The party described Maponya as an honest businessperson who did not rely on government tenders and bribing politicians to build his wealth.

*Citizen*



What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

## Features &amp; Opinions

Refresh What You Think

TIVE  
LEADERSHIP  
CENTER

... With

Khotwaphi  
Midziniso

Guest Writer

SERVANT LEADERSHIP  
IN THE YEAR 2020

IN previous centuries, leadership was about giving to the society.

When you study the history of great leaders, the distinguishing factor for all of them was the trait of serving others above self.

Most if not all great men and women in history served to greatness.

Their focus was on improving the lives of the society, they were not necessarily more concerned on what was in it for them.

In the previous centuries, leadership was purely meaning of service not as means of acquiring wealth.

The close of the twentieth century has seen diminishing key leadership values throughout the African region.

Africans were known for "ubuntu", but we have become a society that is battling to find balance in sustaining true leadership values, which is "service".

Though values such as serving have been gradually eroded in the twentieth and twenty first century and replaced by materialism and individualism, the truth is that we cannot deny that what distinguished great African and global leaders was serving their generations.

SERVING THE SOCIETY IS THE  
HEART OF MEANINGFUL  
LEADERSHIP

A heart for the people and improving their lives should be the heartbeat of all leaders in all of the economic sectors of Eswatini.

True leaders are about creating value and driving meaningful change. Great leaders do not sacrifice one for the other but they find balance in doing things.

Though some leaders especially in the private sector operate in environments that are driven by maximising profits - but still that does not mean that a leader has to forget that service is paramount.

Great leaders realise that the employees

are the engine that drives productivity, which they then serve to drive production through creating an enabling environment in which the people strive for optimal production.

Serving is not necessarily standing to pour tea for the team members in the boardroom but it is more of having a mindset of people centrality to decision making.

Creating and adding value for and the people/stakeholders being the heart beat for existence.

## MEDIocre LEADERSHIP

Mediocre leadership sees serving as a burden, the leader's focus is on me, myself and I. Such leaders see people as something that can be pushed around.

For them, leadership is more on wearing an expensive suit and driving a big car.

Leaders that do not value service build no legacy and they tend to be known and forgotten as soon as they exit the organisation.

In the Bible, the disciples of the Lord Jesus got into a squabble discussing who among

them would be the greatest in Heaven? The bible cites that the Lord Jesus told them that anyone who desires to be great in the kingdom is the one that serves others.

A true leader is a servant of the people.

## THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

The million-dollar question is - can we find leaders that have the heart to serve? Leaders that understand that serving is not a weakness but wisdom and a germ that distinguish all legendary leaders.

If you look at Nelson Mandela, serving was what set him apart and looking at other global icons such as Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, all of the great names are known through out the world and through corridors of tie because they served.

All the names command respect because of service.

Though it may seem I am going back into time brushing on values that seem not that very popular in our days, the truth of the matter is, leaders do need to ponder on the impor-

tance of reviving true meaningful leadership - SERVING. If our leaders can all serve to greatness, our world would be a better place, our institutions and the economy would turn around to benefit the masses.

Leadership determines the course of the institution and the life of the people of the land is dependent on the leaders in all economic sectors choosing to embrace serving. Service and serving is paramount in turning the economy of Eswatini around and that can be realised through having leaders that are committed to serving.

The bible says a good name is to be desired more than wealth, often I would be confused why? But as I grow up, I realise because men come to earth with nothing (naked) and when departing earth, take nothing except for the clothes that cover their body when sent to the grave, but a good name remains for generations to come.

May our leaders across all economic sectors focus on serving in 2020, wishing all our readers a Happy New Year.

## SA TO END MOTHER-TO-CHILD HIV TRANSMISSION

**SOUTH Africa's prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme has achieved remarkable successes in recent years.**

It has improved the health and life expectancy for pregnant women living with HIV, and it has reduced the risk of transmission of the virus to their offspring.

HIV can be transmitted during pregnancy, at the time of delivery, and through breastfeeding.

The most critical intervention to prevent transmission is to ensure that the mother has undetectable HIV viral load levels in her bloodstream. This is done by

providing her with effective antiretroviral treatment (ART).

Access to ART for pregnant women was first introduced in 2004 and has evolved over the years. In 2015, antenatal services for pregnant women were further improved by providing access to lifelong ART, irrespective of CD4 count or clinical disease severity.

As a result, South Africa's programme is a global leader with more than 95 per cent of women being tested for HIV during antenatal care. More than 90 per cent of HIV-positive women are now being initiated on ART, a huge

improvement from only 57 per cent accessing ART in 2007. Mother-to-child transmission rates have dropped dramatically. Without any intervention, the HIV-infection rate was around 40 per cent. With these interventions the HIV-infection rate at birth is currently around one per cent.

The aim now is to eliminate mother to child transmission completely. But realising this ambitious target will require innovative strategies and continuous quality improvement.

Maternal viral suppression rates need to be improved, particularly in the period

after the mother gives birth. In turn, this would lead to reduced HIV transmission during breastfeeding, improved maternal health, viral suppression in future pregnancies and reduced HIV transmission to sexual partners.

To achieve these outcomes the South African Department of Health has revised the guidelines for the prevention of mother to child transmission. It now includes a strong focus on maternal viral suppression during antenatal care, at delivery, and in the period after birth.

If implemented effectively, the approach set out in the guidelines, would put South

Africa within reach of eliminating mother to child transmission.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE

A significant strategy to achieve and sustain maternal viral suppression is the new drug dolutegravir. This "game-changer" is now available in the arsenal of first-line ARTs in South Africa. The drug has a number of features that make it particularly attractive and therefore the preferred first-line option in people starting ART. Most importantly, it rapidly suppresses the viral load, and has few side-effects. This makes it easier for people to continue taking their treatment as their medication doesn't make them feel ill. *The Conversation*



## ON THIS DAY

...JANUARY 7

1558 - Calais, the last English possession on mainland France, was recaptured by the French.

1610 - Galileo Galilei sighted four of Jupiter's moons. He named them Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

1782 - The Bank of North America opened in Philadelphia. It was the first commercial bank in the United States.

1785 - French aeronaut/balloonist Jean-Pierre Blanchard successfully made the first air-crossing of the English Channel from the English coast to France.

1789 - Americans voted for the electors that would choose George Washington to be the first US president.

1887 - Thomas Stevens completed the first worldwide bicycle trip. He started his trip in April 1884. Stevens and his bike traveled 13,500 miles in almost three years time.

1894 - W.K. Dickson received a patent for motion picture film.

1896 - The "Fannie Farmer Cookbook" was published.

1904 - The distress signal "CQD" was established. Two years later "SOS" became the radio distress signal because it was quicker to send by wireless radio.

1926 - George Burns and Gracie Allen were married.

1927 - Transatlantic telephone service began between New York and London. 31 calls were made on this first day.

1927 - In Hinckley IL, the Harlem Globetrotters played their first game.

1929 - The debut of "Buck Rogers 2429 A.D." occurred in newspapers around the U.S. The title of the comic strip was later changed to "Buck Rogers in the 25th Century."

1932 - Chancellor Heinrich Brüning declared that Germany cannot, and will not, resume reparations payments.

1935 - French Foreign Minister Pierre Laval and Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini signed the Italo-French agreements.

1940 - "Gene Autry's Melody Ranch" debuted on CBS Radio. The show aired for 16 years.

1941 - The NBC Blue radio network presented "The Squeaky Door" for the first time. The show was later known as "Inner Sanctum."

1942 - The World War II siege of Bataan began.

1949 - The announcement of the first photograph of genes was shown at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

1953 - US President Harry Truman announced the development of the hydrogen bomb.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Lewis Hamilton**  
(Race Car Driver)  
JANUARY 7, 1985 -  
35 years old



**Nicolas Cage**  
(Movie Actor)  
JANUARY 7, 1964 -  
56 years old

## LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

THE FISHERIES, AND  
AQUACULTURE ACT, 2019*Validity of certificates.*

41. (1) Subject to this section, in any proceedings in terms of this Act, a certificate issued in terms of section 42 shall be admissible in evidence and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts averred thereto.

(2) A Court may, of its own accord or on application by any party to proceedings, require that the person who issued the certificate attend and give oral evidence at the hearing.

(3) Any omission or mistake in any certificate issued in terms of this Act shall not render it inadmissible as evidence unless the Court considers that omission or mistake to be material to any issue in the proceedings concerned, or the Court is of the opinion that the defendant or accused is unduly prejudiced thereby.

*Certificate as to location of vessel.*

42. (1) A certificate given by a Fishery Enforcement Officer shall be prima facie evidence in any proceedings in terms of this Act, of the place or area in which a vessel was at a particular date and time or during a particular period of time.

(2) A Fishery Enforcement Officer shall in any certificate issued in terms of this section, state the following-

(a) the name, address, official position, place of appointment and provision in terms of which the Fishery Enforcement Officer is appointed; (b) the name and, if known or apparent, registration number of the fishing vessel concerned; (c) the date and time or period of time the vessel was in a place or area;

(d) the place or area in which it is alleged the vessel was located;

(e) the position fixing instruments used to fix the place or area referred to in paragraph (d) and their accuracy within their specified limits; and

(f) that the Fishery Enforcement Officer checked the position fixing instruments a reasonable time before and after they were used to fix the position and that they appeared to be working correctly.

*Photographic evidence.*

43. (1) If a photograph is taken of any fishing or related activity and the date and time on and position from which the photograph is taken are simultaneously superimposed upon the photograph, it shall be prima facie evidence that the photograph was taken on the date, at the time and in the position so appearing.

(2) Subsection (1) shall apply only when -

(a) the camera taking the photograph is connected directly to the instruments which provide the date, time and position concerned; and (b) the instruments which provide the date, time and position are generally recognized as being accurate.

(3) Any Fishery Enforcement Officer who takes a photograph contemplated in this section may issue a certificate appending the photograph stating the following-

(a) the name, address, official position, place of appointment and provision in terms of which the officer is appointed;

(b) the name and, if known or apparent, registration number of the fishing vessel concerned;

(c) the brand and model names of the camera, watch, clock or other instruments supplying the date and time, including the position fixing instrument, and that the officer checked those instruments a reasonable time before and after the taking of the photograph and, if necessary, that they

all appeared to be working correctly;

(d) the accuracy of the fixing instrument if used within specified limits; and

(f) the maximum possible distance and the direction of the subject of the photograph away from the camera at the time the photograph was taken.

## PART VII

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

*Delegation of powers.*

44. (1) The Minister may, upon the conditions that the Minister considers fit, delegate any or all the powers conferred upon the Minister in terms of this Act, save a power to make regulations, to the Principal Secretary, an officer of the Department nominated by the Principal Secretary or any other person or entity responsible for fisheries management.

(2) The Principal Secretary may delegate any power conferred upon the Principal Secretary in terms of this Act to an officer in the Department upon conditions that the Principal Secretary considers fit.

(3) Delegation of any power shall not prevent the exercise of that power by either the Minister or the Principal Secretary, as the case may be.

*Administrative appeal to minister.*

45. (1) An affected person may appeal to the Minister against a decision taken by any person acting under a power delegated in terms of this Act.

(2) An appeal under sub-section (1) shall be noted and shall be dealt with in the manner and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Minister by regulation.

*Scientific research and experiments.*

46. In pursuit of the objectives and principles of this Act, the Minister may permit any scientific, research or investigation or practical experiment aimed at developing fisheries or aquaculture in Eswatini and the Minister may set aside monies in the Fund for that research, investigation or practical experiment, as the case may be.

*Trans-boundary fisheries and aquaculture management.*

47. (1) The Minister shall take particular measures to conserve and protect trans-boundary ecosystems and aquatic resources.

(2) The Minister shall endeavor to enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements with neighbouring countries to give effect to the provisions of sub-section (1).

*Regulations.*

49. (1) The Minister may make Regulations regarding -

(a) any matter required or permitted to be prescribed in terms of this Act; and

(b) generally all matters which are reasonably necessary or expedient to be prescribed in order to achieve the objects of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), the Minister may make regulations -

(a) prescribing or increasing fines greater in amount than those already specified in any provision of this Act if necessary as a result of inflation or a rise in the consumer price index or to be in accordance with international law;

(b) providing for the forfeiture of any vessel,

vehicle, aircraft or thing used in the commission of an offence in terms of this Act;

(c) providing for the forfeiture of any fish caught in contravention of any provision of this Act;

(d) providing for the imposition of an additional fine to an amount representing the value in whole or in part of any vessel, vehicle, aircraft, gear, equipment or fish in the place of forfeiture of such vessel, vehicle, aircraft, gear, equipment or fish;

(e) prescribing fisheries management and conservation measures, including prohibited methods of fishing or gear and schemes for limiting entry into all or any specified fisheries;

(f) regarding permits or authorization in respect of any vessel or class or category of vessel to be used for fishing, related activities or any other purpose pursuant to this Act, including application procedures and forms, and the format and requirements for the issuing of licences or permits, grounds for denial or terms and conditions; (g) prescribing different classes of and formats for licences or permits, including application procedures and forms, and the area or fishing method or type of gear in respect of which each class of licence or permit shall be valid;

(h) prescribing the operation of, and conditions and procedures to be observed by any fishing vessel while in Eswatini waters;

(j) regarding the catching, loading, landing, handling, processing, transporting, possession and disposal of fish;

(k) regarding the import, export, trade, distribution and marketing of fish and fish products;

(l) requiring the provision of statistical and other information related to fisheries, including fishing log books, and the format in which the information shall be recorded;

(m) regulating and controlling the operation of fish processing establishments, including quality control measures and inspection of such establishments;

(n) establishing measures for the protection of specified species;

(o) relating to the dumping or discharging of anything which is or may be injurious to fish, or which may disturb or change the ecological balance in any area of a water body; and

(p) to ensure the sustainable and responsible development and control of aquaculture in Eswatini.

(3) The Minister may, where necessary, make or cause the development of regulations, guidelines and necessary requirements on fish safety and quality as well as the competent authority thereof.

“

Any omission or mistake in any certificate issued in terms of this Act shall not render it inadmissible as evidence unless the Court considers that omission or mistake to be material to any issue in the proceedings concerned, or the Court is of the opinion that the defendant or accused is unduly prejudiced thereby.

”



## REFLECTIONS

WITH MIKE DREW  
GUEST WRITER

OVER the festive period there has been much debate in both newspapers and even a score card published on the achievements (or otherwise) of the current Cabinet team, during its first full calendar year in government.

It is not my intention to further analyse the key issues which have been discussed and debated at length during the course of the year. What the writer does respectfully wish for in 2020 is a more assertive prime minister, with a more socialist driven agenda and perhaps a recognition that, for some ministerial appointments in the 11th Parliament, the job has clearly been too big for them and there has been a clear lack of strategic vision with promises made not kept.

And from the Legislature, a greater willingness in 2020 to hold the Executive to account. But, over the next couple of weeks, the writer would prefer to focus on where there may be the opportunity for potential successes in certain ministries, by making a positive contribution to the Strategic Road map.

In the Eswatini Observer in October last year, there was an article entitled "Cannabis Legislation Passed".

On reflection, this potentially very good news should have been broadcast in bold headlines on the front page of both newspapers and from the roof of the Parliament building too.

At the launch of the Export Readiness Training Manual at the Eswatini International Trade Fair 2019, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo was invited to offer his thoughts on the legal growing of cannabis, to which the minister gave a clear and unambiguous answer.

## Reconfirmed

An answer he subsequently reconfirmed when the Opium and Habit Forming Drugs (Amendment) Bill of 2019 was debated and passed by the House of Assembly and ratified by the Senate.

This will now make it possible, for the growing of cannabis, for medicinal and scientific purposes only, to be properly regulated and licenced in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Not only did the minister make it very clear that he supported the Bill but, he also stressed that, the government now needs to act very quickly in implementing the Cannabis Licensing Regulations.

My concern is that it has all now gone too quiet, which raises the question whether the political will still exists within the ministry of health to deliver or whether the ministry of commerce, industry and trade should now be invited to take the lead on this very important initiative.

The proper licensing and regulation of the growing of cannabis has huge potential economic benefits for the kingdom.

The writer is also encouraged by the fact that the legislature would appear to have recognised that there were lessons to be learnt from the previous unsuccessful mining ventures, when

# CAN THE PM BE MORE ASSERTIVE?

...with a more socialist driven agenda in 2020



ASSERTIVE: Prime Minister  
Ambrose Dlamini.

previous governments possibly discouraged any inward investment by apparently requiring a 50 per cent shareholding, but without injecting any capital or taking any of the risk. So, the amendments to the Bill, proposed by Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo, were therefore well made.

The continuing concerns raised by the Eswatini Cannabis Association General Secretary, Trevor Shongwe need also to be addressed soonest with early thought being given as to how the interest of the informal indigenous cannabis growing small low income farmers, currently excluded by the Bill, can also benefit financially from the new regulations.

But rest assured, other countries are not going to wait to take advantage of the potentially high demand generated by the Canadian and European markets.

## Announced

Lesotho already has a head start when it was announced in June 2019 that a Canadian company, Halo Labs was buying Lesotho cannabis producer Bophelo for E262 million. Zambia has recently legalised the growing of cannabis with the Zambian opposition Green Party President, Peter Sinkambato anticipating an annual revenue of US\$36 billion, whilst warning that "this could be a blessing or a curse, like diamonds or gold, depending on the policy direction".

The government now needs to act quickly if the kingdom is to maximise a financial return on this potentially lucrative "cash cow" but critically, to also ensure the correct policy direction.

A credible study of a population survey from Canada suggests that people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) benefit from using cannabis to help reduce chronic depressive episodes and from having suicidal thoughts. The paper which is a joint initiative between researchers from the

British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, analysed the data collected by Canada's national statistical office in its 2012 mental health survey.

The data included in their analysis came from a representative sample of over 24 000 Canadian residents, who suffer from PTSD.

The findings revealed that those within the sample group who reported not using cannabis in the last 12 months were more likely to experience severe depression and have suicidal thoughts, than those who stated that they had used the substance.

The senior author of the study, Professor Michael J Milloy was quoted as saying: "These findings are promising and merit further study in order to fully understand the benefits of cannabis for people living with PTSD".

It is the writer's understanding that, the intended role of the Medicines Regulatory Authority will be to properly regulate cannabis production in the country, but not to have any direct influence on where and how any would-be investors market the finished product.

Those international markets have already been identified by any investors in their strategic business plans and they need now to be allowed the flexibility to operate in a free market economy and without any unnecessary interference from government.

As the minister of commerce, industry and trade has frequently stated, the ease of doing business is critical to the future success of any business venture.

Hopefully, the minister of commerce, industry and trade will continue to ensure that, the Eswatini Quality Infrastructure Institutions do not become an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy in the ease of doing business.

The fact that the Kingdom of Eswatini

has dropped four places in the most recent World Bank 'Ease of Doing Business Report' must also be of concern to the minister.

But notwithstanding, a great opportunity to no longer be dependent on foreign aid and to realign itself economically as a country which encourages Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and therefore has a greater control over its own fiscal direction.

A great opportunity to boost local employment and to generate higher, sustainable export revenues and looking to the future a fully financed budget.

As always, there are lessons to be learnt from history too.

## Climate

In the 1800s, cotton was king in the American deep south because the climate was conducive to the growing of cotton, labour was cheap (i.e. slavery), the cotton gin had been invented and there was a huge demand for cotton in Europe. So the result was that, because of an over dependency on the production of cotton, there was an imbalance in the economy at the outbreak of the American Civil War.

For cotton substitute cannabis. Whilst it is important to reap the huge potential economic benefits offered from the growing of cannabis, the Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza needs also to continue to develop a more balanced agricultural policy going forward, with 50 per cent of the kingdom's required fruit and vegetables still being imported, to include a future self-sufficiency in the production of maize; and the option for the already well-established large growers to continue to grow sugar cane and pineapples.

And then hopefully, it will be full steam ahead in early 2020 for the Cannabis Licensing Regulations. Please do not let this golden opportunity be lost through any unnecessary delay.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

## CONTACTS

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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	E 9.15 per litre
<b>Engen Garage</b>	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 23 DEC 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.1915	14.2415
British Pound / SZL	18.3644	18.4291
Japanese Yen / SZL	7.5832	7.7009
Swiss Franc / SZL	14.4472	14.4966
Botswana Pula / SZL	1.3241	1.3373
Australian Dollar / SZL	9.8148	9.8598
Canadian Dollar / SZL	10.7895	10.8242
Mozambique Metical / SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro / SZL	15.7334	15.7888
Gold	1,490.2925	
Oil	69.33	

For more information contact:  
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Standard Bank

## GOVT SPLASHES CLOSE TO E15m CATERING TENDERS

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

The ministry of education has splashed close to E15 million catering services tenders to four companies.

The companies, deemed compliant and competitive will, offer their collective E14 733 500 worth of services to four

tertiary institutes in the country namely Eswatini College of Technology (ECOT), Gwamile Voctim, William Pitcher and Ngwane College.

### Highest

According to tender documents signed by Principal Secretary in the ministry Bertram Stewart appearing on the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ESP-PRA) website, Eclipse Catering

company went with the highest contract netting E6 821 700 to offer catering services for students at ECOT and an additional E55.30 for special meetings while Capitol bagged E3 942 500 to cater for Ngwane College students. Caterwell Food Services bagged two tenders, a E2 342 200 for services at William Pitcher College and a E1 627 100 contract for Gwamile Voctim.

Details of Best Responsive evaluated Tender			
Name of awarded tenderer (s)	Country of Origin	Proposed contract price	Conclusion
Eclipse Caterers ( Lot 1 Catering Services for Students) (ECOT)	Eswatini	E6 821 700	Compliant and competitive
Eclipse Caterers (Lot 2 Catering Services for Special Meeting	Eswatini	E55.30	Compliant and competitive
Capitol Caterers ( Lot 1 Catering Services for Students)(Ngwane College)	Eswatini	E3 942 500	Compliant and competitive
Capitol Caterers (Lot 2 Catering Services for Special Meeting	Eswatini	E54.00	Compliant and competitive
Caterwell ( Lot 1 Catering Services for Students)	Eswatini	E2 342 200	Compliant and competitive
Caterwell (Lot 2 Catering Services for Special Meeting	Eswatini	E75.00	Compliant and competitive
Caterwell ( Lot 1 Catering Services for Students)	Eswatini	E1 627 100	Compliant and competitive
Caterwell (Lot 2 Catering Services for special meeting	Eswatini	E75.00	

...awards another close to E6 million for street lights, signals

THE ministry of works and public transport has awarded close to E6 million tender contracts for the street lighting and traffic signal maintenance programme.

The tenders will cover street lighting and the traffic signal maintenance programme for MR3 Mbabane- Manzini and the MR3 Mbandlane-Sikhuphe-Mpaka Roads.

Information sourced from the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ESP-PRA) website is that three companies were awarded the contracts.

For the MR3 Mbabane- Manzini road, SD Electrical bagged the E2 092 776.79 million tender, beating local companies that had applied for the tenders.

These are Solsun which had tabled a bid price of E 6 023 921.75 while Mival Electrical contractors were not successful with a bid price of E2 235 887.50.

Also netting a tender for the same road was AJ Electrical which received a contract worth E1 937 274.

Meanwhile Pots Electrical won the other contract valued at E1 806 633.41. The company beat five other companies to the contract. These include Second Chance Electrical which did not submit a CIC registration certificate, Banner Electrical contractors, Mormond Electrical Contractors, Vectron and AJ Electrical.

## Select offering up to E250 000 loans to govt, parastatals

BY BAHLE GAMA

SELECT Management Services is offering loans from E1 000 to E250 000 to government and parastatal employees.

This was revealed by Select's CEO Bongani Motsa during an interview yesterday.

He stated that the loans were being offered to these employees because of payroll deduction already in place.

"Employees from these institutions can apply for either new or rollover loans or even consolidate their loans as Select also offers the consolidation facility, all this for up to E250 000 over a maximum repayment period of 72 months. We are also pleased to announce a lucky draw where four lucky customers that apply for the payroll loan this January will win E3 000 worth of school fees each week, starting this week," he said.

He further stated that January was back to school month and

can be an exciting yet daunting time, especially for first time school attendees and parents. The preparation of school uniforms, covering school books and planning lunch boxes becomes an important part of preparing for the first term school re-opening, but the most important aspect is school fees.

"To provide much needed educational relief, Select is promoting their government payroll loans which can be used for a combination of education related costs such as school fees, boarding fees and for purchasing some key school essentials that have become standard educational tools like laptops," he said.

Motsa further disclosed that they had launched a back to school promotion whereby four lucky winners would stand to win E3 000 school fees boost each week.

In addition to the back to school promotion, Select also announced their Happy 2020 1GB Free Data give-away promotion meant to run through January.



**WIN: Welile Dlodlu poses for a picture during the Back to School promotion at the Crescent at Ezulwini. (Courtesy pic)**

Elaborating further on the Happy 2020 Free 1GB promotion, Motsa also mentioned that it was targeted to customers that apply for a short term loan ranging from

E500 to E10 000.

"This is an exciting first for Select to kick-start the new year by giving away a digital product. Technology has become part of our daily lives and data is highly rated as the access enabler to social and global conversations. We selected to keep the 1GB free mobile data open to either network operator in the Kingdom because we want our customers to have freedom of choice," he added.

Select Sales Agents have been deployed to all Pick n Pay stores to promote the Double Delight campaign since December 27, 2019 and will be there throughout January on certain days at all the Pick n Pay stores located at the following places:

**Mbabane** – The Mall  
**Ezulwini** – The Crescent  
**Ezulwini** – Gables  
**Matsapha** – Mahhala  
**Matsapha** – Mashayitafula  
**Manzini** – Riverstone Mall  
**Manzini** – The Hub  
**Nhlanguano** – Nhlanguano Mall



# Young entrepreneur wants 100% Swati produce

STORIES BY BAHLE GAMA

SOAP Factory founder and owner Andile Vilakati says he wants their products to be 100 per cent Swati.

He said this during an interview yesterday.

He stated that they wanted the product to be 100 per cent Swati not only by being manufactured locally, but also the ingredients used.

"Some of the ingredients/raw materials the soap factory uses are imported from different parts of the world (Israel, Canada etc) through a company based in South Africa that has made a good reputation for itself over the years in this sector. Soap Factory would like products to be 100 per cent Swati not only by being manufactured locally, but also the ingredients we will use," he said.

Vilakati also mentioned that the next phase of the business was incorporating groups of farmers to participate in the whole value chain by growing the different plants and herbs needed by Soap Factory in its distillation facility that will be established in order to extract the essential oils from the different plants and herbs.

"This will also form part of our environmental footprint in participating in climate smart agri-processing to participate in the 45 billion global markets.

"This will help farmers utilise their idle land and diversify from their normal choice of production to venture into

...to incorporate group of farmers to partake in value chain



an unknown or unfamiliar market whereby they will be assisted with the technical know-how as we have experts in the field of chemical engineering and horticulture as part of the board of advisors in the com-

pany. This will help reduce the unemployment rate as more people will be employed in the whole value chain from plant/herb growing to extraction and manufacturing of the final product," he said.

## ...Resolution is for business to reach global scale

"MY resolution as a young entrepreneur is to be an inspiration to others by making Soap Factory reach global scale."

Soap Factory founder Andile Vilakati made these remarks during an interview yesterday.

He said he wanted to change Swati people's perception about locally made products and services.

"We have great products and services offered by young Emaswati entrepreneurs, but the very people we are trying to serve have negative perceptions about our own capabilities," he said.

He further stated that supporting small businesses would not only help the dream grow big but also put businesses to be in a position to hire more people, especially graduates who were idle and with no options to engage in income generating activities. He said being unemployed will make people or their qualifications become obsolete in the coming years as life was changing in an accelerated rate with advancement of technology would not make it any easier for them.

"Soap Factory is doing well. Over the past year I have seen positive growth and response from consumers.

"I got money from the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund to start the business and I'm currently in a programme with UNDP

and RSTP where Soap Factory can be in a position to get more funding needed for expansion," he said.

He added that the seed capital helped him acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to manufacture the different products from companies in South Africa (Nelspruit and Johannesburg).

He also managed to buy the raw material with the seed capital and further participated in business workshops in South Africa.

"Throughout the whole journey, I've come to realise that challenges are opportunities to think or do things differently, and in business that is one thing that is a constant. So I would write a book on challenges and how to overcome them.

This will also help other upcoming entrepreneur," he joked.

**"We have great products and services offered by young Swazi entrepreneurs but the very people we are trying to serve have negative perceptions about our own capabilities"**

## ...GOVT NEEDS TO WORK ON POLICIES FAVOURABLE TO MSMEs

VILAKATI says government should work on policies that are favourable to micro small medium entrepreneurs (MSME), ranging from procurement policies to

awareness on finance opportunities through relevant ministries.

"Government needs to believe in young entrepreneurs who come up with innovative businesses and busi-

ness models and offer the necessary support to establish these businesses in order to grow and compete beyond borders," he said.

He thanked the ministry of com-

merce, industry and trade in conjunction with MTN for making it possible for Soap Factory to undergo training in quality management systems and food safe-

ty management systems through the country's international standards governing body, SWASA.

"More support from government is crucial for young entrepreneurs like me and others who are still planning to venture into business," he added.

## Three Swati women produce flavoured honey locally

BY BAHLE GAMA

THREE young female Swati entrepreneurs are producing flavoured honey locally.

The company called Bee Happy is directed and run by Nandile Mabuza (25), Thandeka Ncube (26) and Melinda Neumann (25) who all majored and graduated in BSc in Environmental Health Science at UNESWA.

Speaking during an interview, one of the directors, Mabuza, said their company was currently involved in processing locally available raw honey to produce flavour infused honey.

"Organic fruits and herbs are used to make our products, excluding synthetic additives, colourants or preservatives, purely natural.

"The whole concept came about because of our love for sweet foods.

"For long we have enjoyed honey

but have been limited on how to use it. If it's not with tea then we were dipping and licking it from our fingers.

"We figured that, having it flavored would just make it more exotic for everyone to enjoy," she said.

She stated that they chose to be in the honey processing line of business because they wanted to leverage in the vast opportunities available in the agriculture industry and to contribute in growing the Eswatini economy as well as make profit.

### Specialise

"As mentioned, we specialise in flavouring raw honey to be used as a healthy alternative to cane sugar, sweeteners, cane syrups and jam.

"Honey contains high levels of antioxidants which help prevent heart diseases.

"Carefully selected fruits, spices and herbs are used to favour our honey with emphasis on nutrition, immune

boosting and great flavourful taste," she said.

Mabuza further revealed that Bee Happy had the opportunity to be incubated by Royal Science Technology Park (RSTP) for the past four months.

### Enabled

This has enabled the company to grow rapidly, exposing it to more business opportunities and ensuring that it adheres to SWASA standards.

"With RSTP grooming and mentoring the company, we got the opportunity to interact with other young entrepreneurs and give room for joint ventured businesses.

"The Royal Science Technology Park has also liaised Bee Happy with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), giving us room for major growth.

"The main challenge we have faced as Bee Happy was limited funds to market our product to the targeted



market.

"Bee Happy is not a beekeeping company yet hence we have a challenge with the limited honey we get from our local suppliers to meet our customer demand," she said.

She mentioned that in future they would venture in beekeeping in order to make their company more efficient

and reliable.

"Our advice to other young entrepreneurs is to go for it.

"You will never know until you start. Only you can make your dreams real.

"Do not thrive in comfort, build an empire, not for you, but for the upcoming generation. Rome was not built in one day," she added.



# SAICA highlights CIPC compliance checklist challenges

**JOHANNESBURG** – The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) Compliance Checklist was implemented by the CIPC from January 1.

The SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) highlights some of the challenges with the process as it is currently proposed, writes Juanita Steenekamp, Project Director: Governance and Non-IFRS Reporting at the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

The Compliance Checklist is applicable to all companies, including state-owned companies, non-profit companies, private companies, personal liability companies and public companies. The checklist currently does not apply to close corporations.

The CIPC has, as one of its functions, the monitoring of compliance with the Companies Act 71 of 2008. As part of the monitoring the CIPC is implementing the compliance checklist. The CIPC states that the objectives of the Compliance Checklist are:

- To ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements of the Companies Act;
- To serve as an educational tool for directors and company secretaries, in guiding them with regards to their responsibilities in terms of the Companies Act;
- To utilise the Checklist to monitor and regulate proper compliance with the Companies Act and, if trends of non-compliance appear, to act accordingly.

The Compliance Checklist comprises of 24 questions with “yes”, “no” or “not applicable” answer options. Companies are prompted to indicate if they complied with a particular section during the previous calendar year. The questionnaire does not allow respondents an opportunity to explain their responses. The CIPC has indicated that further correspondence regarding particular answers may be e-mailed to [COR135.1complaints@cipc.co.za](mailto:COR135.1complaints@cipc.co.za). (The CoR135.1 form is prescribed when reporting an alleged contravention of the Companies Act, but we understand that an e-mail submitted to the proposed address will reach the correct recipients at the CIPC)

Companies will be required to complete the Compliance Checklist, prior to submitting their annual returns.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The Companies Act states that the business and affairs of a company must be managed by or under the direction of the board and the directors take responsibility for compliance with the Companies Act. Directors need to ensure that they are aware of their compliance obligations as the questionnaire only refers to sections of the Companies Act with no further detail or guidance provided on what the compliance require-



ment(s) in the relevant section is.

When completing the questionnaire companies are reminded that in terms of Section 215(2)(e) a person commits an offence if they knowingly provide false information to the Commission and that if a person is convicted on an offence they could be liable to a fine, imprisonment not exceeding 12 months or both a fine and imprisonment in terms of Section 216(b).

## CONCERNS

Questions that have been raised by SAICA members and associates include concerns such as what the CIPC will do with the information provided and how differences in interpretation of the Companies Act will be dealt with. SAICA members are also concerned about the potential increase in costs to be incurred by clients.

The CIPC has indicated that it will use the checklist to monitor compliance with the Companies Act and that it will reach out to companies that submit information that is in contradiction with the annual financial statements or the Companies Act.

With regards to difference of interpretation, SAICA recommends that directors and accountants document their interpretations and subsequent answers to the questions.

As an example, the first question of the Compliance Checklist is: “Does the company comply with Section 4 of the Companies Act?”.

However, Section 4, in SAICA’s view, does not per se contain a compliance obligation. Rather, Section 4 explains how the solvency and liquidity test should be applied, where this test is mentioned in other sections of the Companies Act, such as Sections 45 or 46.

Another example is Section 86. Section 86 lists a number of compliance obligations, including section 86(4) that deals with the appointment of a company secretary. Section 86(4) requires that a vacancy of the company secretary position must be filled within 60 days after the vacancy arose. If the Compliance Checklist is, however, completed during the 60-day period in which the vacan-

cy must be filled (but has not yet been filled), the respondent may be hesitant to affirm compliance with section 86. The fact that the Compliance Checklist does not indicate which sub-sections of Section 86 it refers to and does not provide an opportunity to explain the particular facts of a situation, makes the appropriate completion of the Compliance Checklist very difficult.

Most sections of the Companies Act have a number of compliance obligations grouped into subsections. Section 15, for example, deals with the content of the Memorandum of Incorporation.

The section further deals with company rules and provides that the rules must not be inconsistent with the Act.

Should the shareholders have a shareholders’ agreement then it should also be consistent with the Act’s requirements.

In SAICA’s view, Section 15 includes too many requirements for compliance to be affirmed in one question.

A question with sub questions would probably achieve a more focused and valuable answer to the CIPC for it to achieve its objective in monitoring compliance.

## CALENDAR YEAR

The Checklist requires a response in respect of the past calendar year. Calendar year is not defined in the Companies Act and the annual return must be filed within 30 business days after the anniversary date of the company’s date of incorporation. It is therefore not clear to which period the Checklist refers.

The annual financial statements submitted with the annual return normally represents the financial position of the previous financial year. This could lead to a mismatch in financial and compliance reporting periods.

### Example:

- Company’s year-end is 30 June 2019 and its anniversary date is 1 September 2019.
- Annual return to be submitted by 1 October 2020 with the annual financial statements for the year ended

30 June 2019 and compliance checklist for the calendar year 1 January to 31 December 2019.

## WAY FORWARD

SAICA advocates compliance with laws and regulations. SAICA supports CIPC in its endeavors to ensure and monitor compliance with the Companies Act. The current format of the Compliance Checklist is however both onerous and vague. SAICA encourages the CIPC to focus the questions in the questionnaire and to provide a reasonable opportunity for explanations for areas of non-compliance or interpretation. At the very least, more guidance is required.

SAICA has advised its members and associates to engage with their clients with regards to the completion of the Compliance Checklist. Members should specifically agree the accountants’ responsibility when completing the Checklist on behalf of clients.

These matters should ideally be incorporated in an engagement letter. SAICA members should be mindful of the restrictions in the Legal Practices Act and agree with clients on the treatment of potential interpretational differences of the Companies Act, for example where a client believes that it is in compliance with the Companies Act while the accountant or registered auditor has a different view.

SAICA members and associates are also reminded of their responsibility under the SAICA Code of Professional Conduct (Revised 2018) when they become aware of non-compliance of legislation.

The CIPC has indicated that questions, corrections and interpretation guidance can be requested by submitting an email to [COR135.1complaints@cipc.co.za](mailto:COR135.1complaints@cipc.co.za)

- CIPC Compliance Checklist questions:**
1. Did the company comply with Section 4 (solvency and liquidity test) during the previous calendar year?
  2. Did the company comply with Section 15 (Memorandum of Incorporation, shareholders’ agreement and rules of the company) dur-

ing the previous calendar year?

3. Did the company comply with Section 26 (Access to company records) during the previous calendar year?

4. Did the company comply with Section 27 (Financial year of company) during the previous calendar year?

5. Did the company comply with Section 28 (Accounting records) during the previous calendar year?

6. Did the company comply with Section 29 (Financial statements) during the previous calendar year?

7. Did the company comply with Section 30 (Annual financial statements) during the previous calendar year?

8. Did the company comply with Section 32 (Use of company name and registration number) during the previous calendar year?

9. Did the company comply with Section 33 (Annual return) during the previous calendar year?

10. Did the company comply with Section 44 (Financial assistance for subscriptions of securities) during the previous calendar year?

11. Did the company comply with Section 45 (Loans of other financial assistance to directors) during the previous calendar year?

12. Did the company comply with Section 50 (Securities register and numbering) during the previous calendar year?

13. Did the company comply with Section 61 (Shareholders meeting) during the previous calendar year?

14. Did the company comply with Section 66 (Board, directors and prescribed officers) during the previous calendar year?

15. Did the company comply with Section 69 (Ineligibility and disqualification of persons to be director or prescribed officer) during the previous calendar year?

16. Did the company comply with Section 70 (Vacancies on board) during the previous calendar year?

17. Did the company comply with Section 72 (Board committees) during the previous calendar year?

18. Did the company comply with Section 86 (Mandatory appointment of company secretary) during the previous calendar year?

19. Did the company comply with Section 90 (Appointment of auditor) during the previous calendar year?

20. Did the company comply with Section 92 (Rotation of auditor) during the previous calendar year?

21. Did the company comply with Section 94 (Audit committee) during the previous calendar year?

22. Did the company comply with regulation 21 (Registered office of the company) during the previous calendar year?

23. Did the company comply with regulation 43 (Social and Ethics Committee) during the previous calendar year?

24. Did the company comply with schedule 1 (Provisions concerning Non-Profit Companies) during the previous calendar year?

Juanita Steenekamp is project director: governance and non-IFRS reporting at the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (Saica). *Business Report*



## Over 5 000 held for traffic offences, nearly 12 000 bottles of booze seized

**CAPE TOWN** – The City of Cape Town's Traffic Service made 5 105 arrests last month and issued more than 350 000 fines.

Also, between 1 December to 3 January, 2020, the City's Liquor Enforcement Unit confiscated 11 944 bottles of alcohol from the city's beaches, amounting to 6 835.35 litres.

The arrests made by the Traffic Service included:

- 4 745 for outstanding warrants
  - 282 for driving under the influence
  - 41 for reckless and negligent driving
  - Two for possession of drugs
  - Two for possession of a firearm
  - 33 on a range of other charges
- Officers served a total of 13 028

warrants, valued at R17 010 380; impounded 343 vehicles and 880 cell-phones; and issued 360 626 fines for various offences.

"It was a very busy period for our Traffic Service.

Apart from the enforcement efforts, staff also had to manage traffic flow and road closures at a raft of events

around the city in December and, of course, our beaches.

### Motorists

"To the motorists who were caught for outstanding warrants – you were warned before the festive season to get your affairs in order.

"I hope that the experience will have served as a lesson. In future, pay your

fines on time, or better yet, obey the law from the outset," the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security, JP Smith, said on Monday.

The bulk of the City's Liquor Enforcement Unit's confiscations (53 per cent) were made in Area West, which includes beaches stretching from Muizenberg on the False Bay coast to Camps Bay and Clifton on the Atlantic Seaboard. *Cape Times*

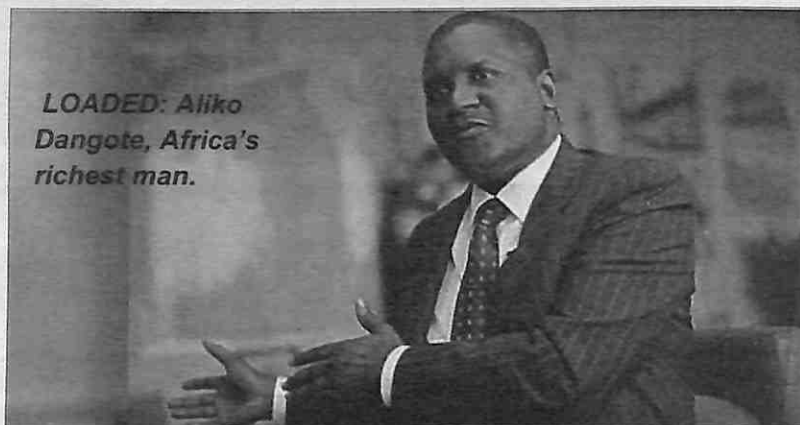
# AFRICA'S WEALTHIEST MAN ENDS THE YEAR \$4.3BN RICHER

**INTERNATIONAL** – Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, became \$4.3 billion richer last year as his fortune continued to grow on the back of investments in cement, flour and sugar.

The 62-year-old Nigerian businessman and Africa's most prominent industrialist ended the decade with a net worth of almost \$15 billion, making him the 96th wealthiest man in the world, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

### Traders

Born into a wealthy Muslim family of traders in the north, Dangote incorporated his own business selling cement at 21. The billionaire businessman shifted to manufacturing the building material in the 1990s, helped by government policies that encouraged ways to reduce the need for imports. His critics still accuse him of taking advantage of his closeness to the government to gain an unfair market advantage, a claim he has repeatedly dismissed.



**LOADED:** Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man.

His conglomerate, Dangote Industries, includes the biggest cement company on the continent, the Lagos-listed Dangote Cement Plc. That's one of four publicly traded companies under the Dangote umbrella that account for more than a fifth of the value of the Nigerian stock exchange.

The year 2020 could be a significant one for the billionaire, who is close to completing one of the world's largest

oil refineries in Nigeria. The plant has the capacity to meet more than Nigeria's entire fuel consumption and could transform an economy that currently imports all its refined product needs. Dangote is also constructing a fertiliser factory on the same site. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index for 2019 also showed that Dangote was the richest man on the African continent with a then net worth of \$17 billion. **BLOOMBERG**

## Iran response to US attack will determine SA's fuel price

**CAPE TOWN** – There are fears that petrol prices could shoot up if America's attack last week on Iranian military leaders by the US turns into a war.

The fears come just days after the stability of the rand since November and into the first half of December was praised for the drop in the price of petrol at the pumps by 17c.

At the time the AA said: "Barring any unforeseen surprises, we expect 2020 will kick off with only modest fuel price changes."

But on Sunday economist Mike Schussler said: "The price of petrol is likely to rise some 25c to 30c if the tensions remain.

"If we have an actual war or if oil tankers are attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, then the price will rise even further.

"I am not sure by how much but at least 30c and more likely closer

to R1 or more," said Schussler.

The effect might have been worse if South Africa still imported as much as 35 per cent of its oil from Iran, however in recent years pressure from the US has forced South Africa to cut back significantly on its oil imports from the Persian Gulf.

The bulk of South Africa's oil imports come from Saudi Arabia (42 per cent), Nigeria (34 per cent), Angola (13 per cent) and Ghana (11 per cent). The country's fuel prices are adjusted on a monthly basis.

Factors that influence the price include the fact that South Africa imports both crude oil and finished products at a price set at the international level, including import costs.

Economist Hugo Pienaar, from Stellenbosch University's Bureau for Economic Research, said on Twitter:

*Cape Argus*



## AVON AND NATURA, CO JOIN FORCES

**INTERNATIONAL** – Avon has announced the completion of Natura & Co's acquisition of Avon Products, Inc. and the appointment of the new senior leadership team to drive the company's next phase of growth.

The landmark transaction creates the world's fourth-largest pure-play beauty company. This marks a major new step in building a purpose-driven group committed to a different way of doing business. Natura & Co, which trades on the B3 stock exchange in Sao Paulo, also expects to begin trading through ADRs on the NYSE (NTCO) on January 6.

The combination of Avon, Natura, The Body Shop and Aesop significantly amplifies the reach of a multi-channel, multi-brand group that will be an unparalleled leader in the Direct-to-Consumer space, bringing beauty to over 200 million consumers across the world anytime, anywhere, every day through multiple channels, touchpoints and iconic brands.

Natura & Co will hold leading positions in relationship selling, on and offline, through both Avon and Natura, with over 6.3 million Consultants and Representatives.

The group will also have a strong position in retail with more than 3 000 stores and an expanded digital presence across all the companies.

### Combined

Natura & Co will have combined annual gross revenues of over US\$10 billion, more than 40 000 associates, a broad and complementary product portfolio across key categories and a global footprint in over 100 countries.

As a purpose-driven company, Natura & Co will have a stronger voice to advocate for causes including female empowerment, fighting the climate crisis, cruelty-free cosmetics and developing strong ties with local communities, all of which are part of its belief in a better way of doing business through positive social, economic and environmental impact.

*Business Report*

## THE BENEFITS OF BOND PRE-QUALIFICATION

**DURBAN** – When an estate agent has to "sell" a property three or four times in order to find a buyer who can qualify for a bond, it is not just a waste of time for that agent but stressful for the property seller – and disappointing and even embarrassing for the prospective buyers who do not qualify.

However, there is a solution, said Carl Coetzee, Chief Executive of BetterBond, which is for all prospective buyers to obtain bond pre-qualification before they even start looking for properties to purchase – and for agents to encourage them to do so before they introduce them to any of the homes they have listed for sale. The purpose of pre-qualification is to determine how much a buyer is eligible to borrow – and thus the size of home loan for which they are likely to be approved.

"A pre-qualification is not a "guarantee" that a loan will be approved but it does offer many benefits, including the fact that it helps buyers narrow their home search to properties that they know they can afford," said Coetzee. He added, "This means that they will be able to spend more time thinking carefully about the pros and cons of the properties that they do view to see which matches their requirements most closely. *Business Report*

## ABSA Group appoints new group chief executive

**DURBAN** – ABSA Group Limited (AGL) has announced the appointment of Aaron Daniel Mminele as Group Chief Executive of ABSA Group, effective from 15 January this year.

Mminele will be taking over from René van Wyk, who has been leading the bank on an interim basis since Maria Ramos' retirement in February last year.

"We are delighted to welcome



**APPOINTED:** Aaron Daniel Mminele

Daniel to the ABSA family. He brings with him a deep understanding of the financial services industry both in South Africa and abroad," said Wendy Lucas-Bull, Chairman of the ABSA Group Board. She said: "His unique skills set and global perspective make him a suitable leader to drive our bank's focus on long-term growth that is digitally-led across our markets."

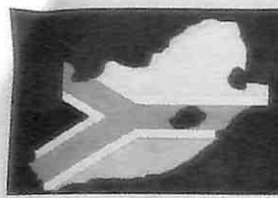
ABSA launched its strategy in March 2018, which focused on regaining market share in core businesses.

We then reconfigured our operating model and made changes to our Executive Committee to set up the business for implementation of the strategy. "In terms of his starting point, Daniel will want to assess where we are in implementing that strategy and assess how he can play a role in strengthening the team's ability to continue on that journey. As a leader, he will make his own assessment of what is required but he has a complete open mandate as the group chief executive to lead this organisation," said

Lucas-Bull.

*Business Report*





## Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

# SA has evacuation plan as tensions rise in Iran

**JOHANNESBURG** - Amid growing security threats in the Middle East, which analysts fear will soon result in bloody direct combat, the government has announced that it is ready to evacuate South African nationals who wish to get out of Iraq.

The readiness was announced by the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (Dirco) after the US killed Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps commander Major-General Qasem Soleimani on Friday in Baghdad.

The cold-blooded killing has stirred political tensions, with some Middle East news outlets

such as Al Jazeera reporting on Sunday that Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned 'a harsh retaliation is waiting'.

Iran's state-owned international news channel Press TV reported that hundreds of thousands of people attended the Soleimani's funeral chanting 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel'.

### Reports

There were also reports that armed groups sympathetic to Iran had vowed to fight back, going as far as ordering Iraqi forces to move away from US army bases so that they are not caught up in the crossfire when they strike US bases, which

established in the region in 2003 when America invaded the oil-rich country to topple Saddam Hussein.

The news that Dirco was ready to evacuate South Africans from the region was first made public by department spokesperson Nelson Kgwete in a Facebook post. In the post, Kgwete said: "Public service announcement: South African citizens caught up in the situation in Iraq and needing assistance must contact Dirco on 0123511000. They will be placed in contact with our embassy in Amman, Jordan. South Africa does not have

were

a diplomatic mission in Iraq and we are accredited to that country through Jordan."

Giving more details, International Relations and Co-operation Minister Naledi Pandor's spokesperson Lunga Ngqengelele said the exact number of South Africans in Iraq was unknown but maintained that the department would release the figures as soon as they were verified.

Ngqengelele added that South Africa has embassies in 125 countries across the world and part of their responsibilities was to assist South Africans in distress while outside their home country.

"The kind of assistance our offices render vary from one situation to another, including on individual persons. It would be difficult to be specific in terms of time frames. The obligation is on individuals to inform us when they travel abroad. Unfortunately not everyone informs us. It isn't Dirco's responsibility to keep track of the number of people travelling abroad. Home affairs does through emigration," he said.

IOL

## EOH Chairperson Xolani Mkhwanazi dies

**JOHANNESBURG** - Dr Xolani Humphrey Mkhwanazi, chairperson of ICT company EOH, passed away in the early hours of Saturday morning. He was 64.

The company said Mkhwanazi died at the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre in Parktown, Johannesburg, having been admitted on December 14.

It said Mkhwanazi was appointed to the EOH board on June 5 last year, as chairperson and independent non-executive director.

Mkhwanazi was among the board members who resigned en masse from the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) in February last year.

"There is clearly a concerted effort to discredit the board of directors to the extent that there cannot be any credibility to the work that is executed in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities," the letter from the directors read.

However, Mkhwanazi was reappointed to the interim board of the PIC, announced by finance minister Tito Mboweni in July last year.

"I worked closely with Dr Mkhwanazi, who played a pivotal role in helping to guide EOH towards a better future.

"Dr Mkhwanazi led the board deliberations on all group matters, but most notably during the tough deliberations around the findings of the ENSAfrica investigation, commissioned by EOH, into public sector contracts," Stephen van Coller, CEO of EOH said. Van Coller said during this period Dr Mkhwanazi braved a difficult time, always striving to do the right thing.

"He grasped the issues and dealt with them quickly. He will be sorely missed," Van Coller said.

Andrew Mthembu, EOH lead independent non-executive director, has been appointed interim chairperson while the board runs a process to appoint a new chairperson.

Mkhwanazi was awarded an honorary degree from Lancaster University, where he obtained MSc and PhD degrees in physics, in July last year.

Vaal University of Technology, where he was chancellor, stated that the UK institution had conferred the degree of Dr of Science honoris causa for his "outstanding leadership contributions to maths and science education development, and energy and mining business arenas, especially in SA."

Sowetan Live

## 'Church not a place for drugs, trafficking'

**BISHO** - South African Pentecostal Bishops Council, the Church Leaders Council of South Africa, Eastern Cape Council of Churches and Immanuel University of Theology has condemned the use of church buildings to smuggle drugs.

This comes after recent reports that police have arrested Bishop Nobongo Thompson from the St Johns Apostolic Church in the Eastern Cape for allegedly selling drugs at her church.

Thompson was found with 36 quarter-mandrax, 15 half-mandrax, six full boss tablets, 161 Dagga bompies, 15 tik sachets, nine dagga arms seized, 75 counterfeit CDs, 13 rizzla papers and R53.60 in her church house where she

resided.

Police received the information through a tip-off and a search warrant was obtained from Zwelitsha Magistrate Court. The organisations has also lamented the use and involvement of church leaders in drug trafficking.

### Highjacking

"This behaviour of highjacking churches for these types of activities is becoming a social time bomb," said president of Church Leaders Council of South Africa, Bhekimpi Mchunu.

SA Bishops Council President, Professor Mbulelo Dyasi called for urgent intervention. "It is high time to isolate criminals who are using churches to conduct criminal acts, including traffick-

ing of drugs and exploitation of young people," said Dyasi.

Religious leaders and communities are urged to be vigilant because drug dealers are allegedly using church accounts to avoid tax and law enforcement agencies. IOL

This behaviour of highjacking churches for these types of activities is becoming a social time bomb

## ANCWL to launch LGBTQI desk to tackle rampant hate crime

**KIMBERLEY** - In a bid to accommodate the largely marginalised and forsaken lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) community, the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) will on Friday launch a special desk for them.

The desk will offer space for members of this community to express themselves and also influence the whole movement in its articulation, policies and resolutions.

The desk would be launched in Kimberley, just a day before the 2020 celebration of the ANC's January 8 rally, which would be held to celebrate the 108th anniversary of the ANC's formation in 1912 in Mangaung.

The league's secretary-general, Meokgo Matuba, told Independent Media on Sunday that one of the organisation's objectives with this was to campaign for an end to all forms of violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups.

She said it was a known fact that the LGBTQI community faced homophobic attacks and, in some instances, get killed in this country.

"According to a five-year report by the Hate Crimes Working Group,

the most discriminated-against group in South Africa are the LGBTQI community, with 35% of hate crimes reported coming from LGBTQI people. This happens despite the protection of LGBTQI community rights being enshrined in section 9 of the Constitution, which forbids discrimination on the basis of sex, gender or sexual orientation," she said.

### Parties

The ANC is one of the few parties that would have such a desk. While the women's league has been heavily criticised for selectively picking cases of gender violence, it has in the past spoken out against it.

Its last known public appearance in court to support a victim was in Ramasodi, in North West, in the case of Karabo Bahutse, who was stabbed 25 times by her killer.

Matuba said as a result of that, since their last elective conference they have continued to engage in dialogue with the LGBTQI community. She said it was through these engagements that the current leadership had resolved to elevate issues of the LGBTQI within their gender developmental agenda.

(ANA)

## 15 injured after taxi rolls over on N3 highway

**JOHANNESBURG** - Fifteen people were injured yesterday morning when the taxi they were travelling in rolled over on the N3 highway near the Bergville toll plaza, about 20km outside Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal, emergency service ER24 said.

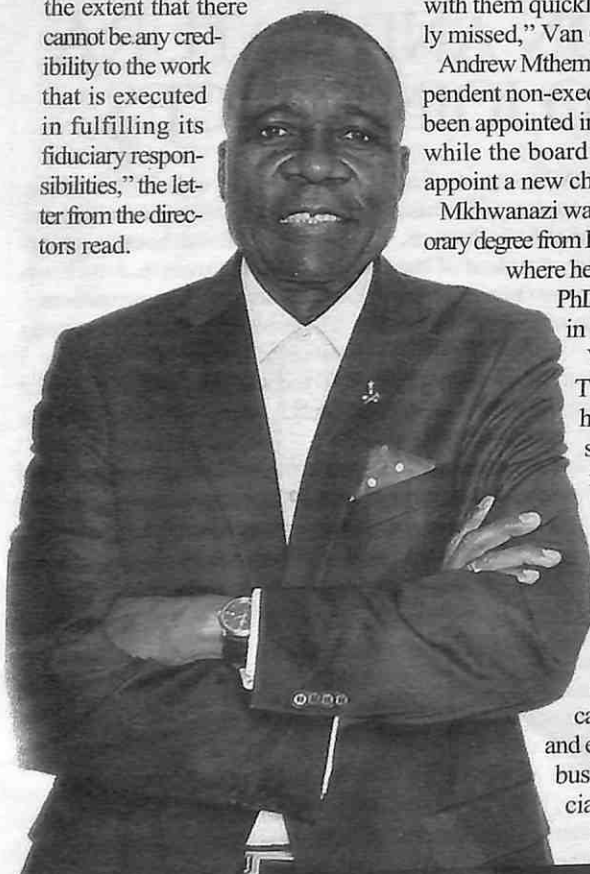
Paramedics dispatched to the scene found the taxi upright on the side of the road after rolling from the opposite lane, ER24 spokesman Russel Meiring said in a statement.

"Several passengers had been ejected from the vehicle... Medics assessed the patients and found that four people had sustained critical injuries while eleven others had sustained minor to serious injuries," Meiring said.

Those injured were treated at the scene with pain relief medication before being transported to hospital for further care.

"The details surrounding this incident are not yet known to our paramedics, but local authorities were on the scene for further investigations," Meiring added.

African News Agency



NO MORE: Chairperson of ICT company EOH Dr Xolani Humphrey Mkhwanazi.





## Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

# SA business icon Richard Maponya dies aged 99

**JOHANNESBURG** - Prominent South African businessman Richard Maponya died aged 99 early on Monday after a short illness, his family said.

In a brief statement, family spokesman Mandla Sibeko said funeral arrangements would be announced in due course and asked for privacy.

Speaking separately on local radio, Sibeko said Maponya's death was a shock to the family as he was "the kind of man who was working every day and he was still working at 99 years old". Popularly known as the father of black retail in South Africa, Maponya defied the restrictions of decades-long white apartheid rule to build a business empire, culminating in the opening of the Maponya mall in the sprawling Soweto township in 2007 which boasts more than 200 stores and a cinema complex. *African News Agency (ANA)*



**LATE:** Prominent South African businessman Richard Maponya.

## Ramaphosa mourns death of 'trailblazer' Maponya

**CAPE TOWN** - President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of business leader Dr Richard Maponya after he died at the age of 99 in the early hours yesterday.

"We have lost a pioneer, a trailblazer and a man of extraordinary fortitude who paved the way for the racial transformation of the South African economy," Ramaphosa said in a statement released by the Presidency.

"Dr Maponya's life is a testament to resilience, determination and the power of vision: namely to see black business grow to assume its full role as the key participant and driver of our economy."

Maponya's business career spanned over 50 years. He began in the retail sector in the 1950s when he and his wife Marina opened a milk distribution company in Soweto.

Over the years, their business empire

included interests in retail, automotive, filling stations and property development.

### Disheartened

"He was of that rare breed of entrepreneurs who would not be held back or become disheartened by difficult operating conditions - in fact, having obstacles put in his path drove him even further to succeed."

Dr Maponya embodied sustainability and corporate social responsibility and investment well before these concepts were academically defined. He was a patriot who believed in the power of building businesses that build communities," Ramaphosa said.

*IOL*

## 'Those fingered in Zondo inquiry must be convicted'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) General Secretary Bheki Nthalintshali has called on the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to charge those fingered in the Zondo commission - even if they are sick or old.

"Those fingered must face the music. Whether others are sick or old, they must be convicted first and then they must ask for pardon," Nthalintshali said at the commemoration for the

SACP's former national chairperson, Joe Slovo, at the Avalon cemetery in Soweto yesterday. Slovo died in 1995. Nthalintshali said bonuses should not be paid to Eskom staff.

"If we give them bonuses we are encouraging them to implement more load-shedding," Nthalintshali said.

He lashed out at the ANC for not sending one of its leaders to Slovo's commemoration. "You can't come to a grave and make commitments that you can't keep." *Timeslive*

## Paramedic left temporarily blinded in ambulance robbery

**JOHANNESBURG** - An ambulance assistant was left temporarily blinded after he was sprayed with a liquid during an ambulance robbery in Ntuzuma E section, north of Durban, in the early hours yesterday.

Netcare 911 managing Director Craig Grindell confirmed the incident took place while paramedics were attending to a patient.

"As Netcare 911 emergency medical services practitioners were loading the patient into the ambulance, they were approached by two people who demanded they hand over their possessions, and then fled the scene," Grindell said.

Grindell said the two knife-wielding men sprayed a substance, believed to be petrol or brake fluid, into the eyes of one of the paramedics before they fled.

"Another Netcare 911 response vehicle rushed to the scene, and both the patient and the ambulance crew members were transported to the hospital for further treatment," said Grindell.

"Fortunately, the ambulance emergency assistant's eyesight has now been restored. Counselling is being offered to the patient and our staff members following the crime, which has been reported to the police," he said.

Grindell expressed his disappointment about the situation.

"It is disappointing that emergency medical services are targeted while providing communities with life-saving emergency medical services. However, thankfully in this case, no serious injuries were sustained," he said.

*Timeslive*

## Three die in Limpopo crash

**LIMPOPO** - Three people died after their car rolled on the N1 near Mookgopong, Limpopo, police said yesterday.

Police spokesperson Brig Motlafela Mojapelo said the accident happened on Sunday.

### Investigation

"Preliminary investigations indicate that the vehicle, which was moving from north to south, experienced a puncture and the driver lost control."

"The vehicle veered into the opposite lane and started rolling," Mojapelo said. Three people, including two girls, aged seven and two, died in the crash. Eight others suffered serious injuries and were taken to hospital.

*Sowetan live*

## Student mugged, stabbed on New Year's Eve

**POLOKWANE** - A petition, Justice for Thoriso 'Forklift' Noko Kgomo, has since been created calling for social media users to help fight for justice.

Thoriso Noko Kgomo, a local resident and learner at Northern Academy Independent School, succumbed to injuries he sustained during an incident in Seshego on New Year's Eve, reports Polokwane Review.

According to a family member, Mosa Maluleke, his cousin was stabbed during a mugging.

It is alleged that a person attempted to take his cellphone and, in fighting back, Thoriso was stabbed several times.

### Confirmed

Police Spokesperson Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo confirmed the incident and said the deceased succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

A petition Justice for Thoriso 'Forklift' Noko Kgomo, has since been created calling for social media users to help fight for justice. *Citizen*



**ROBBERY:** An ambulance assistant was left temporarily blinded after he was sprayed with a liquid during an ambulance robbery in Ntuzuma E section, north of Durban, in the early hours yesterday.

## Social development opens hotline for matriculants

**JOHANNESBURG** - The department of social development has widened the scope of its gender-based violence command centre to give counselling to matric pupils who are anxious ahead of the release of their results tomorrow.

Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga will release the national results this evening, and the individual candidate results will be released on tomorrow.

The hotline opened to matric pupils on Sunday.

"The department urges matriculants and their parents to make use of the command centre to receive counselling and support from trained social workers," the department said in a statement.

The number to dial is 0800 428 428.

Those in need of help can also request that counsellors call them back by dialing \*120\*7867#. The service is free from any cellphone.

Deaf matriculants and their parents can also get assistance via the helpline as the department has put in place a Skype line for their assistance.

"Just add 'HELPMGBV' to their contacts and a social worker will accept the invite and call them back," the department said.

More than 790 000 pupils sat for the final matric exams in 2019. The department revealed that 596 720 pupils received social grants. *Times Live*



# Focus on World News

Global News

## Trump warns Iran of 'major retaliation,' threatens sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump threatened "major retaliation" on Sunday if Iran avenges the killing of a key military commander and he warned of massive economic sanctions against ally Iraq if the country expels US troops based there.

The twin threats came as Iran announced it was further reducing compliance with a tattered international nuclear accord, ending limitations on numbers of centrifuges used to enrich uranium.

The latest blow to the accord, which was meant to ensure Iran did not develop a nuclear weapon under cover of its nuclear industry, deepened the regional crisis set off by Friday's killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad.

Trump ordered a US drone to fire a missile at Soleimani, one of the most influential people in Iran's government, when he was near the Iraqi capital's international airport.

Angry, black-clad mourners thronged the streets of Iran's second city Mashhad on Sunday to pay last respects to the



**WARNS: US President Donald Trump.**

remains of Soleimani and chant "death to America."

Trump bluntly warned Iran against taking vengeance, repeating his insistence that US bombing targets could include Iran's cultural heritage sites. Critics say that would qualify as a war crime under international law.

"If they do anything there will be

major retaliation," Trump told reporters on Air Force One, as he flew back to Washington - and a looming Senate impeachment trial - from vacation in Florida.

Trump had already threatened bombing of 52 unspecified targets in Iran if Tehran attacks US troops and interests in the region. **AFP**

### 'House seeks to limit Trump's military actions on Iran'

WASHINGTON - US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House will introduce and vote on a war powers resolution this week to limit US President Donald Trump's military actions regarding Iran.

"This resolution is similar to the resolution introduced by Senator Tim Kaine in the Senate," Pelosi said in a statement late on Sunday.

"It reasserts Congress's long-established oversight responsibilities by mandating that if no further Congressional action is taken, the Administration's military hostilities with regard to Iran cease within 30 days." The resolution is likely to win approval in the Democratic-led House, but prospects for passage are less certain in the Senate, which is controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, many of whom have said they support the president's action on Iran. **Reuters**

## Finland to introduce a 4-day working week

FINLAND - Finland's new prime minister has called for the introduction of a flexible working schedule in the country that would involve a four-day-week and six-hour working day.

Sanna Marin, 34, - who is the second youngest head of government in the world - said it would allow workers to spend more time with their families. The mother-of-one leads a centre-left coalition with four other parties which are all headed by women, three of which are under 35.

She said: 'I believe people deserve to spend more time with their families, loved ones, hobbies and other

aspects of life, such as culture. "This could be the next step for us in working life."

Before Marin became Prime Minister she held a position as the Minister of Transport for Finland.

While in office in that position, Marin advocated for shorter work weeks to improve employee rapport and productivity. In Finland currently it is normal to work eight hours per day, five days per week.

The proposal was immediately welcomed with enthusiasm by the minister of education Li Andersson, the leader of the Left Alliance.

**Daily Mail**

## Mourners pack Tehran to grieve Iran general Soleimani

TEHRAN - A crowd gathered at Tehran University before supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei presided over prayers for the slain general.

Mourners packed the streets of Tehran on Monday for ceremonies to pay homage to top Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani, after he was killed in a US strike in Baghdad. Clutching portraits of their hero, the crowd gathered at Tehran University before supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei presided over prayers for the slain general, AFP correspondents reported.

Soleimani, who spearheaded Iran's Middle East operations as commander of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, was killed in a US drone strike Friday near Baghdad airport.

His assassination ratcheted up tensions between arch-enemies Tehran and Washington.

Iran said late Sunday it was further rolling back its commitments to a nuclear deal already in tatters since US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from it in May 2018.

In freezing early morning temperatures, women in black walked alongside men holding up flags bearing the names of Shiite imams as they walked down Tehran's Enghelab (Revolution) Street towards the university.

"Down with USA," said a placard held up by a young woman wearing a black chador.

The procession was broadcast live on state television, with screens bearing a black ribbon across the top left-hand corner in a rare tribute.

Khamenei appeared to cry as he prayed over the flag-draped coffins containing the remains of Soleimani and five other "martyrs" killed in the strike.

The supreme leader was flanked by Soleimani's son, the slain general's replacement as Quds commander Esmail Qaani, President Hassan Rouhani, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and the Guards' top commander Major General Hossein Salami.

People prayed together with Khamenei whose voice cracked as he spoke.

**AFP**



**MOURNERS: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wept over the remains of Qasem Soleimani (top picture) as thousands of mourners gathered in Tehran for the second day of the general's funeral.**

### BRIEFS

#### Six-storey apartment block collapses

PAKISTAN - This is the moment a six-storey apartment block crumbled to the ground sending residents fleeing in terror. The Al-Ramzan Tower in Karachi, Pakistan, collapsed on Monday 30 December 40 minutes after residents were evacuated. Footage shows people staring up at the building and yelling, seconds before it collapses to the ground. Suddenly the apartment block folds in on itself causing plumes of smoke to billow out between the narrow streets. The clouds of dust make their way through the houses as onlookers rush from the dust that has flooded the area. Police said all residents were evacuated from the block and officers cordoned off the building. **Daily Mail**

#### Knifeman shouting 'Allahu akbar' shot

PARIS - French police on Sunday shot and wounded a man who had rushed towards a group of policemen with a knife shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) in the eastern city of Metz, local officials said. The incident at Metz came just two days after a man went on a knife rampage in the suburb of Villejuif just outside Paris on Jan. 3, killing one person and wounding two. The Villejuif attacker was subsequently shot dead by police. The Metz local public prosecutor's office said it was in contact with the French anti-terrorism prosecutor's department over the incident, while French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner added he was monitoring the situation closely. **Reuters**

#### Father shoots dead his own daughter, her husband

AUSTRALIA - Lindita Musai had been trying to start a new life away from her father when she was cut down in a hail of bullets alongside her new husband on New Year's Eve. Daily Mail Australia can reveal Musai feared her father Osman Shaptafaj, 55, who is accused of killing her and husband Veton Musai before turning the gun on himself. A family member, who wished to remain anonymous, said Musai had endured a 'difficult' upbringing. 'I'll just say it was nothing to do with his background or his beliefs, as he has no beliefs,' the man said. The devastated family member spoke out amid speculation about why the couple may have been murdered. **Daily Mail**

#### Chief urges Iraq to free itself from US 'occupation'

LEBANON - The head of Lebanon's Shiite movement Hezbollah Sunday called on Iraq to free itself of the American "occupation" after top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani was killed in a US strike in Baghdad. "Our demand, our hope from our brothers in the Iraqi Parliament is... to adopt a law that demands American forces withdraw from Iraq," Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech. **AFP**





# Focus on Africa News

## Continental News

# Mnangagwa moves to consolidate presidential power

**HARARE** - Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa's move to consolidate power is at an advanced stage after gazetting the removal of the running mate clause from the constitution on New Year's Eve.

The clause, which was set to take effect from the 2023 general election, looks to be dead in the water after the Constitutional Amendment Bill was gazetted and is set to be debated in Parliament in April.

Zanu-PF enjoys a two-thirds majority in Parliament and a challenge to the supreme law is unlikely.

Justice, Legal and Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi told the state-controlled Sunday Mail that there would be public consultations before the Constitution Amendment Bill went through Parliament.

Under the running mate clause, the president and his deputies were meant to be jointly elected to office. This means a deputy would become an elected official so firing him or her from government would be an onerous task.

The late president Robert Mugabe on November 7, 2017 fired Mnangagwa from office at the height of the Zanu-PF succession tussle. Mugabe said in a letter that his deputy "lacked pro-

bity".

Now in power, Mnangagwa seeks the same instrument used by Mugabe to fire him. It will enable him to deal with internal resistance in the event that he feels threatened by a deputy.

One of the key resolutions at the December 2019 Zanu-PF conference was that Mnangagwa would be the party's presidential candidate in 2023.

Zanu-PF's secretary for administration Obert Mpofu is on record as saying that Mnangagwa could go beyond two presidential terms because Zanu-PF had the power to change the supreme law. *Times Live*

## DESPITE CRISIS, ZIMBABWEANS HAVE FRESH HOPES FOR NEW YEAR

**HARARE** - At a grocery supermarket in Arcadia, a middle income suburb in Harare, 31-year old Alyssa Botha is pushing a cart full of groceries towards her car.

"The year 2019 (last year) has been a tough one," she said. "We saw the price of basic commodities spiral. School fees and rentals skyrocketed. Power cuts were the order of the day and fuel became scarce. We have endured a lot, and as we enter 2020 I am hopeful that things will change for the better."

"I can say the coming year will be better because most basic commodities are now available in shops," she added.

Botha said her main concern is how she is going to feed and dress her two sons given the volatile economic landscape in the country.

Vimbai Mutsena-Shumba from Chitungwiza, a dormitory town 30 kilometres south of Harare, said cash shortages were a major issue, and hopes that the government will bring an end to this challenge.



**ON QUEUE:** People queue to withdraw cash from a bank in Harare.

"People are spending hours in queues at the bank to access cash, and I hope that in the coming year the responsible authorities will put an end to this problem," she said.

With the scarcity of cash, Zimbabweans have over the past few years relied on mobile money for the settlement of most transactions. While mobile money is gaining wider acceptance, in the informal

sector most products have higher prices when using mobile money, which forces consumers to pay premiums of up to 50 per cent to get cash from mobile money agents.

"The major challenge that we will continue facing as business owners is the continuous declining demand of goods since income is being eroded by inflation. *Xinhua*



**DONATION:** Stanbic Bank CEO Leina Gabaraane hands over a cheque to Zambia's police commissioner in charge of administration Lombe Kamukoshi.

## Stanbic Bank donates over R50K towards fitness among police

**JOHANNESBURG** - Stanbic Bank has donated K50 000 (about R50 600) towards promoting fitness among Zambian police.

Presenting a cheque towards the hosting of a sports day, Stanbic Chief Executive Leina Gabaraane said the bank was excited to partner with the Zambia Police Service to promote physical activity.

"Through sport and healthy living, the cost of health in an economy will actually reduce quite significantly, so sport is quite critical," Gabaraane said. "But above all, as a financial institution in Zambia, we believe that

we also need to be contribution to reducing unemployment."

Police Inspector General Kakoma Kanganja said the force was committed to establishing partnerships that would help maintain law and order.

"(The) physical fitness of police officers is an integral component of modern policing," he said.

"As a result, improving sport in law enforcement wings like Zambia Police Service cannot be achieved without partnership and collaboration with external stakeholders like Stanbic Bank." *(ANA)*

## 7 children among 14 civilians killed

**OUAGADOUGOU** - Seven children and four women were among 14 civilians killed when a roadside bomb blew up their bus in north-western Burkina Faso, the government said.

"The provisional toll is 14 dead," a statement said, adding that 19 more people were hurt, three of them seriously in Saturday's blast.

The explosion happened in Sourou province near the Mali border as students returned to school after the Christmas holidays, a security source said. "The vehicle hit a homemade bomb on the Toeni-Tougan road," the source told AFP.

"The government strongly condemns this cowardly and barbaric act," the statement said. No one claimed responsibility for the attack but jihadist violence in Burkina Faso

has been blamed on combatants linked to both Al-Qaeda and Islamic State (ISIS) groups.

Meanwhile, the army reported an assault against gendarmes at Inata in the north on Friday, saying "a dozen terrorists were neutralised".

### Deaths

The deaths came the week after 35 people, most of them women, died in an attack on the northern city of Arbinda and seven Burkinabe troops were killed in a raid on their army base nearby.

Burkina Faso, bordering Mali and Niger, has seen frequent jihadist attacks which have left hundreds of people dead since the start of 2015 when Islamist extremist violence began to spread across the Sahel region.

*AFP*

## BRIEFS

### 'Slain general planned to attack Kenya'

**KENYA** - US Vice President Mike Pence claimed the late Qasem Soleimani, the head of Quds Force - the elite part of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps -- was a terrorist who plotted attacks including in Kenya, even as millions in the Middle east mourned the fallen commander as a hero.

"(Soleimani) directed IRGC QF terrorist plots to bomb innocent civilians in Turkey and Kenya in 2011," the US VP tweeted yesterday. US President Donald Trump announced that the US killed Soleimani "to stop a war, not to start one".

*All Africa*

### Chadian troops pull out of Nigeria

**NIGERIA** - Chadian troops deployed in Nigeria have been withdrawn by their country, reports said. About 1 200 troops from the neighbouring Chad were deployed to give combat support to Nigerian soldiers fighting Boko Haram last year. The deployment was part of a regional agreement by countries around the Lake Chad to combat insurgency, which surpassed 10 years in mid-2019. "It's our troops who went to aid Nigerian soldiers months ago returning home. They have finished their mission," French newswire, AFP, cited a Chadian military spokesperson as saying Saturday.

"None of our soldiers remain in Nigeria."

*All Africa*

### Biya fires military action warning to separatists

**CAMEROON** - Cameroonian President Paul Biya has vowed to do everything possible to hunt down the separatists in crisis-hit regions of Northwest and Southwest. In a televised New year message Tuesday night, Biya said the security situation in the two anglophone regions is one of the country's most urgent problems at the moment. "For those who persist in going down the wrong road and continue to use violence, we will have no other choice than to combat them in order to protect all our fellow citizens," President Biya said. "Our defence and security forces will, once again, perform their duty with restraint, but without weakness. I wish to reassure them of my full support and high esteem," the president added. *All Africa*

### Imprisoned Cambridge student released

**JUBA** - A Cambridge University student who had been detained in a "modern-day hellhole" in South Sudan has been pardoned and released, his lawyer said. Peter Biar Ajak had been a critic of his country's regime and was studying for a PhD when arrested in July 2018. He was sentenced to two years in prison in June but his lawyer said he had been pardoned and released on Saturday. Ajak said "words cannot express how grateful" he was for the support he and his family had received. "It has meant so much to us and given us the strength we needed. It's a new year and a new decade and my wish is that this year will be the start of lasting peace in South Sudan," he added. *BBC*



ESWATINI  
Observer

## ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

Milewski  
on Mzansi  
Magic movie

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

**MORE** actors are spreading their wings beyond the country's borders.

Local actor Milewski Mdluli has been featured on Mzansi Magic movie titled 'Not4Sale'.

Mdluli said he was excited to have landed himself such a role.

"I am so happy to have been chosen. I play role of a guy called Phila who works for a boss named Jomo. Phila kidnaps girls for his boss so he can use them for prostitution and then traffic them," he said.

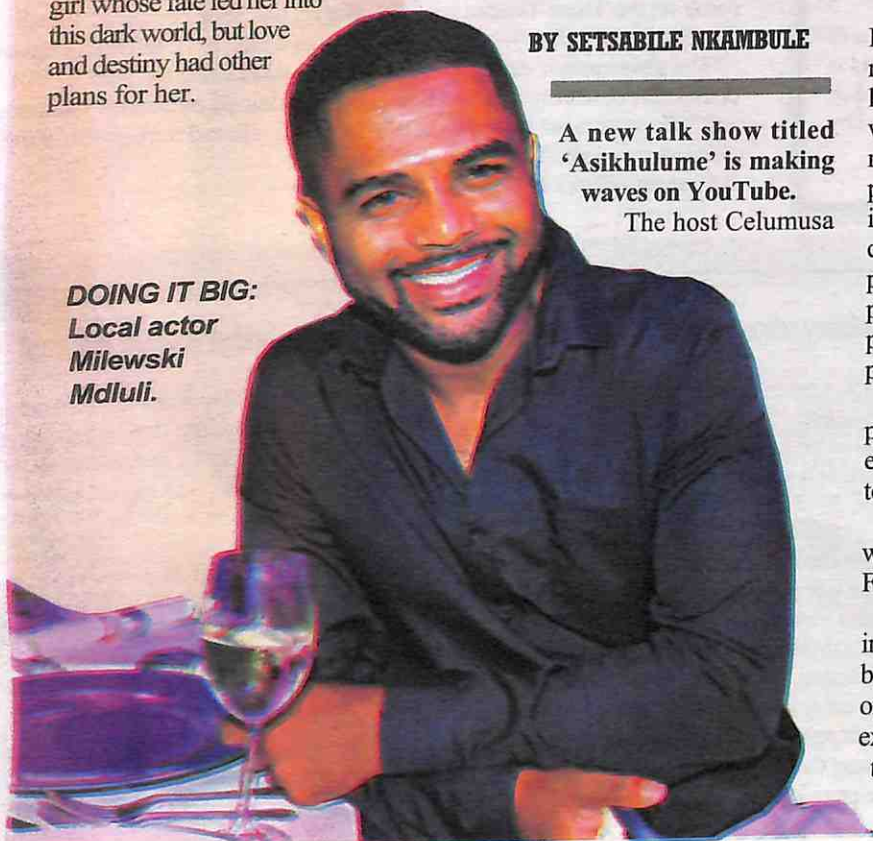
He stated that acting was one of the reasons he relocate to South Africa. He said his plan was to also pursue a modelling career.

Mdluli has advised aspiring actors to educate themselves in the field they want to venture into as this would help sharpen their skills.

"There are a lot of ways people can better themselves in the acting. People can use the internet and attend workshops even though there might be no workshops in eswatini. I believe the country has a lot of talent, it's just that we don't have a platform to display our craft that is why we find ourselves in SA," he said.

'Not 4 Sale' is a movie that looks at the horrifying effects of human trafficking in South Africa and abroad. In this movie we follow a story of a young girl whose fate led her into this dark world, but love and destiny had other plans for her.

**DOING IT BIG:**  
Local actor  
Milewski  
Mdluli.

LITTLE MISS ESWATINI  
TO HOST CHILDREN'S  
VISION WORKSHOP

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

**LITTLE** Miss Eswatini Shakira Mamba has great plans for the young ones in the Kingdom.

The Pageant Director, Nokuphila Masangane said their mandate was to help improve the livelihood or welfare of children in Eswatini, adding that this year they would be hosting a number of workshops to ensure they fulfil their mandate.

"The pageant focuses on children who are between zero and 13 years and not the youth. We leave that to other beauty queens such as Miss Eswatini. Little Miss Eswatini works only during school holidays because we believe education is the key to a bright future. Parents invest heavily in their children's education, therefore, we also need to make sure that the pageantry work does not interfere with their academic work," she said.

She stated that, this year the reigning young queen would at host a Children's Vision Board Workshop before the schools open.

She said before the schools close in April, the young beauty queen will host a charity race that will only be attended by children. Furthermore, Masangane said Mamba would host a Writing Competition for Children, a project that would focus on topics that cover children's issues in the country. "There are also other ini-

- The young beauty queen's calendar looks rich
- Little Mr Eswatini will be launched this year



**GREAT PLANS:** Little Miss Eswatini Shakira Mamba.

tiatives in the pipeline that will empower children, including infants. "One other important thing is that in April we are launching the full pageant. We are officially launching the Little Mr and Miss Eswatini Pageants, which

means the little boys will be considered in this year's competition. We'll crown our little king and queen. Applications Forms for the competition will be available immediately after the launch," she said

## 'Asikhuleme' talk show making waves

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

**A new talk show** titled 'Asikhulume' is making waves on YouTube.

The host Celumusa

Mkhatshwa, said the talk show was meant to engage members of the public to talk about matters and issues that were happening around their communities. "It is meant to give the people a platform to talk about issues affecting them and give every Liswati a chance to use the space to grow other people, get content on what is happening in our society and also give people a platform to advertise their products or businesses.

"Asikhulume", being a random street prerecorded programme, will give everyone a chance to talk about any topic," he said.

Mkhatshwa mentioned that the show was aired on social platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

"The talk show does not only help in working together to solve problem but it also promotes local businesses on the social platforms. People should expect many great episodes of entertainment, growth and much more," he said.

**LET'S TALK:**  
Celumusa  
Mkhatshwa.

Lwazi Lu  
breaks the ice  
with new single

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

**ESWATINI** upcoming artist Lwazi Lu has released a new single dubbed 'Kufezive'

According to Lwazi, this is a very powerful song with a brief yet straight to the point message.

"The story behind this song is really mysterious as it takes me to places. I performed the song during a crossover service at Ndzingeni Alliance Church without even writing it down. The church was really touched by its message and further encouraged me to consider releasing it," Lwazi said.

Lwazi has performed this song in many events such as UNESWA Mbabane Campus.

According to Lu, the recording of the single was a whole spiritual battle itself because the devil tried by all means to stop him from finishing it.

"One thing I learnt as I recorded this song is that faith is necessary if you are to succeed in doing something. One thing that amazed me is that during the final studio session, I did not spend much time recording it like before and the people in the studio were really blessed before it could even be mastered. It may not be as perfect as I want it to be, but it's a very good start indeed. I am very grateful to Lwazi Mngometulu (aka BoykidD) who made

this a dream come true by doing the final touchups," Lwazi shared.

Lwazi Lusito Gule is a 22 year old gospel artist from Ndzingeni in the northern H h o h h o region.





Miss Trophy | ISooks | Mandisa | Mzwaa

# WE ARE BRINGING FIRE IN 2020 - ARTISTS

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

As this year is a leap year, Eswatini artists promised to release more music for fans.

In several interviews with the Entertainment Desk, artists have said they are working on big projects for this year and that they will bring out their best game in the industry. "I'm working on a

project to promote my album. This year I will be focusing on making videos for some of the songs in my recently released album. The album is now available in all digital platforms and will be in stores soon," shared Miss Trophy.

## Quality

Eswatini's house music most sought after deejay ISooks said people must expect nothing but more quality music from him.

He said this year he would be experimenting more especially with vocal songs and that he

would stretch his creativity to a whole new level.

"It's more amazing music, and more smart work this year," he said.

## Devotees

MTN SWAMA award winner Mzwaa said music devotees should expect more music, more collaborations and a few surprises from him.

"But I'm looking into working with a lot of Eswatini artists and also shooting more music videos. The first one should be 'Lutsandvo',"

Mzwaa shared.

"My first single for the year is out and the feedback has been amazing. People can also expect my self-titled album 'Mandisa Mamba'.

"It is a collage of genres in which I was able to express and experiment in.

Once my album is out I will be focusing on music videos and collaborations. It's all so exciting and I look forward to sharing it with my fans," sultry singer Mandisa Mamba added.

## Another 'Lyrikal' project coming your way

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

**RAPPER Lyrikal Buster is ready to drop his long awaited album.**

The album will be out on February 7 and is titled 'New Skool Love Too'.

It is a sequel to a project

he dropped in 2017.

The rapper said he was dropping the album on this date because he believed seven was his lucky number.

"My last project 'New Age Rap' was dropped on the seventh; I won a SWAMA award for best video on December 7 which also happens to be my birth date hence I decided to drop this one on February 7," he said.

On the album he featured Durban vocalist Sbu Ngema on the single 'Makoti' and he also worked with M. Triggerson, Jurie, Samilo, MiloKul, Taigh Tae, M. Seth, Liz Harris, Kurtis, and Able Kein.

"This project was inspired by love, my past experiences and the energy I keep around me. I've always viewed my music as my diary. I grew up around love thus I'm more comfortable preaching about love through my music," the rapper said.

The single Makoti is doing quite well as it recently topped charts on the EBIS Top 20 charts.

"I'm getting responses from as far as South Africa; it's definitely a show stopper. I was performing it during the festive in various events across the Kingdom and I never expected people to vibe to it like they have," he said.

**NEW PROJECT:  
Rapper Lyrikal  
Busta.**

## Eswatini Clothing Brands awards returns

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

**ESWATINI Clothing Brands Awards (ECBA) are back.**

After a two-year break, the awards will be held at the Theatre Club on June 27.

This was revealed by ECBA Managing Director Lindani Simelane yesterday.

Simelane said they aimed to recognise upcoming local clothing brands that have excelled in the fashion industry of Eswatini and Africa, regardless of the challenges faced.

These awards were initiated by TGMR (To God Mysoul Rest); a local clothing brand in 2017. The inspiration behind hosting an event like this came after noticing there was a number of unknown clothing brands producing good quality clothing and trying to penetrate the market.

## Awards

"The last edition of the awards were much bigger and better as our target was to have not more than 250 people attending the event which we exceeded.

"This year we have a number of sponsorships, we have the support of Eswatini KFC which is our main sponsor, Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture, True Imagies and Praiseworthy.

"As TGMR we feel the need to continue hosting these awards annually. This is to help not only unveil local clothing brands but also talent in Eswatini, giving the youth a platform to shine in their different talents, be it fashion and design, dancing or music. This will also help them develop and perfect certain skills in order to be identified as brands in the entertainment industry," said Simelane.

Registration fees E200 and a maximum of 15 brands will be allowed. Tickets will be released in March and they will be limited.



**THE  
RETURN:  
ECBA  
Managing  
Director  
Lindani  
Simelane.**





# Celebville

International Celebrity News



## US star TI spills tea on his friendship

**NEW YORK** - People dropped their jaws recently when American rapper T.I. released the slips on his upcoming collaboration with Nasty C and his friendship with AKA at an event in Kenya.

The rapper is no stranger to the African continent and he was spotted in Cape Town in 2018.

In a video shared by Boombuzz Kenya on Twitter, the Grammy-award winning artist spoke about his collaboration with Nasty C and revealed that their track together hadn't come out yet.

He also spoke of the good relations he has formed with African artists over the years, including AKA, and shared his ambitions to work with musicians from the continent in the future.

"I align my talents with other talented people... I have relationships with Davido, AKA. I have connections and relationships with people in the music industry from Africa."

T.I. also counts SA rapper Kwesta as one of this friends, after the Ngud' hitmaker opened for the US star during his 2017 American tour.

Speaking to TshisaLIVE at the time, Kwesta said that he got a call from the rapper's team asking if he would be interested in performing at some of T.I.'s shows in America.

"They were like, 'we really like your vibe and we think that we can really vibe with you. We want you to come out and open for T.I.' It came out of the blue. I haven't met T.I. or anyone from his team before, so to get this call was totally unexpected. I am a big fan of T.I. so I naturally said yes," Kwesta explained. *Times Live*

## Charlize Theron brought to tears by Tom Hanks' tribute

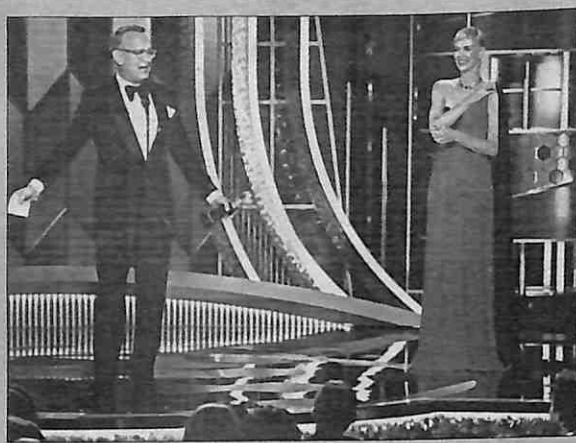
**HOLLYWOOD** - In one of the cutest moments of Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony, Tom Hanks gushed over SA-born actress Charlize Theron.

Charlize was presenting Tom with the 2020 Cecil B DeMille award at the Beverly Hills, US, event. The award is given by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for "outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment".

In her speech, Charlize remembered her childhood in SA and said a VHS of Tom in the movie *Splash* was one of her most treasured possessions.

"There was this filthy duck pond on our farm that I would splash around in waiting for Tom to rescue me and show me Manhattan," Charlize said.

But Tom turned the attention to Charlize for a minute, praising her talent and leaving her in fangirl mode.



It started when he walked up to the stage to accept his prize and complimented Charlize, leaving her all giddy.

In his speech, he shared a story about Charlize and paid tribute to her talent. She could be seen nearly collapsing next to him.

Quentin Tarantino's *Once*

Upon A Time... In Hollywood took three awards at the ceremony, including best comedy/musical film, best screenplay and a best supporting actor nod for Brad Pitt.

War epic *1917* took best drama film and a surprise best director trophy for Sam Mendes.

*News 24*

## Celebs pay tribute to Richard Maponya

**CAPE TOWN** - Some of SA's biggest celebs have joined the nation in mourning the death of entrepreneur and property developer Ntate Richard Maponya.

Ntate Richard died in the early hours of yesterday morning at age 99 after a short illness, his family confirmed in a statement.

Taken by the sad news of the entrepreneur giant's death, Mzansi's famous faces took to social media to pay their last respects.

As an aspiring entrepreneur himself, Cassper Nyovest shared how he was touched and influenced by Ntate

Richard even though he had never met him in person.

"Pioneer, legend, phenomenon and black excellence. Thank you for leading and inspiring. Never met you but I was touched and influenced. A great life lived. Robala ka k g o t s o . #RIPRichardMaponya." The man behind many business ventures, DJ Sbu thanked Ntate Richard for being an inspiration to many and said his death is a loss for the country.

"Shocking news to wake up to. What a big loss. Rest in peace Dr Richard Maponya. Thank you for the inspiration. Condolences to the friends, colleagues and family."

Radio broadcaster Mo Flava shared how honoured he was to have met the business mogul, and said he was saddened by his passing.

"Saddened by the passing of Ntate Richard Maponya. What an incredible legacy he leaves behind. Honored to have met him." Arthur Mafokate described Ntate Richard as a legend and was heartbroken by the news. Global business speaker and serial entrepreneur Vusi Thembekwayo paid his last respects to Ntate Richard for his business acumen and for writing his own rule book even when the odds were against him. *Times Live*

## Kaybee's Fetch Your Life inspires Judge Mahube

**DURBAN** - Noted as one of the best motivational songs of 2019, Prince Kaybee is humbled that *Fetch Your Life* is an inspiration to the Supreme Court of Appeal Judge Mahube Molemela.

Kaybee shared a video on Twitter of the judge giving him a shout out about how powerful the lyrics were and recommending that young people should listen to it, as it would inspire them to unleash their capabilities.

In the video, the judge said: "In

your way, go out there and celebrate this achievement with your families in a special way. And as you celebrate and you play the song *Fetch Your Life* by Kaybee, please listen to the lyrics and please watch the video.

**Capable**

"I watched it and I was inspired. We have very capable young people from all walks of life, from all industries, from all sectors, there's hope for this country, ladies and gentlemen, let's make it happen. Thank you."



## DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Amo on *The Queen* tonight.



The matric results are out and it's a very big nerve wracking day Thokozani and the Zungu family. Judas tasks Qaphela with trying to find the missing Saddam. Jabu's pitch to the council receives some unexpected support when Ntwenhle gate-crashes an already heated council meeting.



Claudette and Lincoln receive a curious request. Post the wedding, Phindile finds there are pros and cons to being a Matabane makoti. The matric results are out.



Vho-Masindi thinks getting rid of Tshilidzi will solve her troubles. One of the Zikalala's fights for his life after what happened at the imbeleko. Vho-Masindi is unimpressed that Hangwani let Mudi go home with KK.



There's tension between the sisters because of their money issues. Fikile confronts her ex about being a jerk. Ayanda realises this is just the start of her nightmare.



Gog'Flo isn't about to let an angry mob get the better of her. To kiss or not to kiss, that is the question. Luke is floored when a policeman asks him to kill someone...



While Nkunzi struggles to get MaNgcobo back, Sibonelo does the unthinkable. Qhabanga makes Khehla feel even guiltier; and Sbu's plan is thwarted.



Confronted with indisputable proof that a liar is finally telling the truth, Quinton finds it hard not to feel sympathy. Yvonne realises that now she has opened a door on her past, it will be very hard to close it. A community meeting is derailed by a trouble maker.



"Babe I'm on my periods but I've organized my friend Kayla to come sort you out." this is what men want to hear in 2020

Follow Us @  
No Chill In Mzansi



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

### Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Today you might realize that you need to make a certain purchase, Capricorn. Perhaps your home or car requires some important repairs, or maybe some new equipment is necessary for your work. This could prove rather disheartening, as it might involve spending money that you'd rather use for something more exciting. Think of the trouble this expenditure should save you, however, and you'll see the value of it all.



### Aquarius January 20 – February 18

The weight of too many responsibilities, perhaps involving family, a job, or group affiliation, could be very much on your mind today, Aquarius. You may feel like Atlas, carrying the world on your shoulders! You're tired. Perhaps you need to reevaluate your commitments - your innate kindness may have caused you to make too many. Fulfill the ones you have, but think twice before making any new ones. You're important too, after all.



### Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may have your ups and downs today, Pisces. You could get at least one phone call of the "good news, bad news" variety, and this could have your moods swinging back and forth like a pendulum. Try to stay centered. Take the good news as encouragement, and as for the bad news, try to consider it objectively and figure out ways to turn it to your advantage. There's always a way. Hang in there!



### Aries March 21 – April 1

Normally you tend to be a very spiritually oriented person, Aries, but today you might find metaphysical concepts of all kinds rather baffling. Whether these are ideas you've embraced for a long time or new ones you've just discovered, you may find nagging little doubts creeping in, temporarily causing your faith to waver. This is a healthy development, however. A little doubt now and then can weed out concepts that don't work for you and reaffirm your belief in others.



### Taurus April 20 – May 20

Today you might learn something about a friend that could be rather disconcerting, Taurus. There could be a dark side to this person that you weren't previously aware of, and this could cause you to want to withdraw for a while and reevaluate your involvement with this individual. When considering it, remember that we all have our dark sides. Could what you've discovered simply be this factor, or does this go too far beyond it for you? Think about it!



### Gemini May 21 – June 21

Outside responsibilities might temporarily interfere with your love life, Gemini. You may feel a strong desire to get together with a love partner early in the evening, but circumstances may necessitate your working odd hours. This can be frustrating, as you've been looking forward to this for a long time, but you could meet your friend later in the evening. Don't be afraid to ask. Most people understand when



situations like this crop up.

### Cancer June 22 – July 22

Today you're likely to find your routine too boring for words, Cancer, and may have a sudden powerful urge to cut loose and play some serious hooky. Still, you may feel the pull of obligation. This conflicted feeling should pass. If it persists beyond today, however, you might need to reevaluate certain areas of your life. There are lots of opportunities out there, and life is too short to be stuck in a situation that doesn't allow you to grow.



### Leo July 23 – August 22

You could be feeling especially sensual and passionate today, Leo, and you'll want to get together with a love interest. However, other responsibilities could get in your way. This could provide you with the perfect excuse to sink into gloom, but don't fall into this trap. Get whatever business you're facing handled and out of the way. Or perhaps you can arrange to finish it tomorrow. Then set up that hot date!



### Virgo August 23 – September 22

You may feel a bit of disappointment today, Virgo. You might tend to view whatever snags you've hit on the path to accomplishing your goals as personal failures, and if you let it, this idea could persist with you throughout the day. Try to remain objective, and don't lose sight of the big picture. You haven't even lost a battle - at worst, it's a minor conflict! Chances are that if you continue working hard you'll still win the war!



### Libra September 23 – October 23

A rather disheartening phone call could come to you today, Libra. This might bring news of a setback in one of your projects that is only temporary but nonetheless frustrating. You'll probably have to deal with some trivial little details you'd rather not bother with, and this could take up too much valuable time. Hang in there - you're still doing well! Don't let your frustrations get the best of you.



### Scorpio October 24 – November 21

After the rush of energy over the past few days, Scorpio, today you may feel a powerful letdown. Not every day can be filled with adventure and excitement. For now, you just need to take care of the routine matters that are a byproduct of life on Earth. However, keep in mind that there are many weekends coming up, and with the right kind of planning you can get excitement back into your life.



### Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

A goal that you've been trying to reach may be temporarily stalled, Sagittarius, and you could be tempted to slip into despair, wondering if it will ever really happen. Remember that the keyword for today is "temporary." Whatever obstacles are in your way will eventually be overcome and your goal should be to continue to advance in the direction you want. In the meantime, take care of your chores. They may be boring, but they're necessary!



## BABY BLUES



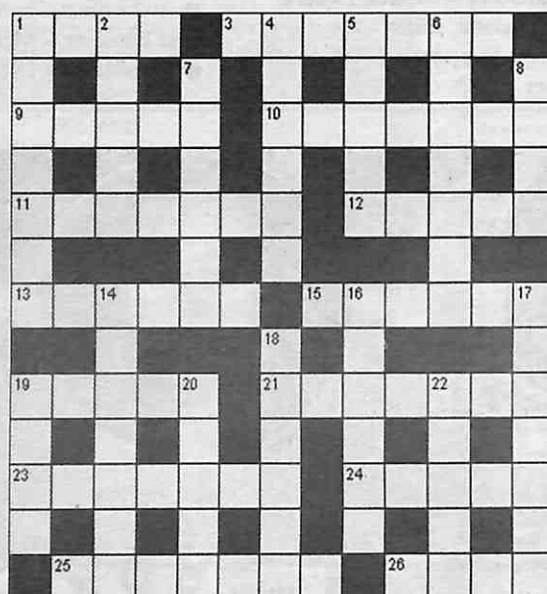
## BLONDIE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CRYPTIC 23



### DOWN

- THUG FOLDING ROOF, MOROSE FIRST OFF (7)
- ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY PARK? (5)
- NARRATE, DON'T START ANGER, MENTION SOMETHING (6)
- INSTRUCT A CHEAT TO CHANGE (5)
- SEARCH IN PLOT MYSTERY TO WIN IT (7)
- CONTEMPT MOSTLY, COULD BRING ENDLESS ENLIGHTENMENT OR COULD MEAN A COLD (6)
- ALTER LEAP FOR A HUMBLE REQUEST (4)
- UNIT OF WEIGHT, SPOIL RULES (7)
- SEE RUM STIRRED AND START AGAIN (6)
- BIRD DEPOSIT SAVED (4,3)
- AIMLESS, IF DART RE-ARRANGED (6)
- INFO FOUND IN SODA TAP (4)
- DANGER SIGNAL IN IDEAL ARMY (5)
- 21ST LETTER SENT BACK (1,4)

### ACROSS

- SOUNDS LIKE A LOFTY GREETING (4)
- ENGLISH TEAM LEADER, PART OF LIMB BROKEN EASILY (7)
- CHANGE CANOE FOR DEEP WATER (5)
- NATTER AND RECOUNT WITHOUT END SOMETHING PERSONAL (7)
- LET NINE BECOME TOLERANT (7)
- LAUGHING DOG GRIPS JAPANESE CURRENCY BETWEEN HIS HEAD AND MID WAY (5)
- PAPERBACK TRAP IS ATTRACTIVE (6)
- A CORNY WRITING IMPLEMENT FOR A CHANGE (6)
- STIRRED A DRAM FOR A PLAY (5)
- SOUNDS LIKE TALK ABOUT A FIELD SPORT (7)
- MAIN TIP BECOMES A BIG INSTRUMENT (7)
- PC RODENT? (5)
- A TRIM APE CHANGES INTO A SIMIAN (7)
- COSY IF SUNG DIFFERENTLY (4)



## A GANG MEMBER

A gang member was holding his eight-month-old baby while his wife was in the kitchen fixing lunch. The baby mur-

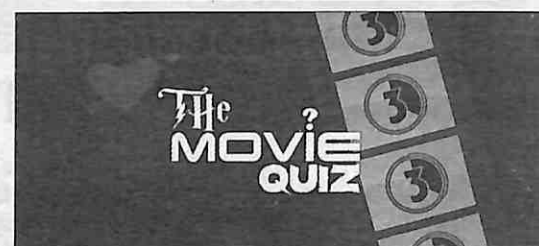
mured "mother".

The guy gets all excited and hollered to his wife, "Hey, the baby just said half a word!"

## DID YOU KNOW

- Bela Lugosi was buried in full Dracula costume—cape and all.
- Central Park's lampposts contain a set of four numbers that can help you navigate.
- A teacher wrote of a young Roald Dahl on his school report card: "I have never met anybody who so persistently writes words meaning the exact opposite of what is intended."
- During World War I, a Canadian soldier made a black bear his pet and named her Winnipeg.

## MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



## YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

- Directed by Michael Dougherty, 'King of the Monsters' is the 35th film in which iconic movie franchise?

ANSWERS:  
A. Godzilla

## TODAY'S MOVIE QUIZ

- Which US actor who once played Johnny Cash appears as the Joker in the 2019 film directed by Todd Phillips?

ANSWERS:  
A. Bobby Brown  
B. Joaquin Phoenix





# 77th Golden Globe Award Winners

THE list of 2020 winners.

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Musical or Comedy**

● Ramy Youssef, *Ramy*

**Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series – Musical or Comedy**

● Phoebe Waller-Bridge, *Fleabag*

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama**

● Brian Cox, *Succession*

**Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series – Drama**

● Olivia Colman, *The Crown*

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television**

● Russell Crowe, *The Loudest Voice*

**Best Performance by an Actress in a Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television**

● Michelle Williams, *Fosse/Verdon*

**Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television**

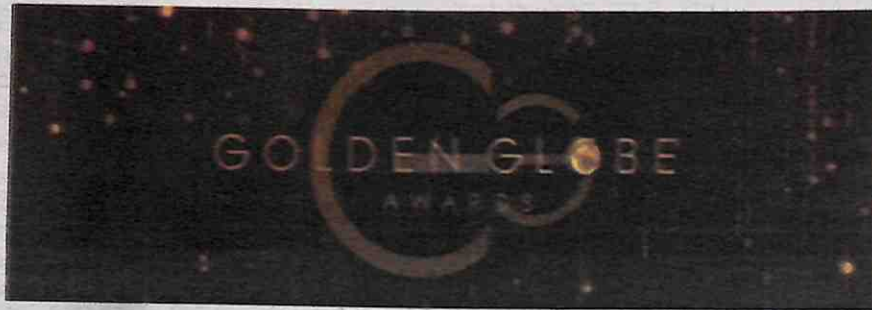
● *Chernobyl*

**Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television**

● Patricia Arquette, *The Act*

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television**

● Stellan Skarsgård, *Chernobyl*



**Best Television Series – Drama**

● *Succession*

**Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy**

● *Fleabag*

**Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy**

● *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

**Best Motion Picture – Drama**

● *1917*

**Best Motion Picture – Foreign Language**

● *Parasite*

**Best Screenplay – Motion Picture**

● Quentin Tarantino, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

**Best Original Song – Motion Picture**

● "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again", *Rocketman*

**Best Original Score – Motion Picture**

● Hildur Guðnadóttir, *Joker*

**Best Actor in a Supporting Role in Any Motion Picture**

● Brad Pitt, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

**Best Actress in a Supporting Role in Any Motion Picture**

● Laura Dern, *Marriage Story*

**Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy**

● Taron Egerton, *Rocketman*

**Best Motion Picture – Animated**

● *Missing Link*

**Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama**

● Joaquin Phoenix, *Joker*

**Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama**

● Renée Zellweger, *Judy*

**Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy**

● Awkwafina, *The Farewell*

**Best Director – Motion Picture**

● Sam Mendes, *1917*

## Mpumi and Andrew's love story – OPW

FROM school sweethearts to lifelong partners.

Mpumi Martha Mthembu (34) met Andrew Mpande Ndaba (38) when they were both quite young. "We met on the road," says Mpumi. "We were both on our way to school because we were both young back then. We used to see each other on our way to school."

Andrew says: "What attracted me to her was the way she presented herself. She is not a busy body. Every time I saw her, I would go weak at the knees and my heart would pound so hard." Hearing this, she laughs warmly.

"But one day I found the courage to approach her. That was on the fifth of October. That's when the relationship started."

Mpumi says she was happy because she didn't fall pregnant while she was still in school. "I fell pregnant just before I finished matric. I didn't plan to have a child before I was financially stable. But the deed was done. When I told him that I was pregnant, his family supported me."

She loves that he isn't a drinker nor a smoker. "He loves the Lord. When it is time to go to church, we all go to church. He's a responsible father. He does everything we ask." He says she understands him. "I was once retrenched from my job but she stayed with me, I love that about her. If she had left then I would have known that she was not the one for me."

Andrew says he doesn't like it when she shouts but Mpumi says she doesn't do it intentionally. "He is the type of person who wants peace and quiet at home. So when he is there, the children must know he is at home and they must be quiet and that's impossible with four children. He can't expect them to be on their best behaviour all the time."



THESE are the most popular musos in the country currently.

### ● DR TUMI

Dr Tumi aka Tumisang Makweya is a real doctor, but it's his divine gospel music that's currently doing the healing. A multi-platinum seller and multi-Crown Gospel Music Awards winner, he scored two SAMA nods in 2017, including for the massive live album, 'Love and Grace'. He's filled up The Dome and the Voortrekker monument, and hosted 50 000 people at his annual Gathering of Worshipers. His latest album, 'Love on the Cross', arrived to much fanfare last year. Oh, and he also sang at the #KFCWedding!

### KING MONADA

One of Limpopo's finest, Khutso Steven Kgatle

aka King Monada has been killing it since 2018's 'Malwedhe' – with its attendant 'Idibala challenge', which went global – and early last year 'Chuwana' really went off (as did a later feature on Tshego's 'No Ties'). He's even received props from Penny Penny for his unique singing in the Khelobedu language and he's widely renowned as the actual King of Bolobedu music.

### ● PRINCE KAYBEE

Prince Kaybee won Song of the Year at the 2018 DStvMVCA for "Club Controller", but since that win he's released a whole bunch of singles that have multiple million plays on YouTube, including "Banomoya" (with Busiswa & TNS), "Fetch

Your Life" (with Msaki) and the massive "Gugulethu" with Indlovukazi, Supta and Afro Brothers, which also got a Viewers' Choice Award nomination for Song of the Year!

### ● SHO MADJOZI

Sho – last year was a MASSIVE for our other Limpopo nominee, who also appears among the nominees for Favourite Personality of the Year. Sho Madjozi bagged awards, including a BET and two SAMAs, and she landed on the VogueWorld 100 and Forbes Africa's 30 Under 30 lists. She appeared on the Ellen and Kelly Clarkson shows after 'John Cena' went global – the video for her performing it for A Colors Show has almost 10

million views!

### ● SJAVA

Last year was also a breakout year for Jabulani Hadebe aka Sjava. His 'Umqhele' album scored him SAMA wins for Album of the Year (ahead of Black Coffee) and Best Afro-Pop Album.

This followed his win at the 2017 DStv Mzansi Viewers' Choice Awards for Favourite Rising Star. He featured on the 'Black Panther' soundtrack, which was nominated for a Grammy. His 'A Night with Sjava' gig was huge. As was the lead single from his 2019 album, 'Umama', which is also nominated in the Song of the Year category.

## The DStvMVCA Favourite Music Artist or Group nominees!



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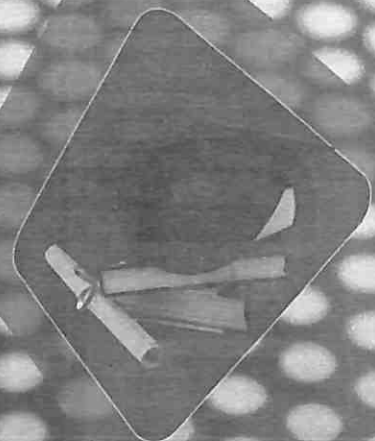
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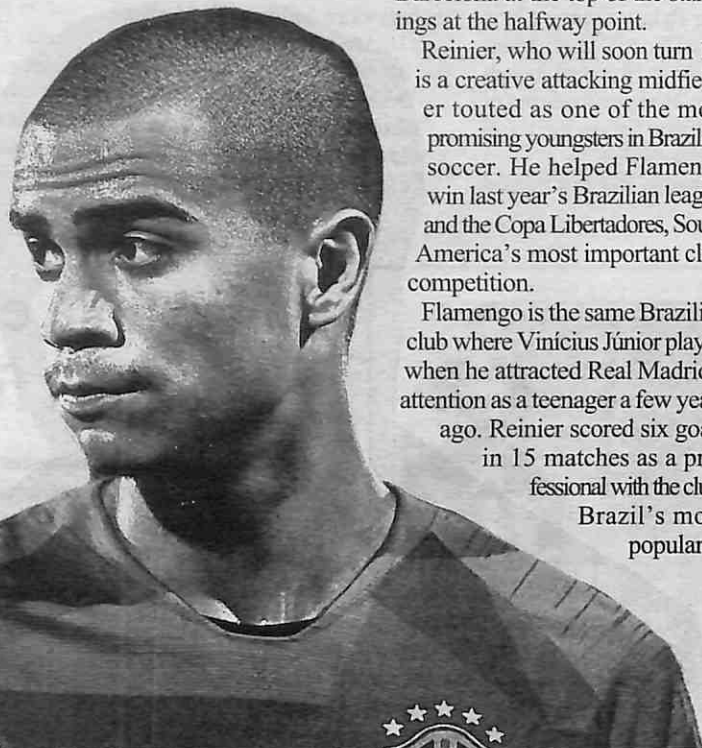


# Madrid to sign another Brazilian teenager

**MADRID** – Real Madrid is about to add another Brazilian teenager to its squad.

After signing youngsters Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo in recent seasons, the Spanish club is close to bringing in 17-year-old Reinier from Brazilian club Flamengo. The transfer is expected to be completed in the coming days, according to Brazilian and Spanish media.

"Let's wait and see," Reinier said while training with Brazil's under-23 squad on Sunday. The pending transfer has dominated the news about Real Madrid, which is in a tight race for the Spanish league title. Madrid won 3-0 at Getafe on Saturday to move level on points with



Brazilian teenager Reinier.

Barcelona at the top of the standings at the halfway point.

Reinier, who will soon turn 18, is a creative attacking midfielder touted as one of the most promising youngsters in Brazilian soccer. He helped Flamengo win last year's Brazilian league and the Copa Libertadores, South America's most important club competition.

Flamengo is the same Brazilian club where Vinicius Junior played when he attracted Real Madrid's attention as a teenager a few years ago. Reinier scored six goals in 15 matches as a professional with the club, Brazil's most popular.

Like Vinicius Junior at the time he was signed, Reinier played only a few matches as a professional before impressing Madrid and getting the Spanish powerhouse to make a bet on him.

It was a similar case with Rodrygo, who was at Santos and was also a teen when Madrid came after him. Both initially played with Madrid's B team before making their way into the main squad, and that should be the same path for Reinier if he is signed.

Madrid reportedly paid about 45 million euros (\$50 million) each for Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo, and Brazilian media said it will pay nearly \$35 million euros (\$39 million) for Reinier.

Just like Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo, Reinier has been a regular with Brazil's youth squads since an early age.

AP

## Barcelona insist Vidal will not be sold

**BARCELONA** – Barcelona are insistent they will not sell the 'untouchable' Arturo Vidal to Inter Milan in the January transfer window, according to reports.

Vidal has been heavily linked with a move away from the Nou Camp after starting just five league games this season, but it now appears likely that he will stay – at least until the summer.

Sport report that Barcelona believe the Chilean midfielder is 'untouchable', and have given him assurances over his playing time in the coming months.

Ernesto Valverde is reported to have held talks with Vidal to let him know that he will continue to play and to ignore offers and interest from elsewhere.

The Spanish newspaper report that Barcelona's plan is to revisit the situation in the summer, when Vidal will have just 12 months left on his current deal.

Inter Milan are the team pushing hardest to sign Vidal in the winter window, and have submitted an official offer, but Barcelona believe the player is 'crucial' in their own title ambitions this season.

It has been written that Vidal has an excellent relationship with the rest of the Barcelona squad, and although he hasn't started many games is a vital part of the dressing room.

Carles Alena's loan move to Real Betis is expected to give Vidal more minutes on the pitch, and he is also a fan's favourite at the Nou Camp.

Daily Mail

**MILAN** – Mario Balotelli lashed out on Sunday after again being targeted by racist insults, this time from Lazio fans after he scored for Brescia in a 2-1 Serie A defeat, telling his tormentors: Shame on you.

"A defeat that hurts but we will come back stronger and we are on the right track," the 29-year-old Italy international wrote on Instagram.

"Lazio fans that were today at the stadium SHAME ON YOU! #sayno-toracism."

Balotelli struck the first goal after 18 minutes at Brescia's Stadio Mario Rigamonti before title-chasers Lazio hit back with a Ciro Immobile double. But the game was overshadowed by insulting chants aimed at the former Manchester City and Liverpool player. "It's already the second time," Balotelli told referee Gianluca Manganiello after half an hour, with the latter replying: "Now I'll take care of it".

## Balotelli lashes out in new Italy racism storm



Mario Balotelli.

Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi gestured in front of the visiting fans to stop the chanting, as an announcement was read over the stadium

speakers reminding spectators play would be suspended and their club penalised if they continued.

Brescia fans tried to drown out

the insults with whistles and cheering which Balotelli applauded.

Lazio later issued a statement condemning the behaviour of a very small minority of fans.

"The club confirms once again that it condemns these unjustified excesses and it intends to prosecute those who betray their own sporting passion and cause serious damage to the image of the club and the Biancocelesti team," Lazio said.

In November, Balotelli threatened to walk off the pitch after being the target of monkey chants at Verona, with Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku, AC Milan's Franck Kessie and Fiorentina's Dalbert also victims of abuse this season. An anti-racism campaign launched by Serie A featuring three monkeys last month drew widespread criticism and ridicule. AFP

## India to find Australia a different proposition- Paine

**SYDNEY** – Australia have developed a ruthless streak in their home series sweeps against Pakistan and New Zealand and will present much stiffer opposition when India tour next year, captain Tim Paine said yesterday.

Paine's side wrapped up a 3-0 series triumph over the Black Caps by romping to 279-run victory at the Sydney Cricket Ground to make it five comprehensive wins out of five matches for the home summer. "I came into this summer expecting to win all five tests," Paine told reporters. "I think now we've got a team together that is really consistent, we've got a number of match-winners with both bat and ball and our lesser players have improved a hell of a lot over the last 12 months. We've probably become more ruthless which was something we wanted to be ... We've got great quality throughout our side and it's a very exciting team to be part of." Next up for Australia in test cricket is a tour of Bangladesh in June and July followed by what Paine described as a mouthwatering series at home to Virat Kohli's India.

India last visited in the 2018-19 season and, with Steve Smith and David Warner suspended after the ball-tampering scandal, earned their first series triumph on Australia soil.

"We're certainly a different side than what they played against last year," Paine added.

"There's (also) test championship points at stake and I think both India and Australia are eyeing off that final so every point is going to be critical. If we can continue our upward trend, you're potentially talking about the top two teams in the world so it's going to be an awesome series." The victory over New Zealand brought Australia (296) closer to India (360) at the top of the World Test Championship table with the two nations occupying the positions which will earn places in the final at Lord's in 2021. Reuters

## SERENA, WOZNIACKI TEAM UP FOR AUCKLAND DOUBLES

**AUCKLAND** – Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki teamed up in the doubles for the first time to beat Japanese pair Nao Hibino and Makoto Ninomiya 6-2 6-4 at the Auckland Classic on yesterday.

Wozniacki is set to retire after the Australian Open later this month and Williams said she wanted to partner the Dane before she hung up her racket. "I had to play with her before she retires," the 38-year-old Williams said after the win saw the unseeded pair advance to the quarter-finals, where they could face the top seeds Caroline Dolehide and Johanna Larsson.

The Japanese duo struggled to



TEAM UP: Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniac.

deal with Williams' powerful serve in the opening stages before they got the measure of the American

veteran to break her once.

But Williams and Wozniacki, who looked relaxed throughout the

match and even found the time to joke with each other, continued to press in the second set and wrapped up the match in 71 minutes.

Williams and Wozniacki begin their singles campaigns at Auckland today. In yesterday's singles matches, French eighth seed Caroline Garcia rallied to beat American Taylor Townsend 5-7 6-3 7-5 in a match that lasted over two-and-a-half hours.

American teenager Coco Gauff, the youngest player in the draw at 15, saw off the challenge of last year's semi-finalist Viktoria Kuznetsov to advance with an impressive 6-3 6-1 victory in 61 minutes.

Reuters





## Referee finally uses pitchside VAR monitor amid season of controversy

**LONDON** - Amid the ongoing criticism of the implementation of VAR in the Premier League this season, a referee finally used the pitchside monitor to aide a decision on Sunday.

Referee Michael Oliver watched

a replay of an incident between Crystal Palace's Luka Milivojevic and Tom Huddlestone of Derby County and overruled his original decision of a yellow card to send off the Eagles skipper midway through the second half.

One-time Palace loanee Chris Martin scored the only goal against his former club and it proved enough to dump Roy Hodgson's side out of the competition following a 1-0 defeat at Selhurst Park.

Palace's cause was not helped

though when Milivojevic clashed with Huddlestone and not only kicked out, but then moved his head towards the Derby midfielder.

Referee Oliver originally showed a yellow card to the pair before VAR had a look and then it was left to the

man in the middle.

Oliver went over to the pitchside monitor and after watching the incident decided to send off Milivojevic, although it came five minutes after the initial incident.

It would not prove costly for the Rams and boss Phillip Cocu as they secured a third straight win to dump the Eagles out of the FA Cup. *Daily Mail*



## 'GET BACK SCORING AND ASSISTING'

*...Ole reveals he has warned Jesse Lingard to cut back on social media*

**LONDON** - Ole Gunnar Solskjaer claims Jesse Lingard has benefited from keeping a lower profile after warning the Manchester United star about his use of social media.

Lingard admitted in a recent interview with Sportsmail that he feared for his future at Old Trafford after inadvertently posting a holiday video of himself joking around with teammate Marcus Rashford and other friends last summer.

It brought the England international more criticism and a stern rebuke

from Solskjaer who told the player to rein in his use of Twitter and Instagram.

### Assist

Lingard, who has not registered a goal or assist in the Premier League for more than a year, endured a difficult start to the season but returned to action by playing a key role in the wins over Manchester City and Tottenham.

As United prepare to face City again in the first leg of the Carabao Cup semi-final at Old Trafford tonight, Solskjaer believes Lingard has reaped

the reward of keeping his head down. "Jesse has had his ups and downs, as I've spoken about before," he said. 'But against City and Tottenham there were two examples of how important he can be for us in different games.

"We want him back scoring and making assists. No one runs as much and he's a great trigger for our pressing game.

He's a lively bubbly character but I don't think you see as much social media from Jesse as you used to. *Daily Mail*

## Guardiola expects repeat game plan from Man Utd

**MANCHESTER** - Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola expects a repeat game plan from Manchester United in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final today.

United produced an exhilarating display of counter-attacking football to beat Guardiola's side 2-1 in last month's Premier League derby at the Etihad Stadium.

They meet again in the first leg of their semifinal at Old Trafford this week and City boss Guardiola feels he knows what to expect.

"It will be quite similar," said Guardiola. "Of course at Old Trafford it will be quite different to here but they are a team that are built to run.

"When they can run they are one of the best teams, and not just in England, I would say, because of the pace they have - (Daniel) James, (Mason) Greenwood, (Anthony) Martial, (Marcus) Rashford and (Jesse) Lingard.

"I have the feeling they are going to run, one or two or three times, or as many times as possible, and we have to reduce the mistakes in the build-up. We have to be prepared for that but we have to do our game."

United tore City's defence apart on numerous occasions on December 7 and could have had much more to show for their efforts than first-half goals from Rashford and Martial.

Nicolas Otamendi pulled one back late on but United held on to inflict a defeat that dealt another blow to City's faltering Premier League title challenge. *AFP*

## Real misfit James set for PL move?

**LONDON** - Real Madrid outcast James Rodriguez could be handed a career lifeline with a surprise move to the Premier League this month.

Rodriguez, 28, has failed to establish himself at Real since returning to the club after a two-year loan with Bayern Munich.

Despite recently recovering from a knee injury, he was left out head coach Zinedine Zidane's matchday squad this weekend as Real beat Getafe 3-0 to move level on points with LaLiga leaders FC Barcelona.

Reports in Spanish media suggest the Frenchman no longer sees Rodriguez as part of the club's long-term vision and former manager Carlo Ancelotti is ready to pounce.

The Daily Mirror suggests the new Everton boss, who chased the Colombia international's signature during his time at Napoli wants the Los Blancos misfit as his marquee mid-season addition.

The report added The Toffees are keen on a six-month loan deal with the option to make the deal permanent at the end of the 2019/20 season Having joined Real back in 2014 from AS Monaco for a reported £63 million, Rodriguez has featured 120 times for the club, scoring 37 goals while registering 41 assists. *Kick Off*

## Dyche not willing to sell Hart

**LONDON** - Sean Dyche has indicated that Burnley will not allow goalkeeper Joe Hart to leave during the January transfer window amid reported interest from Aston Villa.

There has been speculation that Villa could move for Hart following the season-ending injury suffered by Tom Heaton in their victory at Turf Moor on Wednesday. Heaton left Burnley for Villa in the summer but Dyche said it was "highly unlikely" that any of his senior players will be departing this month.

Hart is a clear number two to Nick Pope and made just his second appearance since December 2018 in Saturday's 4-2 victory over Peterborough in the third round of the FA Cup.

*AFP*

## Chelsea target Alaba not for sale - Flick

**LONDON** - Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick insists Chelsea should look elsewhere for a defender because David Alaba is simply not for sale.

The Daily Mirror this week reported that the Blues, who are due to face Bayern in the Champions League's last-16, were interested in 27-year-old Alaba.

The report claimed Chelsea, who last month saw their transfer ban lifted after a successful appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, are ready to pay a transfer fee of 70 million euros.

Frank Lampard is believed to be on the lookout for a left-sided defender with ex-Blues starlet Nathan Ake of Bournemouth another such player who has been linked to Stamford Bridge.

Alaba is under contract with

Bayern until June 2021 and remains integral to the Bavarian club's plans, having started all of their Bundesliga matches in November and December after returning from a fractured rib.

Bayern coach Flick, who was appointed in October after the Bundesliga champions dispensed with the services of Niko Kovac, was asked about the rumoured Chelsea interest at a press conference during the club's winter training camp in Doha.

He said the Austrian international was "not for sale", adding: "I would say it that way, absolutely." This comes after the Bayern were in a long-running chase for Callum Hudson-Odoi's signature last season.

*TeamTalk Media*







## Zongo finds home in Glad Africa League

**JOHANNESBURG - Dribbling wizard Masibusane Zongo has joined Glad African side Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila.**

Zongo announced his retirement from football after struggling to find a club.

Clubs were turned away from signing the player due to misdemeanour at the teams he has played for.

Zongo shared his struggles with alcohol which stifled his football career.

The midfielder revealed that he got professional help to deal with his drinking and was ready to revive his career.

*Citizen*

# PSL CONFIRM DATE FOR NEDBANK CUP DRAW

**JOHANNESBURG - The Premier Soccer League has confirmed that the Nedbank Cup draw will take place this week.**

The Nedbank Cup, which is usually the final domestic cup competition of each season, is set to kick-off early next month, with the PSL confirming that the round of 32 draw will take place this Thursday.

### Absa Premiership:

AmaZulu, Baroka, Bidvest Wits, Black Leopards, Bloemfontein Celtic, Cape Town City, Chippa United, Golden Arrows, Highlands Park, Kaizer Chiefs, Mamelodi Sundowns, Maritzburg United, Orlando Pirates, Polokwane City, Stellenbosch, SuperSport United.

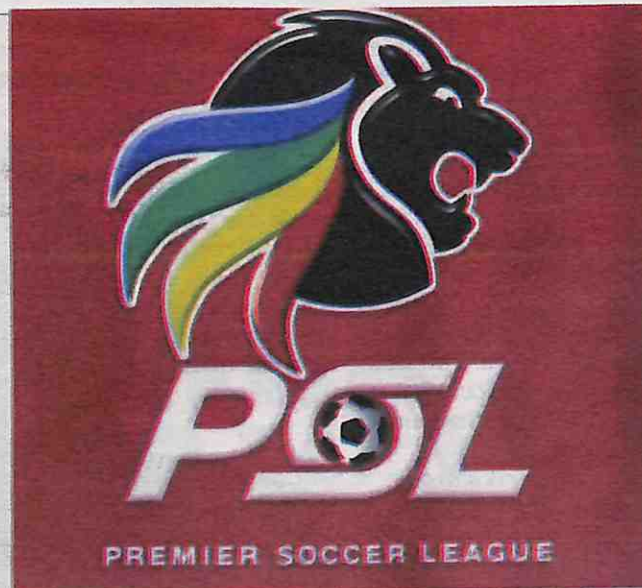
### Glad Africa Championship:

Real Kings, Royal Eagles, Ajax Cape Town, Mbombela United, TS Sporting, Jomo Cosmos, TS Galaxy, Uthongathi FC.

### ABC Motsepe League:

Happy Wanderers (KZN), Passion FC (Mpumalanga), Hungry Lion (Northern Cape), North West University (North West), Zizwe United (Western Cape), Super Eagles (Free State), Vaal University of Technology (Gauteng) and Amavara (Eastern Cape).

### Soccer Laduma



## Pitso confirms interest in Musona

**JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane says he would like to have Knowledge Musona in his squad.**

Reports in Belgium have linked the Zimbabwean international with a move back to the ABSA Premiership to join Sundowns.

Musona is reportedly pushing for Anderlecht to terminate his contract so he can find another team in the January transfer window.

The 29-year-old was loaned out to Lokeren in the second half of last season to get game time.

Mosimane confirmed that his side would try to sign Musona if he was available.

"Will you love to have Musona if he's available? Yes, of course," said Mosimane.

"Why not if he's available? He's the kind of player that I'll take because I know he scores goals,



**Pitso Mosimane.**

and he's a fighter. He's like Khama Billiat, he's strong, his attitude is right, he's a good player.

"If we can get him, yes, why not. I'd love to have him," Jingles added.

*Citizen*

**JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates coach Josef Zinnbauer has explained the absence of assistant coach Rhulani Mokwena from the team's bench in Bloemfontein over the weekend.**

Mokwena was a notable absentee on the Pirates bench when they played their first ABSA Premiership match of the year against Bloemfontein Celtic at Dr Molemela Stadium on Saturday.

The Buccaneers were held to a 1-1 draw against Siwelele, with Fadlu Davids the only assistant sitting alongside Zinnbauer on the bench.

The German downplayed the absence of the former interim coach and assured the media during his post-match interview that Mokwena is still part of the coaching staff.

"He is on leave," said Zinnbauer, without elaborating much.

It is as yet unknown how long the 32-year-old will be away, with no further details given on his absenteeism.

Pirates are set to be on the road again

## Reason given for Rhulani's absence



to Limpopo to face Polokwane City at Peter Mokaba Stadium tomorrow, with the new coach yet to taste defeat in two matches in charge.  
*Kick Off*

**JOHANNESBURG - A top Ghanaian striker will land in South Africa this week for an assessment at one of the ABSA Premiership clubs.**

As confirmed to this website by then-Leopards head coach Luc Eymael in November, Lidoda Duvha are planning to bring in Simba SC star Nicholas Gyan in the next transfer window.

"Do you remember this story that you published some time ago?" Gyan's South Africa-based representative Bheki Ndebele reminds KickOff.com.

"Finally the boy will jet in to South Africa on Tuesday or Wednesday to be assessed by Black Leopards.

"The boy is good and he can score goals. He's over the moon and he's also very young. He's got a great future."

This website has in its possession a letter from Leopards

## Top Ghanaian striker to land in SA



**Simba SC star Nicholas Gyan.**

confirming the player's invitation for a trial.

The 21-year-old can play as

a right-back, right-winger or centre-forward.

*Kick Off*

## Chiefs launch jersey to celebrate 50th anniversary

**JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs are celebrating their 50th anniversary by launching a jersey.**

Amakhosi unveiled the jersey in few days before the club celebrates its 50th birthday.

Chiefs plan to allow fans to get into the stadium for free tomorrow night against Highlands Park at the FNB Stadium.

Amakhosi lost their first match in 2020 against

SuperSport United allowing Mamelodi Sundowns to cut their lead to four points having collected 35 points in 15 matches with coach Pitso Mosimane in second place with 31 points.

Chiefs players are expected to wear the black jersey with gold trim tomorrow night when they face the Lions of the North in a league game.

*Citizen*





# 'I TOLD YOU A LONG TIME AGO MAY IS TOO FAR'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Pitso Mosimane is not surprised that the league title race is wide open after Mamelodi Sundowns slashed pacesetters Kaizer Chiefs' lead to four points at the weekend.

Chiefs were dealt a double blow on Saturday after they suffered a 2-1 defeat to SuperSport United at the Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit and then watched Sundowns beat AmaZulu 3-0 at the Moses Mabhida Stadium a few hours later.

An opening strike from Sibusiso Vilakazi and a brace from Themba Zwane, who took his league tally to six goals this season, gave Sundowns the priceless victory that also gave the league title chase much-needed spice.

"It's too early... it's too early," said

Mosimane in reference to questions about the latest twist in the race.

"We have a big game on Tuesday (today) against Bidvest Wits and we don't have enough rest. And we don't want to play that team when we come from here

(Durban) with the travelling and all that.

"It's a second time we play them after two and a half days.

"They are a strong team Wits, huh?

"You can't talk too much (about the race) because you have to cross that bridge first.

You can't get too excited (about being close to Chiefs).

"Yes I told you a long time ago that May is too far. It's a lot of games... 15 games guys. We still have to play Wits, Orlando Pirates, Chiefs and SuperSport... I mean.

"It's far for us and you cannot be talking about us. No, it's too far. And it's the same for everybody, neh?

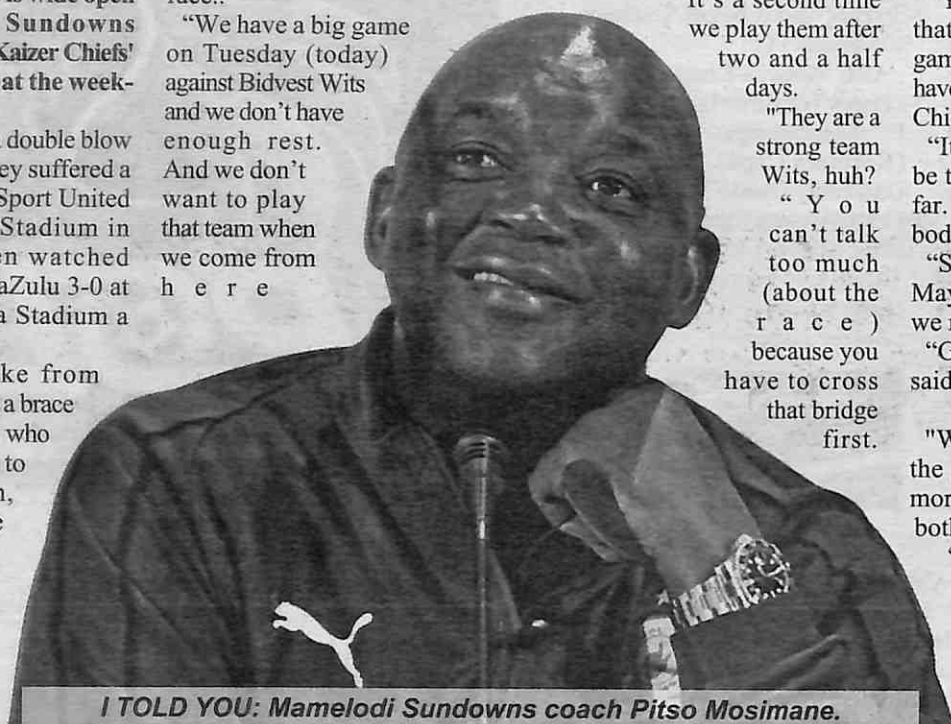
"So those games are big games. May is too far and I told you that we need to keep calm.

"Gavin Hunt (the Wits coach) said it, May is too far.

"When Gavin speaks, I mean the guy won the league I think more than me, (actually they are both on four) to be honest.

"So he knows how to win the league.

"Those are the people I have to read and listen to what they're saying also. It's too far." *Sowetan Live*



**I TOLD YOU:** Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane.

## Polokwane out to stun Pirates

**JOHANNESBURG** - Polokwane City will face off with Orlando Pirates in an ABSA Premiership match at the Peter Mokaba Stadium.

Rise and Shine snapped their 10-match losing run in the league when they brushed aside Chippa United 2-0 at home on Saturday.

The win has taken them to the 12th spot on the league standings - a point above the relegation play-off spot.

Clinton Larsen, the Polokwane coach, has urged his charges to continue working hard after they recorded an important win over Chippa. "It is a massive win - first match of the year and hopefully, it is a start of good things in the second round," Larsen said.

"But is an important message for the players not to rest on our laurels because of the result. We keep working hard."

Meanwhile, Pirates extended their unbeaten run to four matches in the league when they drew 1-1 with Bloemfontein Celtic away on Saturday.

The draw has left the Buccaneers placed sixth on the league standings - two points behind fifth-placed Highlands Park.

Josef Zinnbauer, the Pirates coach, is confident that his side will improve if they continue working hard.

"We'll work, it's a process and we'll come back and be better. It's a process, we had a little more than two weeks," Zinnbauer said.

"We work together and we see many things making the sessions but for me, it's not 100 per cent. We'll have time, we have to work and improve the team."

Salulani Phiri: The midfield maestro was on the score sheet in the win against Chippa United. Phiri will be hoping to play a key role in helping his side win at home.

*Backpage TXT*

**It is a massive win - first match of the year and hopefully, it is a start of good things in the second round**

## Kevin back to winning ways in ATP Cup

**BRISBANE** - Fit-again South African Kevin Anderson won his first match since returning to competitive tennis with a 6-0 6-3 victory over Chile's Cristian Garin at the inaugural ATP Cup team event.

Anderson, runner-up at the 2017 US Open and Wimbledon a year later, played only five tournaments last year due to injury before undergoing knee surgery in September. The 33-year-old lost 7-6(5) 7-6(6) to Novak Djokovic in his return to action on Saturday, his first match since the third round of Wimbledon in July, but proved too good for Garin. The former world number five did not face a single break point against Garin, sealing the tie for South Africa in the \$15m ATP Cup which features 24 nations competing in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney over 10 days.

"Got off to a really good start and I feel like a lot of things we have been working on, I was able to implement them," Anderson said in Brisbane.

"A little bit physically draining after my first match. It's always, as much as you work off the court, it's always a little bit different being in a match environment. "But a really good day of recovery yesterday and my body felt really good being out there today."

The world's top players have assembled for the ATP Cup and are using the event to prepare for this month's Australian Open, which starts in Melbourne from January 20. Marin Cilic, the US Open champion in 2014, followed up Saturday's win against Austrian Dennis Novak with a 7-6(8) 6-4 win over 20-year-old Kacper Zuk of Poland.

*Times Live*

## Baroka FC, Cape Town City to face off

**JOHANNESBURG** - Baroka FC and Cape Town City met on the field on Sunday and will be up against each other again today, but this time in the boardroom when the Premier Soccer League's Dispute Resolution Chamber hears an urgent application on the future of Mduduzi Mdantsane.

The 25-year-old midfielder has signed for City and is taking his old club to the Dispute Resolution Chamber to have his cessation of contract ratified.

Mdantsane has a document from the club where they agree to end his contract.

But this is now being con-

tested by Baroka, despite previously announcing they were letting their captain go.

This is the reason why the Premier Soccer League did not allow City to register him when they opened their offices on January 2 and why he did not feature in City's 1-0 win over his old club at the Cape Town Stadium on Sunday.

Baroka on December 23 tweeted that Mdantsane was among four players allowed to leave the club after their contracts were terminated.

Seeing this tweet, City moved quickly to sign him and announced their new acquisition just five days later.

It was then that Baroka sud-

denly claimed that had not given him a release of contract - contradicting their earlier tweet.

The Premier Soccer League, presumably fearing a protracted registration tangle like the sordid Tendai Ndoro case, then did not issue a player's card for Mdantsane, who has since asked for an urgent Dispute Resolution Chamber sitting to clear up his status.

City officials believe Baroka are trying to get some money out of the deal or were just being tricky to stop Mdantsane from playing against them at the weekend, where they feared he might do them embarrassing damage.

*Times Live*

## Middendorp calls for focus ahead of Highlands Park

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has called for focus ahead of the team's next ABSA Premiership clash against Highlands Park tomorrow.

Chiefs lost for just a second time in the league at the weekend when they went down 2-1 to SuperSport United, which has seen champions Mamelodi Sundowns close their once mighty lead to just four points. Middendorp says there is no room for panic though and that the team must just take each challenge as it comes.

"I have said it on several occasions that this is going to be a tough race," Middendorp said. "There will be many tricky games



going into the final part of the season. For now, our focus is on the next match against Highlands Park."

The German coach admits it was a difficult day against SuperSport, but felt they deserved more from the game.

"We brought in [Dumisani] Zuma to improve our attack and immediately it paid off with the pressure resulting in an equalising goal. We had a forced change with Reeve Frosler coming off and we introduced Kgotso Moleko. "The game was tough, but I guess it wasn't meant to be. We have three days to prepare for the next match."

Chiefs will be without star striker Samir Nurkovic and Frosler due to suspension, which will mean changes in the side.

"We will look at some reshuffling the team. With Frosler and Samir Nurkovic out on four bookings, we will make some changes.

*Mzansi Football*



# ATP TOUR

## Collins thrashes Svitolina as Kerber crashes out

**BRISBANE** - American Danielle Collins thrashed fourth seed and former champion Elina Svitolina in the first round of the Brisbane International yesterday as Germany's Angelique Kerber also crashed out.

Svitolina, the world No 5, went into the match as firm favourite but was never in the hunt against Collins, going down meekly 6-1, 6-1 in just 56 minutes. Collins dominated every facet of the match against a disappointing Svitolina, who won this tournament in 2018.

The American served well and returned even better, winning 62 percent of the points off Svitolina's first serve and 61 percent off her second.

She joins two other US players in the second round following wins by Sophia Kenin and Alison Riske.

Kenin beat Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 while Riske downed Czech player Karolina Muchova 6-4, 6-2.

In a battle of former Grand Slam champions, Australia's Samantha Stosur upset former German world number one Kerber in two tough sets.

Stosur, 35, has slipped to 98 in the world rankings and has never played well in front of her home fans in Brisbane.

But with new coach - and former doubles partner - Rennae Stubbs at her side, Stosur played a strong tactical game to overcome Kerber.

"She knows all the players, her tactical awareness and everything about the players is excellent," Stosur said.

"That was something last year when I was going through without a coach, I found hard to do that day after day.

**American Danielle Collins.**

"Even though we know a lot of players and you know what to do, having that other set of eyes doing that is obviously very helpful."

In other matches, Czech Barbora Strycova upset seventh seeded Briton Johanna Konta 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, and Ajla Tomljanovic beat fellow Australian Priscilla Hon 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Results from the first day of the WTA Brisbane International tennis tournament at the Queensland Tennis Centre yesterday (X denotes seed):

### Round 1

Barbora Strycova (CZE) bt Johanna Konta (GBR X7) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3

Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) 7-6 (7/1), 6-4

Alison Riske (USA) bt Karolina Muchova (CZE) 6-4, 6-2

Samantha Stosur (AUS) bt Angelique Kerber (GER) 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4)

Danielle Collins (USA) bt Elina Svitolina (UKR X4) 6-1, 6-1

Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS) bt Priscilla Hon (AUS) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4

**AFP**



## Muguruza fights back to reach Shenzhen round 2

**SHANGHAI** - Former world number one Garbine Muguruza recovered from a slow start to avoid an upset at the Shenzhen Open yesterday.

The 26-year-old Spaniard beat Chinese youngster Wang Xinyu 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 and plays the American Shelby Rogers in round two in southern China.

The Shenzhen Open serves as build-up for the Australian Open at the end of the month.

It was the two-time Grand Slam winner Muguruza's first match since an early exit at the China Open in late

September.

"I think it was my first match in a long time and you cannot expect to play your best tennis," said Muguruza, now 35th in the world.

### Fast start

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka made a fast start to her season, blowing away Russian qualifier Margarita Gasparyan in just 71 minutes.

The world number 11 from Belarus eased to a 6-3, 6-0 victory as she looks to seal a place inside the top 10 for the Australian Open.

The 21-year-old will play Kristyna

Pliskova of the Czech Republic next.

"It was a tough match and really tough to start," said the powerful Sabalenka, who won three titles last year in China, including in Shenzhen.

"She's a great player and it was tough to play against her.

"She has strong strokes. I tried my best and I'm happy I finished with the win." Gasparyan, 25, reached a career-high 41 in the world in February 2016 but has been beset by injuries.

**AFP**

# THIEM BACK TO WINNING WAYS

**SYDNEY** - World No 4 Dominic Thiem bounced back to winning ways yesterday after a shock loss in his opening ATP Cup match, beating tenacious Diego Schwartzman to steer Austria to victory over Argentina.

Thiem, who won five titles last year and was runner-up to Stefanos Tsitsipas at the ATP Finals, was rusty in his loss to Croat Borna Coric on Saturday.

But he found his groove against the gutsy Argentinian, a close friend, hitting 35 winners to grind down the world No 13 for a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) win.

"I was not satisfied with my first match but there were many good things and I knew from match to match I would improve," Thiem said in Sydney.

"All the matches against Diego, and I think I've had eight or nine on tour so far, they're always great rallies, great for rhythm and it was similar today.

"I enjoyed it a lot and amazing that we won our first tie here," he added.

His victory kept Austria alive in Group E of the inaugural team event after they lost their opening tie to Croatia.

Earlier, Thiem's team-mate Dennis Novak showed battling qualities to upset world number 25 Guido Pella after losing the first set 6-0.



**Dominic Thiem.**

Novak took a bathroom break and was read the riot act by team captain and Austrian legend Thomas Muster, returning to win the next two sets 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm really sorry for the first set, it was a really bad performance. Then I went to the bathroom with Thomas and he gave me a rough speech," said Novak, whose win is set to push him inside the top 100.

"And then I was moving very good, serving good and fighting back in the game."

Marin Cilic was also a winner yesterday, totting up his second victory in a row by overcoming Poland's Kacper Zuk 7-6 (10/8), 6-4.

It helped Croatia clinch their tie 2-1 to be in a strong position in Group E after winning their opening showdown against Austria.

Cilic had a forgettable season last year, sliding down the rankings from seven to 39 - his lowest year-ending position since 2007 - but is encouraged by his start to the new season.

**AFP**

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN TO BE MOVED INDOORS

**SYDNEY** - Organisers of the forthcoming Australian Open may be prepared to play an unprecedented amount of matches indoors to combat poor air quality if the country's bushfires persist this month.

With only a week before the qualifying event begins for the season's first Grand Slam, the game's authorities have been forced to look at contingency plans if the worst continues to happen. This includes the potential suspension of matches if conditions become hazardous, as they were yesterday in the Victorian capital. While some rain fell on affected fire areas, Melbourne itself was blanket-



ed in a smoky haze, and the Environment Protection Authority officially described the air quality as 'very poor'. The air quality index moved up to 210, which is a level considered 'very unhealthy'. Novak Djokovic has been among those who have

expressed concerns about health hazards for the opening Major of 2020, whose main draw begins on January 20.

Lower ranked players are already arriving to prepare for the qualifying.

**Daily Mail**

## 'BIG 3' HOLD TOP SPOTS IN ATP RANKINGS

**PARIS** - Tennis royalty occupy the top three places in the first ATP rankings of the new season, with Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer once again leading the way in the men's game.

World No 4 Dominic Thiem is one of a new generation of players looking to topple the Big Three, with the Austrian saying on Thursday that expected a new player to emerge Grand Slam winner in 2020. "I think we challenged them already a lot. We also beat them especially on Masters 1 000 stages and the ATP Finals," said Thiem, who was runner-up to Tsitsipas at the ATP Finals in London in November. The Big Three have shared out the last 12 Grand Slams among themselves, but Thiem predicts the run will end this year. "I think the last stage we have to conquer is the Grand Slam stage, and I really think we'll see a new Grand Slam champion." Nadal and Djokovic secured two Grand Slams each last year, with the Spaniard



**'BIG3' Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer.**

securing end-of-year top spot in the ATP rankings at November's ATP finals when Djokovic failed to reach the semi-finals.

The pair got off to winning starts with straight sets wins at the ATP Cup Saturday as the Australian Open homes into view.

**AFP**



# MBABANE EAST MP STOKVEL TOURNAMENT



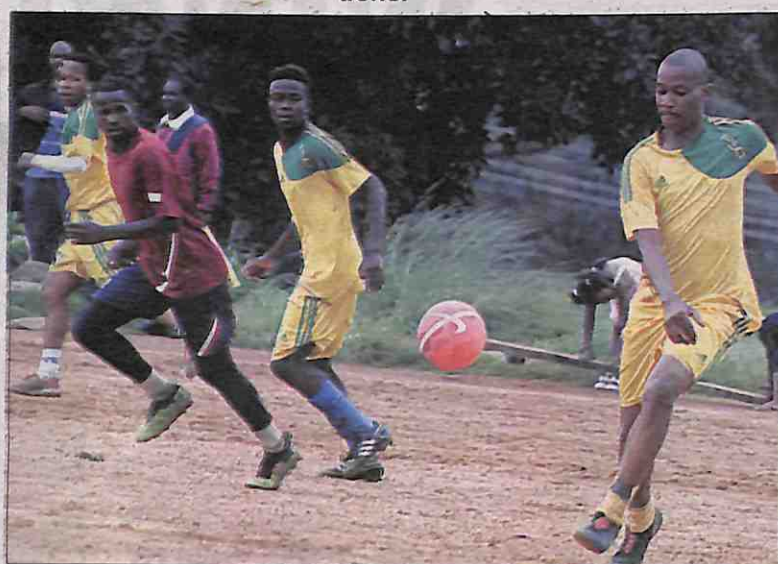
**CHAMPS:** Minister of Sports Harries Madze Bulunga poses with the winners of the active section, Eveni Club, during the prize presentation of the Mbabane East MP Stokvel tournament which was held at the Msunduzi Sports Ground on New Year's Day. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



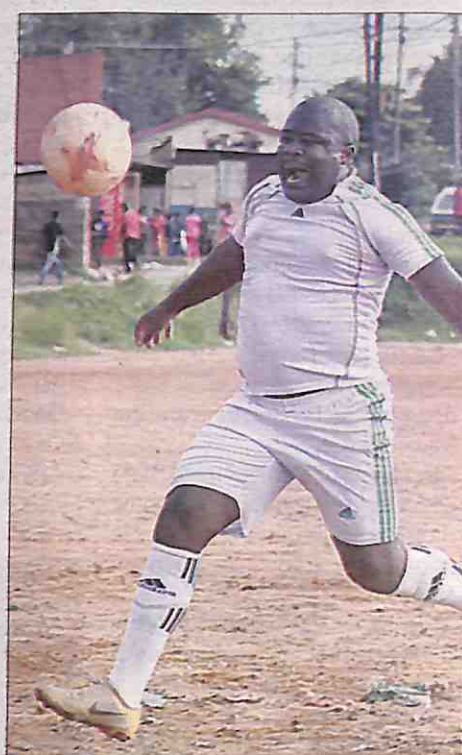
**WINNERS:** Downtown Social pose with the minister after the presentations.



**THE BEST:** Downtown Social's Joe Simelane accepts the prize for winning the tournament from Minister Bulunga.



**MOVE:** More action during the active tournament which was won by Eveni team.



**UNDER CONTROL:** Garage XI's Mancoba 'Shearer' Dlamini dashes with the ball during their game against Downtown Social.



**PELE:** Downtown player Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini takes a shot in front of Garage XI's Mongi Simelane during the socials finals.



**HARDY:** Garage XI's Chappies Simelane receives the runners up prize from Minister Harries Madze Bulunga.



**NOT PLEASED:** Garage XI supporters react as their team loses to Downtown.



**NEXT TIME:** Bulunga hands over the third prize to Sandla's Stambo.



**MR REFEREE:** Garage XI's coach Samkeliso 'Chief' Makhubu lodges a complaint while the assistant referee tries to explain a point to him.





# INGWENYAMA CUP 2019/20



**THE GAME IS ON:** Premier League of Eswatini Chairman Peter Magagula (second from left), HRFA Chairman Nigel Shongwe, EFA Chief Executive Officer Frederick Mngomezulu and Ingwenyama Cup Chairman Johannes Sibozza during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 draw at Sigwaca House yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



**THE BEAUTIFUL GAME:** PLE Chairman Peter Magagula makes his remarks.



**WITH BOTH HANDS:** Manzini Wanderers PRO Sandile Dlamini also had an opportunity to conduct the draw.



**FIRST UP:** SMVAF's Makhosi Magongo displays Royal Leopard FC. The team will be playing against Young Buffaloes.



**VOVOVO VS SEVEN DREAMS:** Vovovo FC Secretary Stan Dlamini with Seven Dreams boss Bishop Bhekibandla Vilakati after the draw.



**PICKS:** Dumisani Mkhabela was the first to conduct the draw and he picked Royal Leopard.



**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:** Ingwenyama Cup PRO Lenhle Masuku directing the proceedings.



**MBABANE DERBY ROUND TWO:** Mbabane Swallows' Samkeliso Mdluli and Mbabane Highlanders' Paul 'Magidza' Masiela shake hands after being drawn against each other in the Ingwenyama Cup last 16.



**ATTENTIVE:** Teams' representatives and journalists following the proceedings.



**ARMED FORCES DERBY:** Young Buffaloes CEO Sandile Gwebu and his Royal Leopard counterpart Frank Hurube declared war after the draw.

ROYAL LEOPARDS FC	YOUNG BUFFALOES FC
SEVEN DREAMS	VOVOVO FC
MODERN PIONEERS FC	MHLUME PEACEMAKER
MALANDI CHIEFS FC	MADEIRA FC
MANTON SEA BIRDS FC	GREEN MARBLES FC
MANTON WARRIORS FC	CURVIA HUNTERS
MANTON WARRIORS FC	MANTON WARRIORS FC
MANTON WARRIORS FC	MANTON WARRIORS FC





● Manchester United are set to revive their interest in signing Sporting Lisbon's Portugal playmaker Bruno Fernandes, 25. (*Goal.com*)

● Arsenal have formally contacted Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich to express their interest in 31-year-old Germany defender Jerome Boateng. (*Footmercato - in French*)

● Chelsea are looking at making a move for Bayern and Austria left-back David Alaba, who has 18 months left on his contract. (*Mirror*)

● Everton boss Carlo Ancelotti will try to find a "solution" in the transfer market following his side's FA Cup exit to a youthful Liverpool side. (*Times - subscription required*)

● Barcelona have emerged as the frontrunners to sign Dinamo Zagreb's Dani Olmo, despite both Chelsea and Manchester United having held talks over the 21-year-old Spain forward. (*Goal.com*)

● Wholesale changes, empty seats & wonder goals Curtis Jones celebrates his brilliant winner for Liverpool against Everton *What we learned from FA Cup third-round weekend...*

● Manchester United's England midfielder Jesse Lingard, 27, is teaming up with leading agent Mino Raiola, following rumours of his departure from Old Trafford. (*Mail*)

● Juventus hope they can sign Argentina striker Mauro Icardi from Inter Milan, despite Paris St-Germain having an agreement in place to sign the 26-year-old for £59.7m at the end of his loan spell at the club. (*Mail*)

● Newcastle United's English forward Dwight Gayle, 29, has been linked with Championship promotion hopefuls Preston. (*Lancashire Evening Post*)

● Ajax's Morocco midfielder Hakim Ziyech, 26, has been told he can leave the club this month, after being linked with a move to Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in the January transfer window. (*Football.London*)

● Chelsea have earmarked Inter Milan's Brazil striker Gabriel Barbosa, 23, as their top January transfer target as manager Frank Lampard looks to sign a new forward. (*Express*)

● Lampard has opened the door for France forward Olivier Giroud to leave the Blues this month, amid speculation linking the 33-year-old with Aston Villa. (*Birmingham Mail*)

● Newcastle want to sign Giroud on loan for the rest of the season but Chelsea have told them they will not let the striker leave unless they can bring in a replacement. (*Telegraph*)

● Meanwhile, Chelsea want any club wanting to take English midfielder Danny Drinkwater on loan to pay the 29-year-old's £110,000-a-week wages. (*Sun*)

## YAM FLAS WIN BEACH HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

BY JONGILE XUBA

**HANDBALL – YAM FLAS Handball Team won the Beach Handball Tournament after beating Sithobela Sharks in the finals played at Wendy's Lodge in Siphofaneni.**

Eswatini Handball held the Beach Handball Tournament over the festive holidays as a means to introduce the variant of the sport to the teams. Six teams took part in both the men's and ladies categories. YAM FLAS are a new team in the Handball League and they put in a dominant performance as they won all their games. Their journey to the finals started with a 19–14 win over Lobamba OlympAfrica and they then beat Sithobela Sharks 13–9. Sithobela Sharks only managed

Beach Handball Festive Tournament results			
Sithobela Sharks	18	12	Siphofaneni
Yam Flas Handball	19	14	Lobamba OAC
Sithobela Sharks Ladies Team	10	5	Nceka
Sithobela Sharks Team Boys	9	13	Yam Flas Handball Team
Siphofaneni Lobamba (Lobamba won because Siphofaneni forfeited Game)			
Finals standings			
1. Yam Flas Handball Team			
2. Sithobela Sharks			
3. Lobamba OAC			
4. Siphofaneni Handball Team			

a 18–12 win over Siphofaneni to finish second overall and they were followed by Olymp Africa.

Siphofaneni finished fourth. Eswatini Handball Secretary Muzi Mamba said they were happy with the response they received from the teams. He also revealed that Wendy's Lodge promised to assist them in the future.

"We would like to thank Wendy's

Lodge for supporting the tournament by allowing free entry to the venue and access to the sand beach area.

"We are also happy that they promised to continue supporting the competition in future. Lastly, the handball executive was pleased with the attendance. The games were a success as they attracted many people who had come to visit Wendy's Lodge on the day," he said.



**FESTIVE SPIRIT:** Participants of the Beach Handball Tournament that was played at Wendy's Lodge recently. (Courtesy pic)

BY JONGILE XUBA

**CHESS – THE third edition of the Manzini Chess Open will be played later this month at the Free Evangelical Assemblies (FEA), Ka Helemisi in Manzini.**

This was revealed by Eswatini Chess Federation (ECF) Tournament Director William Siame, who encouraged players to register for the year's first competition scheduled for January 25–26.

There will be three categories. The men's and ladies open sections as well as the development section for children below 14 years.

"We encourage everyone to register for this year's Manzini Chess Open competition.

Registration is E150 for the men

## Third Manzini Chess open set for month end

and womens open sections and E90 for the development section. Registration deadline is January 23. Those who will miss the deadline will pay a 20 per cent penalty fine," he said.

Prizes will include E2 000 for first place, E1 500 for second place and E800 for third place in the men's open section.

Whilst the women's champion will take home E1 500, the runner-up will get E800 and third place will walk away with E400.

In the development section, the top three finishers will each get chess boards with the first taking home a gold medal, second a silver and third taking home a bronze



**ALL SET:** Chess players in full concentration during a tournament held recently. (Courtesy pic)

## XMAS SHOOTING COMPETITION THIS WEEKEND

"Once again, we would like to notify all our members that the annual Xmas Shooting Competition will be held this weekend. There are no changes on registration and prize presentations and we hope to see all our members there," he said.

Registration for the competition is free, but participants will have to come with a gift worth not less than E200 as part of the Xmas spir-

it. Once again, there will be no prizes to be won as it is a social competition.

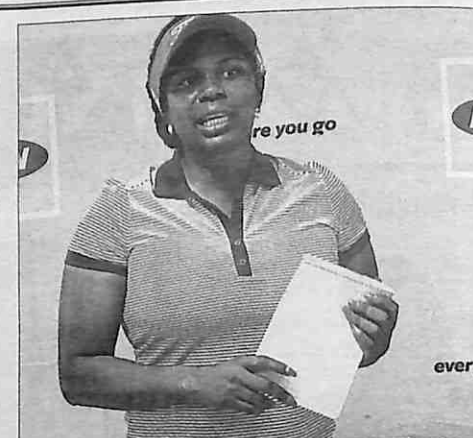
The secretary added that the ESA would hold its annual general meeting (AGM) later this month.

"Clubs are reminded that we will have our AGM on the 25th of this month. They are expected to send two delegates, preferably the chairman and secretary. It will

be held at Manzini Police Headquarters and starts at 10am," he said.

He also said the executive committee nominations were now open. He requested teams to submit the names of their nominees before the 16th.

Those with queries can contact him on his 76039671/7606 2565.



**MORE WANTED:** Mbabane Golf Club Ladies captain Fisiwe Vilane.

## Captain Fisiwe urges more women participation in golf

BY JONGILE XUBA

**GOLF – MBABANE Golf Club Ladies Captain Fisiwe Vilane has urged more women to register and participate in the upcoming MTN Monthly Masters on Saturday.**

The captain said this during the Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ESRIC) Monthly Mug prize presentation held at the Mbabane Golf Club over the weekend. Vilane was one of the only two women who participated in the competition on the day together with Nelisiwe Mathabela. Mathabela managed to finish first in the ladies section with a score of 76.

"I would like to acknowledge and encourage Nelisiwe to continue playing in the competitions in order to inspire others. We had 71 golfers and only two were ladies, so we would like to see more women playing and joining us on the greens," she said. MTN Eswatini will be hosting their first master's instalment for the new year which is likely to be played under the stable ford format.



# WE WILL PROVE OURSELVES - SWALLOWS

STORIES BY COLISILE SACOLO

**SOCCER- MBABANE Swallows** team doctor Samkeliso Mdluli has said they will prove themselves during their match against arch rivals Mbabane Highlanders in the last of 16 clash of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup.

Mdluli represented the three times winners of the prestigious tournament during a draw yesterday at Sigwaca House.

Mbabane Swallows team doctor Samkeliso Mdluli stated that they were happy that they would get a chance to prove themselves against Highlanders, who cried foul play during the team's recent league clash that ended in a goalless draw.

"We do not have any problem with Mbabane Highlanders and we are happy that we will play against them and ready for any results," he added.

Mbabane Highlanders Public Relations Officer (PRO) Paul Magidza eludzakeni Masilela promised to bring their best shot against their sworn rivals.

"We will prepare for Mbabane Swallows and our wish is to win and advance to the last eight," he said.

Meanwhile, Royal Leopard PRO Frank Hurube said they were happy to be drawn against Young Buffaloes.

"We wanted them and we respect them as a big team. We will take the game serious and we will work hard during our preparations," he added.

On the other hand, Buffaloes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile Gwebu says it is a tricky draw, adding that this is one of the exciting fixtures of the round.

"We hope for good results as we will work hard and do our best to win the match," he said.



Swallows's Samkeliso Mdluli.

Gwebu said it was a new game all together hence they would deliver good football on that day. He then thanked the Sponsor (SMVAF) for supporting the sport.

**WITH BOTH HANDS:** Manzini Wanderers PRO Sandile Dlamini also had an opportunity to conduct the draw.



However, Green Mamba CEO Thami Phakathi says it is a fair draw for them. He said they would prepare well for their game against Manzini Sea Birds and would not take the opposition lightly.

They will be meeting the hub side for the first time in the history of the tournament.

"We know their strength and weakness hence we will do our best in order to get good results," he said.

## We have better chances- Wanderers

**SOCCER- MANZINI Wanderers** CEO Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini says they have a better chance to win their game against Denver Sundowns.

He said this after the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 draw yesterday at Sigwaca House.

Dlamini said they were in a better position to win the game and advance

to the next level.

"We will reach the next stage of the tournament and God has answered my prayers because I was praying for this," he said.

Sundowns PRO Muzi Matsenjwa said they would continue with their recent dominance over Wanderers and book their place in the quarterfinals.

## WFL APPEALS FOR SPONSORS

BY COLISILE SACOLO

**SOCCER- WOMEN's Football Association** Secretary General Aaron 'Katalala' Mavimbela is appealing for sponsorships from the local business community.

The Women Football League is currently only sponsored by Eswatini Football Association.

Eswatini Bank also provides an opportunity for the ladies teams to participate in the knockout tournament which is

part of the annual Eswatini Bank Cup sponsorships.

Mavimbela said as the association, they needed more sponsors to improve the game and further be able to compete effectively internationally.

"We are on a mission of develop women football in the country, so we are appealing for support from private companies," he said.

The former Mbabane Swallows technical director also urged players to keep time during the league games and called for commitment.

Meanwhile, WFL Competitions Committee Secretary Lucky Dube mentioned that the league resumes this weekend following the festive break.

### Weekend Fixture

**Lobamba Technical Centre**  
Swallows Vs Roses 1pm  
Kappa Ladies Vs Manzini Wanderers 3pm

**Technical Centre ground B'**  
Elangeni vs S. Diva 1pm  
Royal Leopard vs Green Mamba 3pm  
**MPOFU Sports Ground**  
Happy Girls vs Interladies 2pm

## ALLIE, DOMBO GRAB HAT-TRICKS

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

**SOCCER- YOUNG Buffaloes** fast improving player Allie Matse and Manzini Wanderers winger Mike Dombo grabbed hat-tricks during the first second round matches of the MTN Premier League over the weekend.

Ally Matse scored his three goals against Mhlume Peacemakers at Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday. The former Manzini Wanderers

player is now occupying second spot together with Green Mamba's Mcolisi Mkhontfo with eight goals in the scorer's charts.

Mike Dombo hat-trick helped 'Weslians' outsmart Piggs Peak Black Swallows by 4-2 on Sunday at the Somhlolo National Stadium. Meanwhile, the league top goal scorer, Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze increased his tally to 16 goals after netting a single strike during their 5-0 win over the sugar belt side.

### The 2019/20 top goal scorers' chart:

1. Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze (Young Buffaloes)	-16 goals
2. Mcolisi Mkhontfo (Green Mamba)	- 8 goals
3. Allie Matse - (Young Buffaloes)	-8 goals
4. Sandile Hlatshwako (Mbabane Swallows)	- 6 goals
5. Linda Maphalala (Denver Sundowns)	- 5 goals
6. Lizwe Zwane (Moneni Pirates)	- 5 goals
7. Allen Mabuza (Pigg's Peak Black Swallows)	- 5 goals
8. Reagan Kangumbi (Tambuti FC)	- 5 goals
9. Tony 'TT' Tsabedze (Mbabane Swallows)	- 5 goals
10. Phiwa Dlamini ( Young Buffaloes )	-5 goals
11. Fanelo 'Order' Mamba (Young Buffaloes)	- 3 goals
12. Mbuso Mabuza (Pigg's Peak Black Swallows)	- 3 goals
13. Ugochukwu (Tambuti FC)	- 3 goals
14. Fabrice Mopina (Moneni Pirates)	- 3goals
15. Darren Christie (Manzini Sea Birds)	- 2 goals
16. Sibiri Yunusu (Royal Leopard)	- 2 goals
17. Melusi Mkhwanazi (Royal Leopard)	- 2 goals
18. Junior Magagula (Royal Leopard)	- 2 goals

## MILLING PLAYERS FINALLY PAID OWED SALARIES

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER- MILLING Hotspurs** players have said the club has since sorted out their owed wages.

This was revealed by Milling Hotspurs captain Linda Mbuli during a post-match interview in their 1-0 win over Malanti Chiefs at Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.

This comes after this publication had reported on the alleged owed wages of players by the club. This led to players boycotting training and even threatening to boycott their MTN Premier League match. However, the league rookies took to the pitch and pulled off an impressive victory to start the second ROUND of the season well.

The skipper said they had met with the club officials prior to their match and ironed out all their differences. "Everything is fine now

within the camp and we are back to fulltime training.

"We did have issues with the club before the game. After meeting with the team's administration everything has been sorted out and we are pleased," he said.

Asked to elaborate on what issues they had with the, Mbuli respectfully declined to go into detail on the matter.

Team coach Clement 'King Clay' Mdluli also confirmed that the players had met with the executive members and had ironed out their issues. "The players did well today in their match after not training for the whole festive season due to internal issues.

These have since been sorted out that is why we managed to play today," he said.

Mdluli further said his side were adapting well to the league adding that they were expecting the team to do well for the remainder of the season.



**NO NEW FACES:** Milling Hotspurs players celebrating. (File pic)



ABSA PREMIERSHIP

19:30 Mamelodi Sundowns vs Bidvest Wits  
19:30 Polokwane City vs Orlando Pirates  
19:30 Stellenbosch vs Bloemfontein Celtic

# Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Tuesday January 7, 2020



## Wanderers appeal Manyisa' verdict

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**SOCCER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers have appealed the Leon Manyisa verdict before the Eswatini Football Association (EFA).**

This comes after the Protest Disciplinary Committee headed by Mayoyo Dlamini ruled in favour of Malanti Chiefs recently.

The rulings saw Manzini Wanderers Football Club forfeiting three points and three goals to Malanti Chiefs and were fined E5 000. Manyisa was also suspended according to the findings of the DC after the play-

er had appeared for Wanderers against Malanti Chiefs following his return from his brief stint with Armenian side FC Van. Information gathered is to the effect that Manzini Wanderers confirmed their appeal yesterday to the Appeals Committee.

Malanti Chiefs are also said to have been served with the papers. Manzini Wanderers Management Committee Chairman, Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli also confirmed the appeal but did not want elaborate further on the matter.

"Yes, we have appealed to the Appeals Committee and we have paid the mandatory fee," he said.

The northern Hhohho based outfit through their lawyer, Zakhele Dlamini won the matter on December 9.

Manzini Wanderers were represented by advocate, Mduduzi 'Tsotsi' Mabila.

## Ennin is still part of us - Denver Sundowns

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER - DENVER Sundowns have made it clear that head coach Christopher Ennin is still part of the club despite his absence during their MTN Premier League match against Green Mamba at Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.**

The Ghanaian born coach is rumoured to have returned to a Manzini based side due to contractual disputes with his employers.

According to reports Ennin is alleged to be demanding a new contract from the team.

Denver Sundowns Public Relations Officer (PRO) Muzi Matsenjwa said that the reports were not true and that Ennin was still part of the club. He further explained the coach's absence from the match.

"I would like to clearly state there are no contractual disputes between Christopher Ennin and Denver Sundowns Football Club. The coach went home for the festive season and has been given an extended break after seeking permission from the team. He was granted and is expected back in the country this week," he said.

Matsenjwa went on to state how important the coach is to the club.

"We will not hide the fact that we have serious respect for the coach and we believe in his capabilities. After he inherited a team which he played no role in assembling he still adapted very well under difficult circumstances.

The seven game unbeaten run in all competitions is a clear demonstration of the fantastic job Ennin is doing," he said.

Ennin declined to comment on the matter when contacted from his native country Ghana.

Sundowns face Manzini Wanderers in a hub derby during the Ingwenyama Cup round of 16 competitions which will be played this weekend.

## MBABANE DERBY IN INGWENYAMA CUP LAST 16

STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**SOCCER - BUCKLE Up. The game is on!!**

The old rival will be renewed as capital city giants, Mbabane Swallows face Mbabane Highlanders in the last 16 of the SMVAF fourth edition of the Ingwenyama Cup.

The historic draw was conducted yesterday morning at Sigwaca House and was attended by Ingwenyama Cup Management Committee Chairman, Johannes 'Ace' Soboza, Eswatini Football Association Chief Executive Officer, Frederick Mngomezulu, Premier League of Eswatini Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula and teams' representatives to mention but only a few.

The last 16 fixtures will be played this weekend whilst the quarter finals are scheduled for next weekend.

The champions for the five-year old tournament will walk away with



**CITY RIGHTS: Mbabane Swallows' Samkeliso Mdluli and Mbabane Highlanders' Paul 'Magidza' Masilela all smiles after being drawn against each other in the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 at Sigwaca House yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)**

E1.4 million.

The derby comes in less than three weeks after the sworn rivals played each other in the league at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Another match that will be not for the faint hearted is the security forces derby between Young Buffaloes and Royal Leopard.

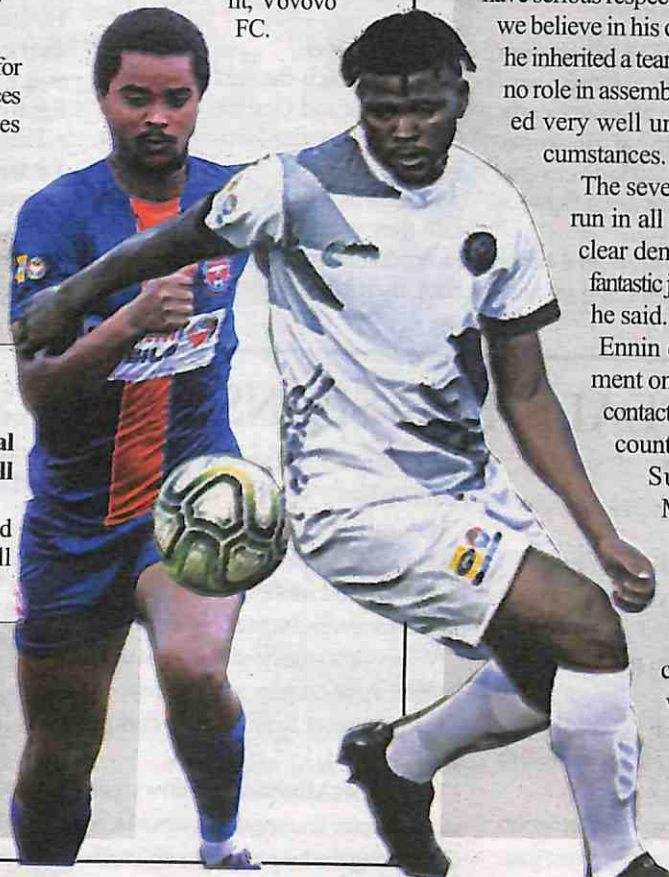
Amathole Ezinyathi are the

defending champions of the prestigious tournament after they massacred Mbabane Highlanders 4-1 in the finals also watched by His Majesty Mswati III and former South African president Jacob Zuma.

Correctional Service side, Green Mamba is billed for a tricky affair against Manzini Sea Birds a week after their recent league meeting.

Hub giants Manzini Wanderers have a date with rivals Denver Sundowns whilst on form Moneni Pirates will lock horns with sugar belt side Mhlume Peacemakers.

Meanwhile, National First Division outfits, Tambankulu Callies and Illovo FC will entertain each other. Seven Dreams will take on former Premier League outfit, Vovovo FC.



## .... Stop approaching refs - 'Touch' warns teams

**SOCCER - PREMIER League of Eswatini Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula has strongly warned teams against approaching referees to influence results.**

Magagula said the spirit of fair play must prevail in the prestigious competition which blends football with culture.

"I would like to repeat what I said before, teams must stop approaching referees. There will be only one winner in a match, and we will deal with those found on the wrong side of the law. Fair play must prevail and let's work together for the success of the tournament," he said.

The PLE chairman further mentioned that a fixture for the tournament would be released today.

Meanwhile, Magagula urged team supporters to behave themselves.

"We know that there is a lot of money at stake here,

## 'It's a 50/50 draw'

**ESWATINI Football Association Technical Director, Boy 'Bizzah' Mkhonta says all teams are equal.**

"It's a 50/50 draw. The games are balanced and a team that will utilise its chances will progress to the next stage," he said.

therefore we appeal for good behaviour from the team's supporters," he said.

He also reminded teams that the registration had been opened so teams shouldn't wait until the eleventh hour to sign new players.