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**EX-HIGH COURT
JUDGE APPOINTED CJ
IN NORTH AMERICA**

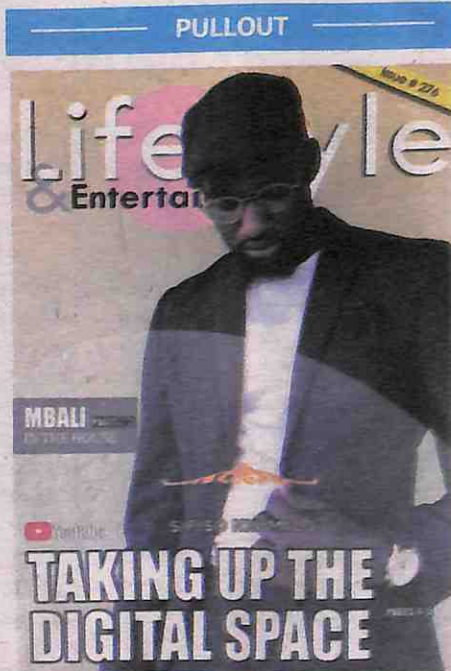
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**BUSHFIRE
POSTPONES
LAUNCH EVENT**

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LAST RESORT: If nurses turn away coronavirus patients as per their threat from health facilities like the Mbabane Government Hospital (above), Parliament must up its game and approve the emergency E100m supplementary health budget to meet the emergency. (Pic: Bodwa Mbingo)



**NO PLANS TO
FIX MBABANE
FLOODING
- MINISTER**

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'NURSES WILL NOT ATTEND TO CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS'

STORY ON
PAGES 2-3

...While tinyanga are
'ready' to confront global
scourge

APOLOGY - SWAZIMED TO PAY MEDSCHEME E30M

In our story, Swazimed to pay Medscheme E30m, published by our sister paper yesterday, we reported that the Swaziland Medical Aid Fund had lost its application to

have the High Court set aside an arbitration award by Justice Philip Levinson.

We wish to state that this is incorrect and that the correct position is that Swazimed won its

appeal to have this arbitration award set aside.

The judgment our story cited is a minority Judgment by His Lordship Mbutfo Mamba.

In actual fact, justices Cyril Mamba and Doris

Tshabalala both ruled in favour of Swazimed, thereby setting aside the award by the arbitrator as the majority ruling in the case.

The judges referred the dispute to a new arbitrator. We, therefore wish to unreservedly apologise to the parties concerned for the embarrassment and confusion our story caused.

Coronavirus man-made - Witchdoctors

Makhanya Makhanya said those who would come for traditional healing would get to learn from spiritual consultation on how the virus came about and what animal was used in its creation, the 'witch' that caused the global scourge and what was needed to cure and prevent its spread.

"Since this is a communicable disease, it will not be hard for us to deal with it."

He said witchdoctors always had meetings to discuss on even bigger issues like the COVID-19, which would soon affect the whole world.

Makhanya again pointed out that

witchcraft was practised all over the world, and it was likely that such pandemics were a result of black magic.

Consult

"Therefore, people should go and consult witchdoctors for the truth, cure and immunisation. All animals and plants were given to mankind by God and some people misuse certain species for witchcraft purposes," he said.

"However, when consulting the spirits, we are able to ascertain what animal bone was used in the witchcraft, even if it was sourced undersea, and the spirits will tell us what needs to be done to counter it."

Witchdoctors say they can prevent coronavirus infection

Makhanya Makhanya, the founder of the witchdoctors association, says they use unique herbs to smoke the air clear of disease (*kubhunyisa*) as well as blood infused traditional vaccines (*kugata*) as a vaccine, even against the much globally feared coronavirus.

This he said when responding to questions on how safe they would

be from contracting the virus in the event they had to deal with a patient who had contracted COVID-19.

"As much as western medical doctors use masks and other modern scientific medication to prevent themselves from contracting communicable diseases, likewise even traditional doctors have their own method," Makhanya Makhanya declared.

WITCHDOCTOR OR MEDICAL DOCTOR, IT'S YOUR CALL

People believe whatever. This was the reaction of Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula when reached for comment on the views and declaration by the witchdoctors association's Makhanya Makhanya on the coronavirus COVID-19.

"They have their own ways and style when it comes to treatment and these I have no knowledge about. However, as long as they do not contradict or disagree on what we are saying as medical practitioners and the

World Health Organisation, we are fine," Dr Magagula said. Dr Magagula emphasised on issues of hygiene and other preventative measures. "It is then up to a person to decide when ill whether she goes to consult a witchdoctor or medical practitioner."

He said they respected traditional healers as experts in their own field. Likewise, witchdoctor Makhanya Makhanya said they respected medical practitioners as experts in their western scientific medical field.

NURSES WILL NOT ATTEND TO CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS

Stories by Zwelihle Sukati

Safa! Emaswati are in for a shock as President of the Swaziland Nurses Association Bheki Mamba has advised health workers not to dare attend to a single case of the deadly coronavirus, COVID-19.

This he said was because government had been doing things at a snail's pace in preparing for the virus outbreak, something he said posed a great danger to the lives of health workers.

Mamba was speaking during an interview with this publication on Thursday.

With that said, Emaswati have every reason to be afraid after waking up to newspaper headlines that the dreaded coronavirus has hit South Africa, the neighbouring state on Thursday, confirming its first case of the deadly virus.

Mamba said he was worried that government had not, at such a critical stage, identified quarantine centres, no strategy in place in the event of the virus outbreaks, as well as the fact that nothing much had been done to train health workers on how to deal with the virus.

Mamba said it was worrying that government had not put a strategy in place in the event the coronavirus struck.

However, government views things differently, with Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula saying Mamba, was aware which forums to exploit when expressing such views as opposed to taking things up with the media.

"As is, in terms of the country's preparedness, we will not allow any health worker to attend even to a single case of the coronavirus," Mamba, the nurses association's president declared.

"We will not condone a situation whereby the lives of our colleagues (health workers) are put at risk and we would like to urge nurses to put their lives first and not expose themselves to the virus without having been properly trained or skilled on how to deal with the situation."

He said the virus was spreading so fast and very near to the country as it was already threatening the Southern Africa region. "We relate more to South Africa as the closest biggest economy in the region and the biggest tourist destination, by number, coming even from China," he pointed out.

He said Eswatini was also a big trader



CHECK UPS: A health worker screens the temperature of a passenger arriving from Italy at Debreceen International Airport in Debrecen, Hungary, on Monday. Clusters of coronavirus cases in Italy and Iran are sending worrying signs that the new coronavirus has already spread far beyond China and is creating new outbreaks around the globe.

with the neighbouring state and with all these pointers "we need to have been very much prepared like yesterday".

However, Mamba said Eswatini was lagging behind in terms of preparedness and was far from declaring this as a health emergency situation.

"We haven't even heard from the prime minister proclaiming how his government plans to deal with the coronavirus, which also has negative effects on the economy." He noted that at this stage, the prime minister should be leading his team, together with the minister of health, in assuring the nation of what to expect in terms of countering the virus that is fast closing into the region.

"Instead, government is relying on technicians, yet the situation needs political weight for support even from Parliament in terms of mobilising resources."

The nurses association's president said it was also a great deal of concern that no budget had been allocated in line with a strategy to deal with the virus, at least until now. He also highlighted that the country's health facilities were hard hit with dire shortage of medical supplies

and this made citizens more vulnerable to this global dilemma.

In as much as the health ministry has urged the nation not to panic, Emaswati have every reason to be afraid with that said, coming from a health workers organisation.

Training

"Without a proper strategy, adequate training of health workers, sound budget allocation and identified quarantine centres, we will not allow our members to expose themselves to the virus. They must put their lives first," Mamba reiterated.

That said, however, yesterday's news reports announced that the Minister of Health, Lizzie Nkosi, told Parliament that a whopping E100 million was needed by her ministry to fight the deadly coronavirus. Nkosi said part of the money would be used to increase the number of health workers and equipment to effect their prevention and readiness plans. The minister said they wanted to add about 55 more health workers, in particular the nurses, as well as also purchase about five mounted scanners, which cost about E485 000 each.

Swazi Observer

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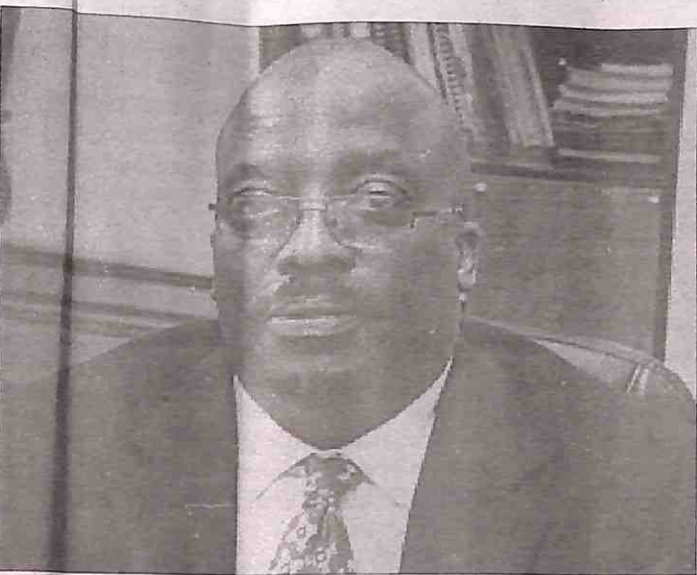
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This is not a time to be apart

"This is not a time to be apart but a time to unite against a common potential enemy." Sabelo Dlamini, briefly speaking on behalf of the prime minister's office said government has shown commitment, even with the E100 million Supplementary Appropriation Bill No 2 of 2020 tabled before Parliament by the acting Minister of Finance, Moses Vilakati on Thursday.

Government tabled the said bill for additional requirements for services of government towards the health ministry.

"Now is not the time to tear each other apart but to stand a united force against a threatening common enemy. We have to protect each other from the threat of this virus," Dlamini said, before referring further comment to the ministry of health.



HOPING: Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula.

HEALTH MINISTRY KEEPS FINGERS CROSSED

Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula says the ministry is hoping that Parliament passes the E100 million Supplementary Appropriation Bill. He said this would go a long in moving things even faster.

However, when reacting to comments by the President of the nurses association, Bheki Mamba, Dr.

Magagula said Mamba was well aware of which channels to exploit when it came to raising such.

"Mamba is in management. He is Sister Nurse and in a position of leadership. Therefore, I cannot comment on this in the media when there are clear channels he knows very well to explore if he has concerns."

We are ready, on guard for coronavirus – Witchdoctors

Witchdoctors say as traditional medical practitioners and spiritual assessors, they are more than ready to deal with the deadly coronavirus, known as COVID-19.

Makhanya Makhaya of the Witchdoctors Association says their spiritual prowess and expertise in traditional medicine is geared up to deal with the virus.

"There is something we have to give cure to and we are ready,"

Makhanya said in an interview with the Saturday Observer yesterday. He described witchdoctors as warriors on guard against 'emavukelambuso' (national scourge) like the coronavirus.

"We work in the spiritual and physical realm. We consult with ancestors to ascertain from them what can be used in traditional medicine material (*tinyamatane* and *tihlahla*) to give cure to the virus," he declared.

Moneni TB Centre likely to be COVID-19 quarantine centre

The health ministry is likely to turn the National Multi-drug-resistant Tuberculosis Centre to a coronavirus quarantine centre, according to this week's media reports.

Our sister publication, Eswatini Observer daily, reported on Thursday that this was one of the hospitals in the list of facilities the ministry was looking into formulating quarantine or isolation centres.

However, the Minister of Health, Lizzie Nkosi, said her ministry has

a lot of work to do before converting the hospital to the quarantine centre.

She said this was due to the fact that the currently the hospital has MDR-TB patients who need to be kept somewhere if the centre is completely identified.

The minister went on to point out that they had identified a confirmed isolation hospital which can be immediately used as a place to isolate people infected with the coronavirus.

About coronaviruses

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

According to the World Health Organisation, a novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not

been previously identified in humans.

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.

Investigations

Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans.

Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs.

Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

Prevention, treatment of this coronavirus

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.

People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

However, as a reminder, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- Facemasks should be used by people

who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

● Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after visiting the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

● If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with at least 60 per cent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

“

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.

What is Covid-19 – the illness that started in Wuhan?

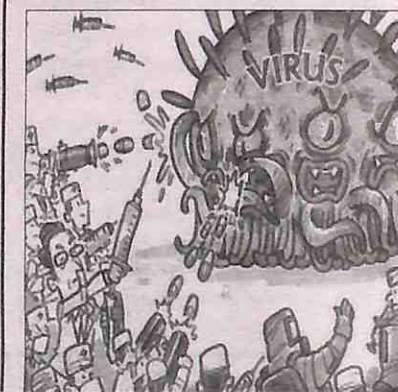
It is caused by a member of the coronavirus family that has never been encountered before. Like other coronaviruses, it comes from animals.

Many of those initially infected either worked or frequently shopped in the Huanan seafood wholesale market in the centre of the Chinese city.

The COVID-19 virus can cause pneumonia. Those who have fallen ill are reported to suffer coughs, fever and breathing difficulties.

In severe cases there can be organ failure. As this is viral pneumonia, antibiotics are of no use. The antiviral drugs in use against flu will not work.

Recovery depends on the strength of the immune system. Many of those who have died were already in poor health.



ON DUTY: Market workers wearing protective gear spray disinfectant at a market in the south-eastern city of Daegu on February 23 as a preventive measure after the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. - South Korea reported two additional deaths from coronavirus and 123 more cases on February 23, with nearly two thirds of the new patients connected to a religious sect. The national toll of 556 cases is now the second-highest outside of China.

By Saturday Observer Reporter

CORONAVIRUS: BUSHFIRE POSTPONES LAUNCH EVENT

...but festival still scheduled to take place from 29 - 31 May

MTN Bushfire has called off its launch event that was to be held yesterday. "The MTN Bushfire team trusts that all stakeholders will recognise the importance of ensuring that the festival meets local and international health and safety standards, and the need to postpone the launch event at this time."

Meanwhile, MTN Bushfire says all necessary precautions will be considered and the team is in high-level discussions, not just locally but internationally, to ensure that all essential information is gathered. In a public statement issued by MTN Eswatini and Bushfire it is stated that "winner of the Best Responsible Event Award at the African responsible Tourism Awards in 2017, MTN Bushfire is assessing the situation in detail and will work with everyone involved to ensure the best way forward in the build-up to the MTN Bushfire Festival, still scheduled to take place from 29 to 31 May 2020."

In lieu of a preamble, the statement says events rapidly unfolding globally and closer afield in relation to the spread of the coronavirus, the MTN Bushfire team is meeting with all key stakeholders to ensure the best way forward for the festival, its participants, and guests locally and from across the globe.

"The overriding priority for MTN Bushfire is the safety and security of



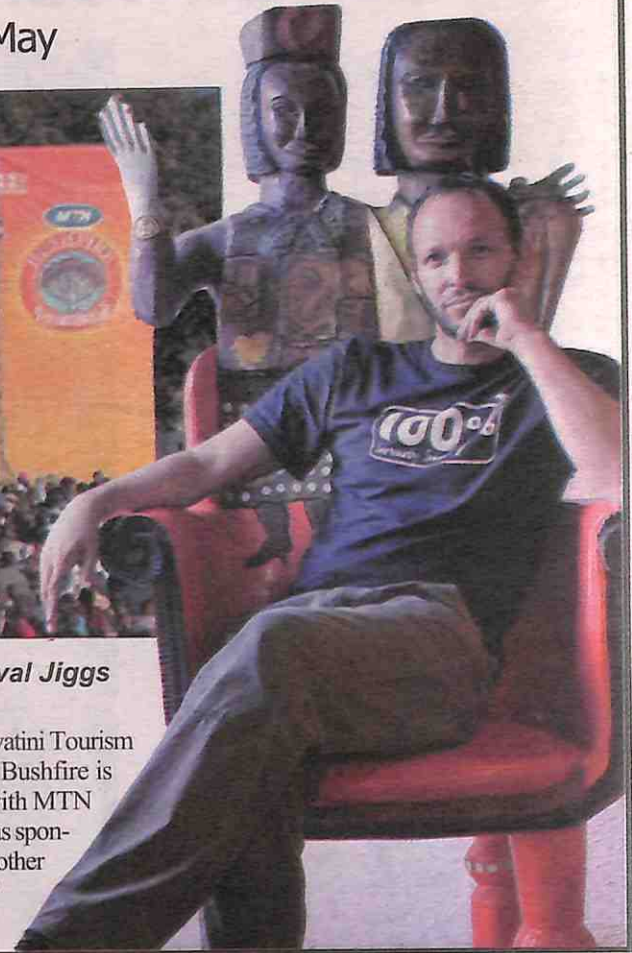
POSTPONED: (RIGHT): Director of House on Fire and MTN Bushfire Festival Jiggs Thorne.

everyone involved in staging such a high-profile, globally recognised event. The MTN Bushfire team also recognises the massive positive economic impact that the festival has on local creative industries and the Eswatini economy on a larger scale.

All factors are being taken into consideration as these discussions continue.

MTN Bushfire has already had, and continues to have, in-depth meetings with key government stakeholders, including the ministry of

health and the Eswatini Tourism Authority, MTN Bushfire is also consulting with MTN Eswatini, as well as sponsors, partners and other relevant parties."



MTN Bushfire focusing on safety and security, taking necessary precautions



As events rapidly unfold globally and closer afield in relation to the spread of the coronavirus, the MTN Bushfire team is meeting with all key stakeholders to ensure the best way forward for the festival, its participants, and guests locally and from across the globe.

The overriding priority for MTN Bushfire is the safety and security of everyone involved in staging such a high-profile, globally-recognised event.

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All necessary precautions will be considered, and the team is in high-level discussions, not just locally but internationally, to ensure that all essential information is gathered.

Winner of the Best Responsible Event award at the African Responsible Tourism Awards in 2017, MTN Bushfire is assessing the situation in detail and will work with everyone involved to ensure the best way forward in the build-up to the MTN Bushfire festival, still scheduled to take place from 29 to 31 May, 2020.

Due to the necessity of these meetings, the organisers of the MTN Bushfire festival postponed the LAUNCH EVENT that was scheduled to take place on Friday 6 March, 2020.

The MTN Bushfire team trusts that all stakeholders will recognise the importance of ensuring that the festival meets local and international health and safety standards, and the need to postpone the LAUNCH EVENT at this time.



SA MP WANTS HEIGHTENED PROTECTION OF BORDERLINES WITH ESWATINI AMID CORONAVIRUS

By Bodwa Mbingo

With South Africa's ports of entry covered by the Department of Health representatives supported by military medics checking for coronavirus, but a Freedom Front Plus MP has asked about the thousands of kilometres of land border in between.

Philip van Staden said in the wake of South Africa's first reported coronavirus case, there was "a real danger" the virus could spread exponentially given the porosity of South Africa's land borders.

South Africa has land borders with six countries – Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe – and each is allocated at least a company, some with equestrian and canine support elements.

Van Staden maintains 'a lack of adequate control over the influx of people across South Africa's land borders will see the country follow the example of others which have closed and secured land borders'.

Freely

"People from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Eswatini can freely enter South Africa. We need tighter border control," he said, pointing to continental coronavirus cases reported in Algeria, Senegal, Morocco, Nigeria and Egypt. "Stricter border control is not a discriminatory measure but the health and safety of South African citizens is paramount," he said adding, 'securing airports and harbours are not enough'.

The task of maintaining territorial integrity and keeping undocumented and illegal people from entering South Africa lies in the hands of 15 companies of mostly infantry soldiers, who patrol more than



PROTECTION: South Africa Minister of Department of Health Philip van Staden.

five thousand kilometres of land border.

The border protection tasking, Operation Corona, has grown to expand confiscation of contraband goods, mostly narcotics, cigarettes, liquor, clothing and shoes as well as the recovery of stolen vehicles, firearms and precious metals such as copper and gold.

An indication of the ease with which undocumented people cross into South Africa comes in the figure of over 9 300

intercepted by soldiers and handed over to either police or Department of Home Affairs officials in the first 11 months of last year.

Suitably qualified and trained SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) personnel have been deployed at ports of entry since South Africa went onto a high alert for coronavirus, but there is no indication of an increase in military medical personnel at Op Corona forward and operational bases.

Freeze parastatals subventions: MINISTER CLEARS ESWADE

By Bodwa Mbingo

Amid growing calls for the freezing of government subventions towards a total of 11 parastatals, including ESWADE until they submit their financial statements audited, Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza has cleared this parastatal as having submitted same on time.

Apart from the Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE), the minister also cleared the Eswatini Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (EYERF) as both having submitted their financial reports on time. That is before September 30, 2019.

The minister told Parliament that other entities submitted theirs after the stipulated date and they include the Eswatini National Sports and Recreation Council (October 2019) and the University of Eswatini (October 2019).

This comes after Auditor General (AG) Timothy Matsebula called for the freezing of the subventions of public enterprises that were not audited during the period under review. These included Eswatini National Trust Commission, ESWADE, University of Eswatini, Eswatini Medical Christian University, Southern Africa Nazarene University, Eswatini Television Broadcasting Corporation, Royal Science and Technology Park Authority, Royal Swazi Airline, EYERF, National Youth Council and Eswatini Sports Council.

Minister Mabuza told his ministry's portfolio committee that as opposed to the reports that ESWADE was one of the 11 parastatals that had not submitted their financial statement, actually the company had actually submitted the statements. He had been asked to give clarity on the matter by MP Bomber Mamba after the Auditor

General called for the freezing of the subventions until they conformed to government's procedures and submit their audited financial statements, Lobamba Lomozala MP Marwick Khumalo in his capacity as ministry of finance portfolio committee chairperson joined the bandwagon in the calls.

MP Khumalo further speaking during the House of Assembly debate of the national budget and during the Post Budget Seminar hosted by the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE), further insisted that as Parliament, they would not endorse the subvention of the unaudited parastatals.

Khumalo enquired why government was turning a blind eye and continued pouring resources towards the parastatals, while they failed to conform to government regulations.

Khumalo said he would soon move a motion for freezing the parastatals, subventions until they submitted their audited financial statements.

He also said the people looking after government's interest in the entities were not adding any values and were only pursuing their own agendas and interests.

The MP also mentioned that there were allegations of corruption in some of these parastatals and nothing was being done.

He added that the parastatals were also overlooking local SMEs in favour of South African companies and awarding them procurement tenders, while the same could be done by local companies.

He said if government took the time to interrogate the parastatals' financials, there was a lot that could be discovered.

Khumalo added that government should do something about this matter as a majority of these parastatals had the potential to contribute to the country's economic growth.

'Shiselweni youths have countless sexual problems'

By Ackel Zwane

The youth in the Shiselweni region experience a broad range of challenges which include early sexual debut, high teenage pregnancy, sexual gender-based violence, high HIV incidence and high levels of unemployment.

This is enshrined in the ministry of sports, culture and youth performance report for 2019/20.

The youth council partnered with the regional administrator's office and NAT-ICC in hosting the 2019 Shiselweni Youth Business Expo themed 'creating a network of young entrepreneurs for economic evolution'.

The expo was aligned to Eswatini Strategic Roadmap 2019-2022 which aims at improving small, medium enterprises' participation in the economy and foster international trade.

According to the performance report, the Eswatini National Youth Council in collaboration with NATICC and other key role players in youth development hosted the first annual expo, whose aim was to empower, educate, connect and expose the youth to business mentors, impart vocational skills knowledge and present busi-

ness opportunities.

Note

On another note, a Life Skills Education manual was rolled out over a period of 39 implementation days in 11 communities under the Shiselweni I and Gege constituencies, including the Nhlanguano Youth Centre with a high number of out of school young people as the primary target.

The 39 days covered all the 11 units of the LSE manual. Each community had an official youth session over the eight days duration in neutral venues of their choices such as churches, schools' classrooms, Gogo centres, dipping tanks and youth centres. There are 61 per cent young people who live in the rural areas, this accounts for almost two thirds of the youth who face fierce challenges of unemployment and an entrepreneurial mind-set.

This does not make youth in urban areas an exception. The report says this dire situation largely lies within the education curriculum, which is producing a plethora of saturated disciplines of study areas, which do not equip the youth with relevant skills required by the world of work and business environment.

The 7 000 youth that graduate at tertiary level, annually, are redundant, frustrated

youth that languish in poverty and opacity on the uncertainty about the future.

"The very thin knowledge and significant disinterest in entrepreneurship culminated by our education system is the very cause for the present situation amongst our young people." The report further states that there is a need to review policy, especially fast-tracking the youth bill and the citizenship bill, which will open up the broader scope of opportunities prioritised by the government and specifically directed at youth empowerment and development.

"There is need to adapt to both innovative existing and virgin ideas that can be explored to create a new environment that the youth can take advantage of.

Greater

There are greater opportunities within government herself, in procurement, the agricultural sector, including climate smart agriculture and climate change regarding the green economy and or waste management.

"Young people lack skills, knowledge and information to help them think like business people and make business based decisions so that they realise the opportunities that are available."



CLEAR: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza.

NO PLAN TO FIX MBABABANE FLOODING - MINISTER

“Plans and drawings for effective drainage systems were developed a few years ago. These designs require E27 million for them to be implemented

By Khetsiwe Khumalo

There is no plan of action to address the Mbabane drainage problem, which causes flooding during the rainy season.

This confession was made by Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane in Parliament when the ministry's portfolio committee met to debate the annual performance report for the 2019/ 2020 financial year.

In his report, the minister had highlighted that the drainage challenge at the Mbabane city centre during heavy rains was giving them sleepless nights, along with the issue of insufficient funds for the smooth operation of the ministry. “Chairperson, the ministry has experienced a number of challenges whilst executing its duties and responsibilities.”

It was then that the minister divulged that “there is no plan of action to address the Mbabane drainage problem which causes flooding during the rainy season.” Of note is that soon after the floods battered Mbabane, the municipal council said they were not to blame.

Investigation

They apportioned blame on the gradient from government offices leading to the central business district such as where the mall and the plaza are located. There was no immediate investigation into the true causes of the flooding or on whether indeed it was an engineering shortcoming on the slopes leading to the city centre.

The committee raised serious concerns with the poor drainage system in the city, stating that it is not investor friendly and it would create a situation where the country loses a number of investors.

Siphocosini Member of Parliament, Mduduzi Matsebula wanted to know why the Mbabane municipality was failing to address the issue of flooding and lack of reliable drainage systems.

In response, the minister said those were high priority areas among many of the city's devel-



FLOODED: Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane has admitted that there is still no plan for the Mbabane drainage problem.

opment projects. “Plans and drawings for effective drainage systems were developed a few years ago. These designs require E27 million for them to be implemented,” stated Prince Simelane.

It is worth noting that these were the same sentiments shared by Mbabane Municipality Information and Public Relations Officer Lucky Tsabedze when asked about the flooding last month.

Discussions

The heavy rainfall that caused the flooding had a huge impact on the city such that some retail shops had to temporarily close. Some shops also had spoilt items that were kept in their storages as proof to their insurers.

Vendors, too, complained of having been greatly affected by the flooding.

Still on the poor drainage system, MP Michael Masuku wished to find out if there was a fund for natural emergencies or disasters in towns.

To that the minister simply said “unfortunately, no”.

That put the discussions to a halt and recommendations were that the ministry should further liaise with the ministry of public works and transport to Intervene in the drainage issue and report progress in the next quarter report.

Meanwhile, in the annual performance report, the ministry makes no mention of Mbabane flooding despite that this has been going on for the past three years.

The only major problems in the report are, firstly, review of urban laws where it is noted that the laws governing operations of local government operations are outdated and are not in keeping with current and best practices.

The report also highlights that urban development and management requires innovation and highly responsive systems, especially to take advantage of investments which by their very nature are highly mobile.

The laws in use presently stifle innovation and reception of much needed investment as well as management systems. As such they need to be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

The other challenge espoused by the municipality is plot payment under urban development plan.

“The payment for plots by beneficiaries has been slow with less than 35 per cent having paid in all the UDP areas over the 10 years of the project. The challenge appears to be affordability for some and avoidance for payment of rates for others.

This slow payment renders the rollout of further upgrading of the other informal settlements impossible because the repayments for the plot prices were meant to provide funding to other areas in the revolving fund concept. Support from government is, therefore, needed to encourage the speedy payment for plots by beneficiaries.”

MYSTERY OF FILE THAT KEEPS DISAPPEARING AT HIGH COURT

By Ackel Zwane

An outraged private citizen has written a hot letter to Chief

Justice Bheki Maphalala regarding his case file at the registry that keeps growing legs, now is the third time the file has disappeared.

Brian Tsabedze says the file in question is No. 3220/10 in a matter he has with Swaziland Sales and Marketing t/a Tri-Star. He tells the chief justice that on the month of February 2019 he found that

the file was missing from the court's archives. In the first week of December 2019, it had again resurfaced. “The original summons that were

in the file are now missing. From the information on the file cover

is that a lawyer (name withheld) uplifted the summons on the 2nd June 2012 using Rule 30. I do not find any reason as to who instructed the lawyer to take the file and also remove the original summons as I was not represented by him or the respondent. I was represented by P.K. Msibi and the respondents were represented by N.M.K. Shongwe attorneys.”

He adds that his request to the chief justice is that on his behalf he instructs the lawyer to return all the missing summons to the file within a period of seven working days so that the matter could take its course. He also gives contacts of the said lawyer and the ministry he now works for.

The letter is copied to the Human Rights Commission and it is stamped by the chief justice office dated January 21, 2020.

Meanwhile, Tsabedze brings with him proof that on January 16 he was in court but found that the registrar was away but was able to take a copy of a document that was inside the file. The file had been there that time. “I went to verify that indeed some of the papers were taken by the said lawyer as it was reflected on the cover of the file.”

What is intriguing to Tsabedze is that he was told the said lawyer could not remember retrieving any document from the file and also append-

ing his signature. Now the file is missing and the lawyer has not come to check whether it was indeed his signature and it does not seem that would happen anytime soon until the file is found together with the cover where the said signature must reflect unless the original file resurfaces once more.

“They once called me on the matter and I requested sight of the file but to this day nothing has happened. They simply called me and you may verify the rest with the High Court.” The lawyer said this when asked whether he was made aware of the file by the High Court or by Tsabedze. More baffling is that Tsabedze alleges that he is told at the registry that they never saw the file and were not aware of its whereabouts.

“What's wrong with my file, who is interested in it? If registry says it is not there, then where had it surfaced from on January 16 when I took some copies, something is fishy here.”

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

For Emergency Procurement of Case Management Commodities for Coronavirus Preparedness No.111 of 2019/2020

Background

The Government of Eswatini is desirous to procure case management commodities in preparedness for the coronavirus in the event it strikes. The Ministry of Health intends to engage all Suppliers who will be willing and able to Supply the commodities.

Objective

The main objective is to effectively respond to the prevailing global corona virus outbreak. The Ministry of Health now invites interested, qualified Suppliers to indicate their interest in providing these commodities by providing information indicating that they are qualified and able to Supply the commodities.

Scope of Requirements

No.	Product Description	Pack size	Quantities
1	FACE MASK SURGICAL DISPOSABLE WITH TIE-BACK	50's	5000
2	FACE MASK (FLUID RESISTANT) N95 RESPIRATOR LARGE	20's	2200
3	FACE MASK (FLUID RESISTANT) N95 RESPIRATOR REGULAR	20's	2200
4	FACE MASK (FLUID RESISTANT) N95 RESPIRATOR SMALL	20's	1100
5	GLOVE EXAM NON-STERILE DISPOSABLE (Small, medium, Large)	100's	5000
6	ALCOHOL HAND SANITERS (BAG IN A BOX 12 X 800ML)	12's	1000
7	CHLORINE NaDCC GRANULES 65-75% SOLUTION	1kg	2000
8	QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINES 2020 CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING: • A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus • A/South Australia/34/2019 (H3N2)-like virus • B/Washington/02/2019-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus • B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus	1's	250 000
9	COVID-19 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) • Long sleeved, fluid-repellent disposable gown with head cover (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large) • Surgical scrubs (top and trousers): (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large) • Gloves with long tight-fitting cuffs (Small, Medium, Large) • FFP3 respirator conforming to EN149 • Eye protection: full face and goggles • Water resistant Knee length plastic Gumboots sizes 4-12 • Disposable water resistant apron (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)	1's	15 000
10	HANDHELD INFRARED TEMP SCANNER-FLIR E6XT	1	35
11	FEVER SCREENING SYSTEM • FLIR A315 25 Deg • Fever Screen, Computer software • LED screen • Installation, Testing and training	1	10
12	ADVANCED AMBULANCES		2
13	LARGE PORTABLE TEMPORAL INFLATABLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY TENTS (MOBILE) • 21Mx7M (4.5M High) facility fully equipped		2
14	TEMPORAL TOILETS		15
15	WATER TANKS 5000 LITERS		15
16	1LITER DISPENSER BOTTLES	litre	10 000

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility requirements

- Certificate of Incorporation
- Current and valid Relevant Trading License (for National Tenderers) or equivalent for foreign Tenderers;
- Original Tax Clearance Certificate for Government Tender (for National Tenderers) or equivalent for foreign Tenderers;
- Form J (for current Shareholders) or equivalent for foreign Tenderers;
- Form C (Annual Company Return) or equivalent for foreign Tenderers;
- VAT Registration Certificate/or proof of registration or equivalent for foreign tenderers
- Labour Compliance Certificate for local Tenderers;
- Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF) Employers Compliance Clearance Certification for local Tenderers/Proof of ineligibility letter for local Tenderers;
- A Police Clearance Certificate or an affidavit proving that the tenderer or any of its directors or officers has been convicted of any criminal offence relating to professional conduct

Quality assurance documents

- The commodities should comply with International standards (WHO, ISO, etc).
- Submit brochures/Catalogue for the commodities
- Manufactures authorisations if available
- Any proof of Guarantee of access to products

The expression of Interest should not include prices.

Note: This is an emergency procurement therefore Suppliers are requested to ensure that when they express their interest they are sure they will promptly deliver the products when they are requested if awarded a contract. The Ministry is aware that there is high demand for the products in the market so it is critical that a contracted supplier will perform as required.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested qualified Suppliers are invited to submit their Expressions of Interest, in English, including details of their experience in similar engagements and potential team members. The EOI should be deposited in the Tender Box situated at the address below by Friday, 13th March 2020, by 9.00 hours, local time. Late EOI shall be rejected.

The Secretary to the Tender Board
Treasury Building
P.O. Box 38
MBABANE

The outer envelope must be clearly marked, "Procurement of case management commodities in preparedness of the coronavirus", No.111 of 2019/2020" Requests for clarifications, which must be in writing, should be addressed to the Procurement Unit based at the Central Medical Stores via email to sncedile@gmail.com

SECRETARY TO THE TENDER BOARD

DOC.21128

ESWATINI HOME AWAY

Stories by Simon Shabangu

Foreign Affairs Minister Thulisile Dladla has urged other countries to visit the kingdom and exploit what it has to offer, as she said this was home away from home. She was speaking at a workshop to explore tourism opportunities in Eswatini yesterday.

"It is the hope of His Majesty's government that more missions will establish offices in the kingdom to strengthen country to country bilateral relations and to promote a dynamic and diverse global presence within our borders. The peace and tranquility of our landscape; the warmth, respect and hospitality of the people of Eswatini, and the economic promise of this African gem, are the hallmarks of a home away from home that make this country not merely a place to visit but one to set up diplomatic roots." She expressed gratitude for the warm reception she received together with Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees responsible for the ministry of foreign



NICE: Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati extending a warm welcome to Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini Radha Venkataraman, while Foreign Affairs Minister Thuli Dladla looks on. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

affairs and international co-operation, as they recently toured the offices of respective missions based in the country. She said the familiarisation exercise was the first opportunity to interact closely with foreign country representatives in Eswatini

and to raise the profile of engagement with the ministry as their focal point.

"This occasion is the culmination of a week of intense consultative meetings and engagements by Eswatini's Ambassadors and High Commissioners abroad,

Over 50 countries now exempted from acquiring VISA to visit Eswatini

IN an effort to make Eswatini open to the world, the government has exempted about 50 countries from applying for VISAs when visiting the kingdom.

This was announced by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati when addressing envoys at Mantenga Cultural Village yesterday.

The minister said Cabinet had approved the exemption of the countries to make sure that there were no hindrances to tourists when they want to visit the country. He said some countries have not been entirely exempted but will be eligible to apply and get VISAs on arrival in the country.

Vilakati said the country through the Strategic Roadmap had set goals for the ministry to increase

the number to two million arrivals in the country. "We are excited that we have eventually been able to reach an agreement with these countries and we hoping to increase the numbers.

He urged the ambassadors to assist the country in developing even more products which will attract tourists and make them stay longer in the country. He said they wanted to develop products like the zip lines and air balloons, which he said were in high demand.

On another note, the minister said the country wanted to host the African museum stating that a site for this project has been identified. He said the museum will have antiques and attractions from all the African countries for the world to come and have an appreciation of the African history through this museum.

APPROVED ENTRY VISA EXEMPTION OF TOURISM COUNTRIES I) AFRICAN COUNTRIES A. COMMONWEALTH MEMBER STATES

1. Cameroon
2. Rwanda

B. NON COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN STATES

1. Angola
2. Morocco
3. Mauritania
4. Ivory Coast
5. Comoros
6. Equatorial Guinea
7. Benin
8. Cape Verde
9. Gabon
10. Algeria (30 days)
11. Egypt (30 days)
12. Guinea (90 days)
13. Senegal
14. Burundi

II) REST OF THE WORLD VISA EXEMPTION

1. Benelux
2. Romania
3. Moldova
4. St Kitts and Nevis
5. Macedonia
6. Vietnam
7. Estonia
8. Iceland
9. Bhutan
10. Cuba
11. Georgia
12. United Arab Emirates
13. Jordan
14. Saudi Arabia
15. Oman
16. Bahrain
17. Belarus
18. India (diplomats & senior government officials)
19. Indonesia (diplomats & senior government officials)
20. Thailand (diplomats & senior government officials)
21. Singapore
22. South Korea

FROM HOME, SET DIPLOMATIC ROOTS HERE'

who have been in the country for orientation on the country's new strategic policy frameworks and get direction on how to best employ the mandate of the ministry to assist government sustainably achieve its economic turnaround objectives. This workshop is also an opportunity for our senior diplomats abroad to immerse themselves in the evolving tourism strategy for the country, meet and engage with locally based foreign envoys and honorary consuls with a view to expanding their networks to improve cross country communication, and building synergies where common projects and programmes are undertaken.

Excellencies, as the year progresses, we will get other opportunities to meet, engage and break



The diplomats mingling before the start of the formalities.

bread together with a view to consolidating and strengthening existing relations. For today, I wish to

encourage that we all make the best of this unique opportunity to build networks and strengthen ties."



A section of the envoys who attended the workshop hosted by the foreign affairs and tourism ministries.



ETA CEO Linda Nxumalo directing proceedings of the day.



United Nations Resident Coordinator Nathalie Ndongo-Seh making her remarks.



Ambassadors Prince Gcina, Sibusisiwe Mngomezulu and Felizwe Dlamini toasting during a wine tasting session.



Chairman of the Cultural Carnival Festival Sandile Magongo making his presentation.



UN Resident Coordinator Nathalie Ndongo-Seh in a conversation with Chief Protocol Henry Zeeman.

Biggest carnival on the cards....

Eswatini will host one of the biggest events known as the Cultural Carnival Festival which will attract cultural activities from all over Africa.

A steering committee led by Sandile Magongo is already in place and will soon be sending

out proposals and invitations to various countries for them to be part of this inaugural carnival. The minister said through this carnival, they want to promote cultural exchange among the countries while at the same time attracting tourists to come and witness Eswatini culture at

its best. Magongo, on the other hand, said the carnival would be held at the end of September at Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre. He said this would be a three-day event to start with a gala dinner on Friday, and the main event on Saturday with the closing ceremony on Sunday.

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SHOCKER: Over 4 600 SODV cases in 9 months

By Bodwa Mbingo

The police have revealed shocking statistics of over 4 600 Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases with rape the leading form of abuse within a space of nine months.

The police report that the implementation of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act has brought awareness to the populace on the need to report cases of this nature, hence, the high figures recorded.

Period

The actual figure is 4 674 for the period from April 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020. This is contained in the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) Performance Report.

The report reveals that in the reporting period GBV continued to be reported with alarming frequency and regularity when compared to 3 393 cases recorded in the parallel period last year.

"Rape is the leading form of

abuse, covering 16 per cent and what is disturbing is that all age categories are not spared from being victims of this traumatic ordeal. For instance, out of 746 victims raped in 2019, 21 were of the age 0-five and 64 in the age bracket six -11 years whilst 411 were of the age category 12-17 years," states the report.

Reveals

The report further reveals that another manifestation of the GBV is the passion killing phenomenon and that during the period under review 27 victims were killed.

On these cases of GBV, which include rape, passion killings, abduction, domestic assaults and other, the police say they were able to arrest suspects linked to the commission of the crimes.

"A case in point was the arrest of the Mahwalala serial rapist/killer in July 2019, with the help of the community and Montigny Company who provided search canines," concludes the report.

BELOW ARE THE SODV CASES RECORDED FOR THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW.

Cases	Total	Convicted by Court	Awaiting trial	Closed	Pending investigations
Rape	746	31	241	35	439
Maintaining a sexual relationship with a minor	81	1	33	4	43
Inspiring a belief of sexual assault	21	1	6	-	14
Abduction SODV	18	1	12	4	1
Domestic Violence	1461	490	786	-	185
Attempted sexual assault	1	-	1	-	-
Unlawful stalking	12	-	3	-	9
Flashing	6	2	3	-	1
Sexual assault	77	6	20	6	45
Incest	2	-	-	-	2
Sexual harassment	49	6	14	5	24
TOTAL	2474	538	1119	54	763

6 YEARS ON MATHANZIMA ESTATE STILL UNWOUND

Stories by Sicelo Maziya

Six years later the estate of the late royal advisor Mathanzima Zacharia Dlamini has not been wound up because of internal squabbling and finger pointing. As a result his widows hope to approach the highest authority in the land for intervention. The widows say they have lost all trust and confidence in the competence of the Master's Office in disbursing the estate fairly. Mathanzima died in 2014.

They accuse the Masters Office of allowing a certain element to access the assets and abuse them.

Impediments

One of the impediments into the conclusion of the winding up of the estate is the demand the exhumation of one of the children for DNA testing, a demand that was contested. However, this was finally conducted and results brought in but still the estate could not be concluded.

"We have no choice but to approach higher authorities for intervention as the Master's Office has failed us and our children. We pity the other children whose mothers have passed away," claims one of the affected widows.

The contested issues have not been tested in open court but it was ruled that the executor and her lawyers must finalise the DNA part to kick start the speeding up of the process of concluding the estate. To date there are allegations that only the children of one of the widows have access to drive the cars despite that these should be part of the estate.

There was also the issue of disposing of cattle in one of the farms and share the



proceeds whereby disagreements ensued and this again failed. The disagreement emanated from differences in whether to sell the cattle or divide them among the members of the estate.

The estate liquidation account is not shared among all the family members and nobody knows how much the estate is worth.

The widows alleged that anytime they visited the Master's Office officers always gave an attitude for enquiring about the estate.

Because this matter is relatively old most of the lawyers who had been hands on have since been redeployed but it could

not be ascertained whether the remaining attorneys in those offices would not proceed with the matter of their clients.

Alleged

The late royal adviser had large herds of cattle both at Njojane Farm and at his home at KaBhudla.

It is alleged that cattle were taken from Njojane and shared among a section of the children but those at KaBhudla were left out together with those from single mothers. ne of the widows fingered in meddling with the estate refused to answer to question when called, saying it was not a matter for journalists but that those afflicted knew where to lodge complaints.

Widow runs to court to stop hubby's burial

By Sandile Mkhambulo

Unpleased by her rival and her in-laws's conduct in taking over the burial rites of her late husband, a widow has run to court to stop her husband's funeral.

The widow Thandi Francinah Yende (born Mlangeni) has filed an urgent application at the High Court where she is seeking amongst others, an order directing that her husband Peter Gasa Yende be buried at his parental homestead at Mgazini, Mankayane.

Opposed

She wants her husband to be buried at his parental homestead as opposed to her rival's matrimonial home, arguing that it was her husband's wish.

She is also seeking an order that the respondents, (her rival and six of her in-laws) in particular Sandile, Muntu, Shando and Mgababa Yende or anyone acting on their behalf, be interdicted, restrained from interfering with the funeral of her husband and his subsequent burial.

The applicant (Thandi) is also seeking an order that the National Commissioner of Police assisted by members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) stationed at Mankayane

● She has filed on urgent application seeking an order to have rival, in-laws interdicted from interfering with late hubby's funeral

● She wants husband to be buried at his parental homestead at Mgazini, Mankayane as opposed to rival's matrimonial home

be ordered to comply with the orders to be issued by the court and make sure that there is peace throughout the funeral process.

She submitted that the present application fundamentally seeks the intervention and direction of the court and that the main protagonists in the application are in a family feud and the court has to decide the best place for the burial of the deceased.

The deceased according to the applicant, passed away on February 16 2020 and to date has not been laid to rest.

She informed the court that the deceased had two wives and that the quagmire that exists is the fact that the first respondent (second wife Siphwe Shongwe) was married to the deceased in accordance with Siswati Law and Custom, adding that she and the deceased solemnised their marriage in terms of civil rites and in com-

munity of property in 2016.

"Commencing from the year 2014, the deceased and the first respondent have not been living together as husband and wife, the deceased and myself were already in a love relationship even before he married the first respondent and we resided together as husband and wife and further established a matrimonial home at Esitjeni KaLobamba until such time the deceased met his death," she submitted.

Informed

She informed the court that she has approached it to make a pronouncement as to where the deceased needs to be buried as it was always his wish that due to his intertwined types of marriages, he considered that it would be in the best interest of everyone that he be buried at his parental homestead in Mankayane.

However, the respondents according to Thandi will not hear of that as

they want him buried at the first respondent's home.

She stated that her husband communicated his wish to her due to the fact that he saw the bitter relationship between herself and the first respondent, her rival and in order to be accommodating to everyone, he deemed it appropriate that at least all members of the family would be able to convene at his parental homestead, not the homestead of the first respondent and not at her (Thandi), homestead.

"However, the respondents have vehemently opposed the deceased's wish, actually the respondents appear to be in fractions and not certain of what they exactly want, some of the deceased's children do not object to have him buried at his parental homestead as per his wish," she averred.

The applicant further told the court that it was for that reason that the chief of the area ordered that the deceased's

remains be kept at the morgue and that they approach the court for determination of the matter.

She mentioned that the matter is urgent by virtue of the fact that the deceased's funeral had been slated for the past weekend, however, due to the differences and opinions of the entire families, the deceased was not buried and that his body is lying at the mortuary.

All she wants now is that her late husband be laid to rest and his soul to rest in peace through a dignified funeral, hence the present application before court. The matter has been postponed to next week as both parties are yet to file their answering and opposing papers before court.

Case profile

● Applicant – Thandi Yende (born Mlangeni)

Respondents

- Siphwe Shongwe (first wife)
- Thobile Ndlangamandla
- Fana Yende
- Nelsiwe Yende
- Sandile Yende
- Muntu Yende
- Shado Yende
- Mgababa Yende
- National Commissioner of Police
- The Attorney General

... suddenly there was a Will

The estate was further sent into disarray by the purported emergence of a will that was alleged to have been signed by the late Mathanzima, a Will that was, however, not produced when the estate was first reported.

An unsigned letter dated October 10, 2016 allegedly from the Master's Office and referenced EM271/2014 states that "when the estate was reported, the office and the next of kin meeting was held in a bid to have an executor dative, it never transpired that there was a will.

A copy of minutes of the meeting is attached for ease of refer-

ence."

The letter shared was controversial as it was written and distributed to the other widows without any signature or official stamp.

Investigations

During investigations it seemed every one at the Manzini Master's Office knew one thing or another about the file but "we cannot share any information on any client's file if you are not a relative and especially sharing that file with the media," politely stated the officer in Manzini. The officer said information could only be released at the insistence of the Registrar of the High Court.

...then file comes alive again

At the height of investigations our sources called to alert that things had begun moving on the file with some lawyers springing back into action.

"We know the estate has been looted but let us conclude and let those children who are still at school benefit from their father's estate. The estate accounts should be known as to how much was deposited, if someone has misappropriated some of the funds or part of the estate that person must account for it and be made to pay so it can be distributed equally to the children according to the law," said one widow.

Some of the widows shared their displeasure in the manner some officials in the estate were appointed, stating that it was against the majority of the family members who even registered a protest.

They all alleged that it was agreed in the first meeting that the executor was to be appointed and then a

name was to be forwarded. We returned to the Master's Office for comment once more this week and again they had nothing prepared.

“

We know the estate has been looted but let us conclude and let those children who are still at school benefit from their father's estate. The estate accounts should be known as to how much was deposited, if someone has misappropriated some of the funds or part of the estate that person must account for it and made to pay so it can be distributed equally to the children according to the law

Journos threatened with death by alleged child molester's accomplice

By Saturday Observer Reporters

A reporter from Eswatini Observer got a rude awakening in the form of death threats while working on a story of a child who has allegedly repeatedly suffered rape at the hands of her biological father.

This publication understands that due to the sensitivity of the allegations the family of the culprit has worked very hard to sweep the matter under the rug, so protect the family's image and business interests.

The culprit is employed in one of the colleges in Mbabane, a family business of some sort.

This publication got wind of an alleged case of extortion, wherein a former employee allegedly had police sent to him for blackmailing the family, demanding E45 000 for his silence.

When our journalists called the alleged child molester, he referred comments to his sister whom he said had handled the matter and was the one who was being extorted.

Hardly a few minutes after the call, a man called one of the reporters from a South African number. "I understand you are going around digging news that does not concern you. Just stay away if you treasure your life. Don't ever call that number and stop asking questions. Do I make myself clear," said the voice at the end of the line before ending the call.

This publication understands that the caller is a relative to the alleged child

molester.

Information gathered is that the child does not live with the father but with her mother in the Shiselweni region.

The children would come and visit with their mother on school holidays. If not, the father would travel to Shiselweni to pay them a visit.

There is alleged that the father had been sexually violating his daughter for some time, such that he was allegedly once caught by the child's mother and even then his family intervened.

It is no question that the alleged abuser comes from a wealthy family.

The latest incident was when the child's mother had come to visit in Mbabane with her two children. It is said the couple had an argument at night over the culprit's wallet, which she had hidden from him because she was worried that he would go out drinking the whole night with friends.

As everyone prepared to sleep, the suspect is alleged to have refused to go to bed but instead pretended to be going out for a smoke.

Moments later, the mother got out of bed to check on what was keeping her husband outside for so long. There was no smell of cigarettes outside and he was not there.

Thinking that he had probably gone to his friends in the neighbourhood the mother went inside the house and checked on the children in their respective rooms.

To her utter shock when she peeped through the girl's bedroom she saw a big figure on the bed. The mother turned

on the lights to confirm if her vision was not playing mind games with her.

"The child's father was naked and caught in the act," alleged one of our sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

She said the mother screamed for dear life and called her husband's siblings that night to report that her husband has done it again.

A prompt family meeting was called first thing that morning at the college's boardroom. After deliberations the woman was told to go back to Shiselweni with her children, while they dealt with their own.

However, having learnt of the scandal and that early morning family meeting, one of the employees got hold of the mother's cell phone number and called her, allegedly posing as a police officer.

It is then that the mother wept hysterically and narrated all the times she had caught her husband sleeping with their daughter.

The mother is alleged to have told the person at the end of the line that the last time her husband was caught in the act his family assured her that they were going to report him to the police and that she was to remain calm and keep her mouth shut on what she had witnessed. "She is said to have been told that the family's businesses and reputation will be ruined by any bad publicity." All parties involved and the name of the college have been deliberately withheld—at least for now.

He did not sleep with her but attempted to – Family

Unfazed by the threats, journalists from this media house got hold of the family who had set the police on one of the college's former employee's for alleged extortion of the family, for concealing the scandal.

It is said the former employee was eventually charged with extortion.

"It is not true that our brother had sex with his daughter. No. What we are

aware of is that he was reported to the police for having attempted to have sex with his daughter and the matter was dealt with," said one of the family members, during a heated interview.

They were incensed with why journalists were following 'a nonstory' perpetrated by a former employee who was bitter for having lost his job and now trying to ruin the image of the institution and the family.

Even though it was explained to them that the reporters were clueless at the time about the person they were talking about, they were not convinced.

Case

Also, they couldn't state clearly what happened to their brother's case for molesting his daughter.

The threats to the journalists have been reported to management. They are being treated with the seriousness they deserve.

E52M FOR DOCTORS, NURSES ALLOWANCES

By Zwelihle Sukati

About E52 million Doctors' and Nurses' On-Call and Stand-by Allowances shoots up the wage bill to reach E637.5 million, which is E637 507 125 to be precise.

This figure is a reflection of the period during the third month of the government's financial year, June 2019. According to the Ministry of Public Service Annual Performance Report for the year 2019/20, the month of December 2019 once again experienced a hike in allowances by over E67.5 million, with the wage bill reaching a noticeable amount of E646 836 230 partially

due to E18.3 million Teachers' TSC bonuses and Doctors' On-Call and Standby Allowances of E50.5 million. "The wage bill on a monthly basis for the first, second and third quarter of 2019/2020 has depicted the most stable path that government has ever experienced and for the first time, realising just only a 0.26 per cent hike from the previous year actual personnel spending during the same period in scrutiny," reads the report in part.

This, according to the ministry, owes to the implementation of Circular No.3 of 2018 wherein the filling of vacant positions was suspended across all government departments.

E36m salary arrears paid to contract teachers

Salary arrears amounting to about E36 million was paid to contract teachers.

This is also reflected in the Ministry of Public Service Annual Performance Report for the year 2019/20.

"A relative noticeable total amount of E620 134 151 was the actual during the month of April 2019 and was a result of salary areas of about E36 million paid to contract teach-

ers, and as such the wage bill normalised to E582 742 548 over the month of May 2019," reads the report in part.

"As expected, the month of July 2019 saw a drastic decrease to E603 675 225 a figure that further drops to an average of about E581 million during the months of August, September, October and November 2019."

Eskom warns of 8 000 MW power cuts if maintenance delayed

JOHANNESBURG - Eskom has warned that its maintenance plan must be supported by the government or South Africa can expect regular blackouts from power cuts of 8 000 megawatts by mid-2021, a move that would cripple the economy.

Shortly after taking up the role in January, Chief Executive Officer Andre de Ruyter said more planned power outages will be necessary for the next 18-24 months so the company can catch up with deferred maintenance.

"We have to conduct these maintenance programmes if we are to avoid worse load-shedding in future. The time for an intervention is now," he said in an interview in Cape Town on March 4. "The notion that we can keep the lights on at all costs simply means we will be kicking the can further and further down the road until the inevitable day of reckoning when the system really falls over will approach."

De Ruyter took over Eskom at a time when the state-owned company is saddled with R454 billion of debt and isn't

generating enough revenue to cover its costs. Regular outages due to plant breakdowns have pushed the economy into a recession. "If we do nothing, Stage 8 will be a regular event by June 2021," Eskom said, referring to an outage of 8 000 megawatts, in documents submitted this week to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, parliament's financial watchdog. Outages at the moment are normally between stages 1 and 4, or 1 000 to 4 000 MW. The country consumes between 25 000 and 35 000 MW, depending on the time of year.

Plants at risk

The Kendal, Duvha and Tutuka Power Plants - which have a combined generation capacity of 11 370 MW - are in particular need of maintenance, according to the documents.

If allowed to proceed, the programme could end power cuts within two years, catch up delayed maintenance by fiscal 2023 and save R9.27 billion a year in costs by that date, it said. By the end of the 2022 financial year, Eskom could increase the amount of generation capac-

ity it has available on average by between 4 521 megawatts and 6 000 MW.

Risks to the company's generation capacity if nothing is done are partly due to the plants' failure to comply with emissions rules. Plants could have their atmospheric-emission licenses revoked temporarily, risking capacity of 4 470 megawatts, and a total of 9 000 MW is at risk if pollution-abatement equipment isn't installed at a number of facilities, Eskom said.

In order to mitigate the effect of power cuts, Eskom is implementing a number of measures including less power cuts during periods of heavy traffic, and reducing availability more frequently between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the short-term. More power cuts are expected in the South African winter months, June through August, this year as "repairs take effect".

The company also suggests cutting power first to areas where few consumers pay their bills, a politically explosive suggestion, as most of those would be in townships where some of the poorest South Africans reside. **Fin24**



BUSINESS: Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Jeremy Liang, Minister of Education Lady Howard-Mabuza, who represented the minister of commerce, PS in the Ministry of Commerce Siboniso Nkambule and Albert Chibi, Director Investor Roadmap Unit following presentations. This was during the national workshop on the ease of doing business held at Esibayeni Lodge yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



EMISSARY: Acting Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Lady Howard-Mabuza addressing the gathering.



VOTE OF THANKS: Director of Investor Roadmap Unit Albert Chibi making his remarks at the event.



AT WORK: Attendees capturing the presentations.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS 2020: COMMERCE MINISTER CALLS FOR HIGHEST REFORMS

By Simon Shabangu

In a bid to improve Eswatini's ease of doing business reforms, the ministry of commerce, industry and trade yesterday met with stakeholders and contributors of the World Bank Doing Business Survey for the country.

The national consultative workshop was organised by the Investor Roadmap Unit through technical support and assistance from the Taiwan Embassy and the World Bank International Finance Corporation. The workshop was held at Esibayeni Lodge and was also attended by government agencies, representatives of various micro, small and medium enterprises, large enterprises and informal traders, amongst others. This consultative workshop follows a week-long consultative exercise with relevant stakeholders that began last Monday. Minister of Education Lady Howard-



GUEST: Taiwan Ambassador Jeremy Liang also had a few words to say.

Mabuza, who was standing in for her commerce counterpart, said government was geared up to make sure that doing business in Eswatini is simplified

so that it attracts more investors to the kingdom.

"Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has prioritised the following



LEFT TO RIGHT: A section of the participants who were at the workshop.



BRIEFS

Focus on Eswatini in Forbes Africa Magazine

The Kingdom of Eswatini's feature issue of Forbes Africa Magazine was facilitated by the country's embassy in Brussels. The embassy was approached by PENRESA who offered to profile the kingdom. The embassy facilitated the requisite contact with relevant stakeholders who worked with PENRESA towards securing the required interviews. "The outcome of this facilitation is the April 2019 issue of the Forbes Africa Magazine, in which the Kingdom of Eswatini featured. The issues gives an in-depth coverage of the country spanning different topics from its rich cul-

ture and history; the quest towards economic growth; the private sector and how it functions; investment; science, technology, and innovation; agriculture, telecommunications, and infrastructure development; as well as banking and finance," reads the ministry of foreign affairs' annual report on image building.

Renting in foreign missions unsustainable

One of the most critical and continuing challenges, faced by the ministry of foreign affairs is the exorbitant and unsustainable rentals for the kingdom's mission's abroad. In an effort to mitigate this, the ministry has initi-

ated a process of purchasing and or constructing diplomats' residences and mission chanceries.

"Two houses have since been purchased in Ethiopia, where the country's rentals are amongst the highest of all our missions abroad," reads the annual performance report. "With a more sufficient allocation of funds in successive financial years," it further reads, "the ministry hopes to extend this exercise to other stations where rentals constitute a significant portion of recurrent expenditure." It is also noted in the report that despite the ministry's significant operational challenges; such as the successive release of inadequate annual budget allocations, the persistence of strategic vacancies at the ministry and missions abroad, the lack of func-

tional work tools and enablers, as well as the delay in the finalisation of a revised, modernised and fit for purpose 'constitution' for the foreign service; it has moved swiftly to engage and equip its missions abroad with a common mandate and harmonised targets for delivery.

350 registered Emaswati studying in Taiwan

There are 350 registered Emaswati studying in Taiwan. According to the ministry of foreign affairs' annual performance report, during the period under review, the embassy was able to register 42 new students under the ICDF and MOFA scholarship as well as the ministry of



ATTENTIVE: Some of the participants following presentations of the day.



ISSUES: EEC General Manager Customer Service James Mabundza making a presentation on issues surrounding electricity supply to businesses.



ALL EARS: Stakeholders from different sectors were well represented.



ALSO THERE: Participants listening to presentations.

areas of focus; namely enforcing contracts, ranking 172 out of 190 countries, getting electricity ranking 132, starting a business ranking 155, dealing with construction permits ranking 96 and registering property ranking 104. With the assistance of the New Zealand government, a diagnostic mission to Eswatini was conducted last month where a detailed report on recommendations will be developed and shared with the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

These recommendations will highlight best practices and appropriate procedures to be followed in establishing the state-of-the-art business

registration regime (One-Stop-Shop)," she said.

Implementation

The minister assured the private sector and donor community that government is committed to galvanise and fast-track the implementation of identified reforms and promised to observe transparency, accountability

and all-inclusive participation in the public awareness campaigns.

"We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for their continued support to our doing business programme; who financed a technical mission of 10 officials on a benchmarking study tour to Taiwan in 2018. Taiwan is the

major sponsor of this workshop and other stakeholder engagements held in the previous weeks. Our gratitude also goes to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for technical assistance that has assisted Eswatini to develop a gap analysis with some action plan," the minister added.



education's scholarship. It is reported that the students elected their student body which will update the embassy of all students who did not register. "This gives us the tentative number of 350 registered Emaswati studying in Taiwan."

The student representatives have been tasked to register the new students in their different countries, especially the self-paying students who usually go unregistered.

"We also have eight registered Emaswati working in Taiwan, three of them with their families. We have also encouraged those who come to Taiwan to look for job opportunities to register so that they can be known by the embassy." For the period under review, the enrolment of Eswatini students at Qatar Aeronautical College remains at eight.

Entry visas issued by embassy in United Arab Emirates

Entry visas are continuing to be issued by the Kingdom of Eswatini's embassy in the United Arab Emirates to people travelling to the country either on business related travel or leisure. As carried out in the ministry of foreign affairs' annual performance report, the embassy has issued, for the period under review, 16 entry visas varying from three months single entry to 12 month multiple entries. The embassy collected approximately E2 625 from 16 single entry visas for the period under discussion. The country's mission in Maputo issued 1 738 visas and a total of E543 236.50 was collected from the above rendered services."

By Zwelihle Sukati

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“

I make a declaration that every Swazi child of whatever grade attending primary school is entitled to education free of charge, at no cost and no requirement of any contribution of any such child regarding tuition, supply of textbooks and all inputs that ensure access to education

By Bodwa Mbingo

Former Eswatini High Court Judge Justice Mabel Agyemang, a Ghanaian judge who will be remembered for her 2009 landmark ruling that ensured free primary education (FPE) in the country, has been appointed the Chief Justice of the Turks and Caicos Islands in North America.

Justice Agyemang, has been a Superior Court Judge in two more Commonwealth Jurisdictions - Ghana and Gambia.

She arrived in the country in September 2008 after being appointed by the Commonwealth to the position of High Court Judge.

Education

She handled a number of landmark cases such as that of the FPE, which had been brought to the High Court by the Swaziland National Ex-miners Association.

In a declaratory judgement, as opposed to a mandatory one, she ruled that government should abide by the country's Constitution to

EX-HIGH COURT JUDGE AGYEMANG APPOINTED CJ IN NORTH AMERICA



Former Eswatini High Court Judge Justice Mabel Agyemang.

provide free primary education, although four years had elapsed since the adoption of the Constitution.

"I make a declaration that every Swazi child of whatever grade attending primary school is entitled to education free of charge, at no cost and no requirement of any contribution of any such child regarding tuition, supply of textbooks and all inputs that ensure access to education," High Court Judge Mabel Agyemang ruled then.

She also ruled in another landmark case; that

of government against Thembele Simelane who was convicted for defrauding the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA) claimants of their claims amounting to over E800 000. She ordered Simelane to repay the money within a period of six months.

She further ordered Simelane to return to court at the commencement of the first session of the High Court in 2010 for sentencing. Simelane undertook to repay the amount by paying monthly instalments from his salary and through money that was owed by other

companies to his then-employer, Bheki G Simelane and Company.

Justice Agyemang then left the country at the end of September 2010 after a memorandum from then Chief Justice, Michael Ramodibedi reflected that her contract would expire on September 30, 2010. The memo, which was sent to all the judiciary stakeholders, also stated that Agyemang did not want to renew the contract for personal reasons. The memorandum was dated September 2, 2010.

Meanwhile, according to YEN.com.gh, the latest news of Justice Agyemang has made the entire Ghanaian nation proud. According to Magneticmediatv.com, the Ghanaian Justice who currently works as a Justice of the Court of Appeal in Ghana has worked as a Superior Court Judge in three Commonwealth Jurisdictions. She was the first female Chief Justice of The Gambia.

The brilliant and hardworking woman is a product of the University of Ghana and the Ghana School of Law and was also in private legal practice from 1987 to 1991 when she joined the Judiciary of Ghana. Her appointment to become a High Court Judge happened in 2002 after which Justice Mabel Agyemang kept rising from one portfolio to another. She was then appointed an expert Judge of The Gambia Court of Appeal. From 2013 to 2014 she was the first female Chief Justice of The Gambia.

Coronavirus stops classrooms grand opening

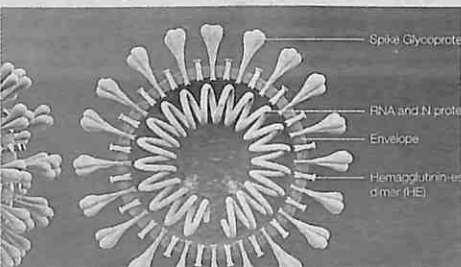
By Sicelo Maziya

A handover ceremony was cut short at Manzana Nazarene Primary following fears that the project could be linked to countries affected by COVID-19. Good Samaritans sponsored the school with three brand new classes.

The school had been condemned by health inspectors that it was unfit for human habitation.

The school was planning a feast to celebrate the completion of the new classrooms that were donated by South Koreans. The school is alleged to have received information that the trip was cancelled due to fears of the deadly coronavirus. The donors are next week therefore unable to travel to Eswatini for the ceremony because of fears of contracting the disease through travelling or other channels of contamination.

Principal Nozipho Dlamini confirmed that the school received a message that the donors were no longer coming for the event. "The event was to handover the three classes built through the assistance of World Vision and the donors were from South Korea. We were told they were no longer coming due to the coronavirus.



An image of the coronavirus.

EMONATIC WANTED OUT OF BHUNU MALL FOR ARREAR RENTALS

By Sandile Nkambule

Bhunu Mall Partnership trading as Bhunu Mall wants one of its tenants ejected from the mall over E860 000 arrear rentals.

The mall has filed an urgent application at the High Court where it is seeking an order that pending payment of a sum of E863 135.81 by the tenant Addeco Investments (Pty) Ltd trading as Emonatic Wear, the Deputy Sheriff for the Manzini region should forthwith attach all movables at the premises and keep them under lock and key to prevent the company from removing them.

Bhunu Mall is also seeking an order of court for the ejectment of Emonatic Wear from the premises being U41 Bhunu Mall, Nkoseluhlaza Street in Manzini.

The mall was represented by senior attorney Zwelethu Jele of Robinson Bertram law firm, while Emonatic Wear was represented by senior attorney Lucky Howe of Howe, Masuku law firm and the matter was before Judge Ticheme Dlamini.

According to Collen Dlamini, Centre Manager at Bhunu Mall in his founding affidavit, on or about November 1, 2015 at Manzini, the respondent (Emonatic Wear) represented by its managing director Sifiso Maziya, entered into a lease agreement with the applicant (mall) represented by Musa Lee Dlamini.

He submitted that the applicant as a lessor of the premises agreed to let the premises to the respondent as a lessee and the lease was for a period of three years.

The monthly rental according to Collen was for an amount of E30 705.17 with a compounded escalation rate annually of 10 per cent.

It was further stated that should the lessee breach the agreement including, failure to pay the amount due, the lessor shall demand payment of any amount due under lease, including

• Bhunu Mall has filed an urgent application for the attachment of all movables, keep them under lock and key



a claim for damages.

However, the respondent according to Collen in his affidavit, has failed, refused or neglected to pay the monthly rentals commencing the period January 2017 to July 2018 the sum of E561, 820.25.

Collen submitted that to recover the amount due, the applicant has instituted summons at the High Court under court case number 1413 of 2018. The matter is still pending in court.

"The respondent is therefore liable to the applicant in the amount of E863 135.81 for rentals and the applicant intends to cancel the lease agreement between the parties as a result of the continued non-payment by the rentals of the respondent in light of the existing lease agree-

ment as the rentals continue to escalate herein," the centre manager submitted.

He averred that by failure to make the payment, the respondent has breached the agreement hence the applicant is entitled to cancel same and have the respondent ejected from the premises, further and in addition to the applicant's rights to demand payment of the monies outstanding.

The applicant further mentioned that the claim for ejectment does not raise any material dispute of facts as the respondent has failed to honour his obligations in terms of the lease and thus has done a material breach to the lease agreement by the non-payment of the rentals due and that the lease is deemed cancelled.

SOS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES GRADUATE WHO CAN'T GET A JOB

By Delisa Thwala

Xolile Tsabedze graduated from the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in 2015 but has failed to find a job and, therefore she has decided to return to class after winning a partial fellowship.

She is appealing to the public for the top up for her upkeep and accommodation. She has been admitted at an institution in Zimbabwe. All she had hoped for was that after completing her degree in South Africa she would return home to assist her country but five years later that dream has remain just that, a dream.

Advantage

She began knocking on doors until she came across Nothando Dlamini a municipality worker who has nothing to offer herself but sympathy. Dlamini has joined Tsabedze's crusade in the hunt for assistance for her to take advantage of the fellowship.

"She is a bright student who came to my office looking for help, and I thought sharing her plight with the publication will attract possible sponsors for her," said Dlamini.

Tsabedze said that she was looking for any kind of help to get her through her course even if it could be in the form of a bond she would gladly repay when she completed her course and secured a job. "Since graduation in 2015 I have not been able to find work. I have had piece jobs here and there and have done a bit of volunteering," said Tsabedze.



Accommodation

She also shared that she had been accepted for a fellowship to study Integrated Water Resources Management in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

As the fellowship is partial. She has to cater for her own accommodation, meals and personal upkeep which she described as costly for her.

"I got the fellowship offer on January 29 and I have to leave for school on Sunday. I'm desperate for a way out and am humbly pleading for donations," explained the graduate.

She also shared that she had been applying for funds or an educational bond ever since she got the letter of acceptance but had not been able to secure any funding. "I have also been

trying to secure an appointment with the DPM but it has been to no avail. I've been made to understand that his office deals with high school pupils. I appeal to companies. On completion of my studies I pledge to return and work for them as a form of payment for my studies," pleaded Tsabedze. The student jetted out of the country on Sunday to Zimbabwe without the necessary assistance.

Tsabedze said she was still trying to secure financial help and did not know what her next step would be.

"I left the country on Sunday and managed to settle the required fees but I'm still looking for help and pleading for any form of financial assistance," explains Tsabedze. She can be contacted at 7674 6903.

Slasher wielding CIT College student states his case

By Delisa Thwala

A student at CIT College has been arrested for hacking his uncle with a slasher leaving him with multiple injuries.

The student, Njabuliso Methula 24, has since appeared before court where he was remanded out of custody.

The young man had been summoned to appear in court but could not make it because of examinations, his case has now been moved to mid March where he is expected to bring witnesses.

The hacking is said to have happened at Bhunya when a group of men had gone searching for a missing cow and along the way they met another group of men who stopped them halfway. Giving an account of what happened, one of the witnesses, Khayaletu Dlamini said when they approached the other group he was in front and politely greeted them and continued walking. However, minutes later there was a heated exchange of words between Methula and his uncle. By this time the young man had allegedly been making provocative gestures to Sikelela Mdluli.

"I was making my way in the forest after greeting the approaching group of men; they were four and amongst them was Methula's uncle. When I looked back they were arguing and there was tension," narrated Dlamini.

Dlamini said he went back to try and solve the misunderstanding,

but the squabble heated up and a fist fight ensued but when the others tried to break it up Methula took out his slasher and hacked his uncle before also attacking him.

Conducting his own defence Methula said as a witness Khayaletu Dlamini was not giving enough details of what happened on the day accusing him of sugar coating everything that happened to protect his friends.

"I will not question the witness further the witness because this is not the real version of what happened. I would not have started a squabble all by myself. They know what they did," said Methula.

When the magistrate asked what would be the next amicable solution to the case the accused said that he would plead for the case to be moved forward until he finished his exams.

"I have exams almost the whole of January and my father, who is my key witness, is sickly and still observing bed rest under the doctors' orders. We will not be able to make it to court, I plead with the court to kindly move my case to a convenient day when we will all be able to make it," pleaded Methula.

The magistrate advised Methula not to interfere with any of the witnesses and should not be found to have committed any sort of crime. "The court has heard your request and on March 18 you should come back to court. We are not pushing this case any further, it must come to an end," closed the magistrate.

He steals only three Vodkas, must pay E2 000

By Delisa Thwala

A 25-year-old man will now have to fork out E2 000 or spend two years in prison just for stealing three bottles of Vodka.

Mndeni Simelane from Mpolonjeni stole the alcohol at Pick 'n Pay in Mbabane on March 3.

A Vodka ranges between E150 to E230, the three bottles would have cost him around E300 or E460.

He said he did not mean to steal but was in a tight spot after he had just lost his job yet he had to pay a few debts. That is when he saw an oppor-

tunity to steal and raise the money he needed.

"Your Worship I just lost my job and I have no other means to make money hence I stole the Vodkas because the intention was to make money and pay my debt while I look for a new job," confessed Simelane to the magistrate. Meanwhile in the same court Ncedo Mhlanga was fined E1 000 or spend a year in prison for hitting and causing body harm to Douglas Malinga at Yemfo Bar. He hit Malinga on the face with fists and later continued to kick him all over the body and did not stop until the victim was weak and could not fight back.

THREE COUPLES NABBED FOR CANNIBIS

A least three couples were nabbed and charged for being found with dagga, trying to cross the border.

The first couple Vicky Shongwe and Telamsile Maseko were nabbed with 1.268 kg and fined E2 000 or two years in jail.

The other couple was Gcinaphi Magongo and Bongikhosi Nhlabatsi who were arrested while driving a VW Polo while they had dagga weighing 7.88kg at the border where they were were trying to cross with it. They given E1500 bail and their trial date was set for May 18.



Dry weather increases list of countries in need of external food assistance

By Bodwa Mbingo

The list of countries in need of external food assistance including Eswatini has increased by at least two more countries.

The effects of inadequate rainfall on agricultural production means that Namibia and Tanzania have been added to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s list of countries in need of external assistance for food.

This adds to strains triggered by desert locusts even as global cereal production appears strong, according to FAO's quarterly Crop Prospects and Food Situation report, released this week.

The consequences of dry weather conditions aggravated food insecurity in Namibia and Tanzania, and both countries were added to the list of countries requiring external assistance. The list already includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon,

Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania,

Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The report also has a special section on the desert locust outbreak in East Africa. It highlights that while locusts had a minimal impact on the 2019 crops, as harvests had largely been concluded before the scourge arrived, there were "serious concerns for crops and pasture resources in 2020."

Farms in Ethiopia and Somalia can expect substantial crop losses if control measures are not scaled up, with

the important seasonal "Gu" harvest in Somalia at risk, which accounts for about 60 per cent of the country's total annual cereal output. Locusts are already present in Somalia's key sorghum producing areas and are near the main maize growing areas.

Despite the troubles in East Africa, overall cereal production in the 51 Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) rose 1.0 per cent in 2019, led by gains in Central Asia and the Near East.

Nonetheless, the anticipated cereal import requirements for LIFDCs is estimated at 719 million tonnes, up 4.2 million tonnes from the previous year. Import needs have risen notably in Zimbabwe and Kenya due to weak harvests and low stocks, while they have fallen in Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

FAO has also raised its estimate for 2019 world cereal production to 2 719 million tonnes due to higher than-previously-anticipated maize outputs in West Africa and Ukraine.

For 2020 crops, the early global outlook for wheat production is favourable, particularly in the Far East in view of expected increased acreage and conducive weather conditions, while improved rainfall has boosted yield expectations in several Near Eastern countries.



MTN WARNS AGAINST FAKE SCHOLARSHIPS

By Delisa Thwala

MTN Eswatini has warned members of the public, who were flooded with fake competitions and officers through different online platforms to be always on the lookout.

The MTN Foundation, the corporate social responsibility wing of MTN, is linked to some of these scholarship offers.

As a matter of principle, MTN Eswatini does not offer scholarships to individuals through its foundation. While the foundation supports schools and tertiary institutions by contributing to the improvement of education infrastructure, at this point, it is not offering any form of scholarships, the company has said in a statement.

"MTN, therefore, reminds the public to use its official platforms and mainstream (known) media to engage

the public. Therefore, customers are encouraged to take precautions. They should not share their personal information online with these fake competitions," confirmed Mandla Luphondvo, who is the company's corporate affairs manager.

The circulating posts alluded that the MTN Foundation was giving away scholarships and had fake competitions attached to the MTN logos. One of the common traits of these fake promotions is that the company logos are often distorted and visibly not original, as it shows that it has been scanned or lifted from somewhere.

"In the event the public comes across competitions that 'offer' gadgets as prizes this should be confirmed with any of our social media platforms or Contact Centre, which has a toll-free line 922," closed Luphondvo.

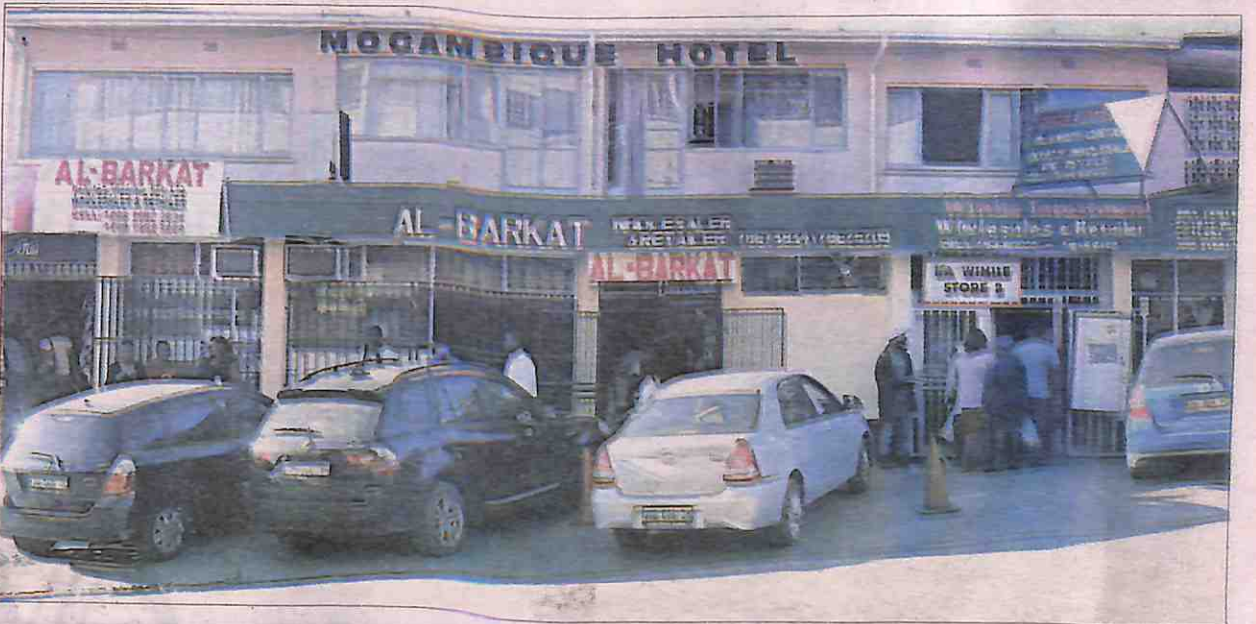


CONFIRMED: MTN Eswatini's Mandla Luphondvo.

There goes popular Mozambique Restaurant



END OF AN ERA: One of all time hangout spots in Manzini, Mozambique Restaurant has changed from selling cold beers to a retail outlet of warm blankets and a variety of items that Asian shops are known for. The working class and lower middle class used to meet at Mozambique Restaurant for all sorts of reasons, including dating. (Pics: Zwelihle Sukati)



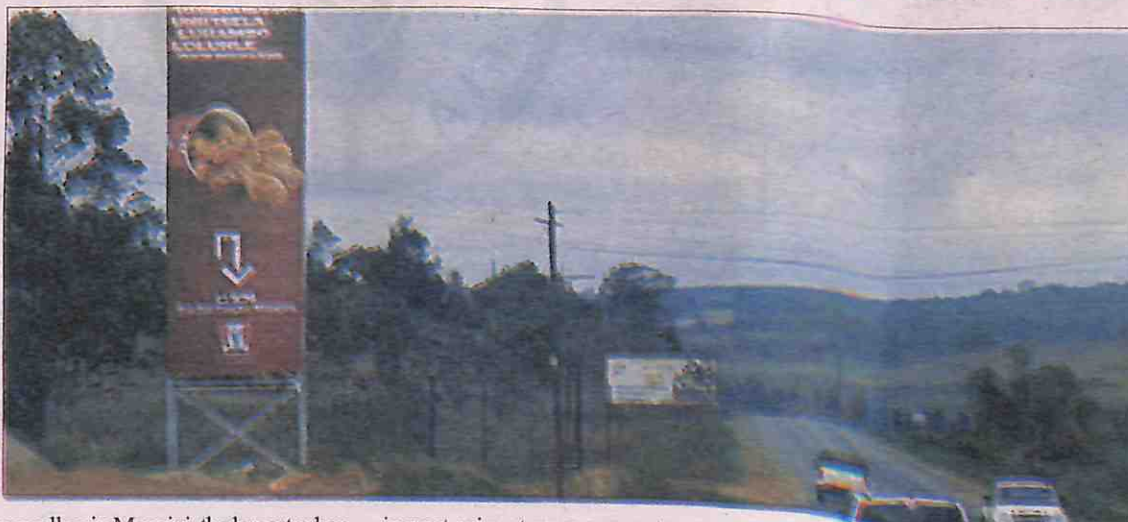
Primedia Outdoor stamps its authority through KFC- Eswatini

By Sicelo Maziya

KFC-Eswatini's engagement of Primedia has promoted the latter to a status of the best offering on the continent. The company, Primedia, has announced its intent and offering as the best in the sector of outdoor media space.

The company boasts that Primedia Outdoor is the largest wholly South-African-owned out-of-home media specialist that recently extended its offering with the construction of five new Prime Towers in the heart of Eswatini.

The company's prime towers, which measure 11.0m x 3.0m, are now strategically located in the populous towns where the franchise is located, namely Pigg's Peak, Nhlanguano and Mbabane



as well as in Manzini, the largest urban centre in Eswatini. The company says the addition of these monumental high-

impact prime towers serves to prove Primedia Outdoor as the leading provider of OOH media solutions in the rest of

Africa. "We are ecstatic to cement our position in Eswatini by adding these five high reaching and impactful four-

sided static out-of-home structures to our current holding," said Tamara van Eeckhoven, Chief Operating Officer of Primedia Outdoor Rest of Africa. "They offer brand dominance in key towns across the region, targeting commuters traveling both inbound and outbound," she added.

"Our KFC campaign in Eswatini was hugely successful from a visual and impact perspective with the use of the prime towers," said Belinda Forbes, marketing manager of Alliance Foods. "We are extremely pleased with the quality of assets and exceptional service Primedia Outdoor has to offer," she added. Bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, Eswatini's economy is mainly dependant on agriculture, forestry, mining, textile manufacturing as well as tourism. The state now has an estimated population of 1.15 million with a 1.04 per cent growth rate, according to World Population Review 2019.



OFFICERS DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE RECOGNISED

The police officer who stood barefooted and braved raging storms to control traffic has been recognized along with his colleagues who were on duty during the fateful day.

Constables Cilongo Fakudze of Mbabane Police Station together with Constable Sizwe Dlamini and Hloniphani Matsenjwa were commended during a press conference held at the Police Headquarters on Thursday, which was attended by businessman Walter Bennett and a representative of the United States of America based Liswati Amelia Dlamini-Townsend.

Speaking during the conference, the National Commissioner of Police – Tsitsibala W.W. Dlamini stated that on February 6, traffic officers from Mbabane Police Station braved the raging storm to ensure that motorists could have safe passage in the city.

He noted that Constable Cilongo Fakudze was a hero as he stood barefooted and acted professionally to control the flow of traffic which captured the attention of the nation.

Dlamini stated that as testimony that the Royal Eswatini Police Service recognises the dedication and zeal by the officer, a Certificate of Excellence was presented to Constable Fakudze as well as a special token.

He also stated that as the officer was not working in isolation but was



RECOGNISED: National Commissioner William Dlamini posing with Constable Cilongo Fakudze, Sizwe Dlamini and Hloniphani Matsenjwa.

supported by his colleagues, Constable Dlamini and Matsenjwa were honoured with special token and further challenged them to continue with the spirit of sacrifice and self-drive.

The police chief revealed that the outstanding performance by these officers especially Constable Fakudze, attracted appreciation from Mbabane businessman - Walter Bennett as well

as Amelia Dlamini-Townsend, a United States of America based liSwati who decided to come forth and publicly present tokens of appreciation. He expressed gratitude towards Bennett

and Dlamini-Townsend for the tokens of appreciation and their thoughtfulness.

He stated that the police service appreciated such public partnership and support especially in instances where officers had done exceptionally well as this served as a motivation and a morale boost, illustrating that the public had confidence on the organization.

The National Commissioner also took the opportunity to officially report that the National Crime Dialogue will be conducted on Thursday March 12, at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre and requested all Smart Partners who have received invitations to attend.

He revealed that the dialogue has been convened by His Excellency, The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Ambrose M. Dlamini – MP in his capacity as minister responsible for police affairs with the purpose of sensitising the nation on contemporary and emerging crimes as well as soliciting views from the various stakeholder categories on how crime could be reversed.

He stated that the participation of the stakeholders in fighting crime hinged on the fact that the police cannot win the battle against crime alone, but rely on the goodwill and support of the nation.

When presenting his token of appreciation, Bennett stated that where there is excellence it should be recognized as much as wayward behavior should be condemned.

He revealed that recognition is often taken for granted yet is crucial as a motivational factor even if there is no material reward.

Bennett pledged E3 000 to be shared equally by the three officers, a lunch treat as well as a goat.

He also pledged 12 raincoat and 12 pair of boots of supreme quality to be distributed in all four regions. He further pledged a cow towards catering for the upcoming National Crime Dialogue.

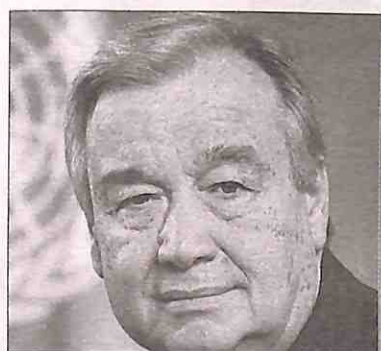
Speaking through her representative, Amelia Dlamini-Townsend stated that Constable Fakudze's heroics represented the true spirit of the Royal Eswatini Police Service and how committed its members should be in serving the public.

He commended Fakudze and stated that his behaviour was in keeping with the core values of the police service. As a way of appreciation, she presented E4 000 and a glass memento as a token of appreciation.

PLEDGED: Businessman Walter Bennett, the National Commissioner and Senior Deputy National Commissioner Lydia Dlamini posing with the awarded officers.



MAKE THIS THE CENTURY OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY



By António Guterres

Gender inequality is the overwhelming injustice of our age and the biggest human rights challenge we face.

But gender equality offers solutions to some of the most intractable problems of our age.

Everywhere, women are worse off than men – simply because they are women. The reality for women from minorities, older women, those with disabilities and women migrants and refugees is even worse.

While we have seen enormous progress on women's rights over recent decades, from the abolition of discriminatory laws to increased numbers of girls in school, we now face a powerful push-back.

Legal protections against rape and domestic abuse are being diluted in some countries while policies that penalise women, from austerity to coercive reproduction, are being introduced in others. Women's sexual and reproductive rights are under threat from all sides.

All this is because gender equality is fundamentally a question of power.

Centuries of discrimination and deep-rooted patriarchy have created a yawning gender power gap in our economies, our political systems and our corporations.

The evidence is everywhere.

Women are still excluded from the top table, from governments to corporate boards to prestigious award ceremonies. Women leaders and public figures face harassment, threats and abuse online and off.

The gender pay gap is just a symptom of the gender power gap.

Even the supposedly neutral data that informs decision-making from urban planning to drug testing is often based on a "default male"; men are seen as standard while women are an exception.

Women and girls also contend with centuries of misogyny and the erasure of their achievements. They are ridiculed as hysterical or hormonal; they are routinely judged on their looks; they are subjected to endless myths and taboos about their natural bodily functions; they are confronted by everyday sexism, mansplaining and victim-blaming.

This profoundly affects us all, and

In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

is a barrier to solving many of the challenges and threats we face.

Take inequality. Women earn 77 cents for every Dollar earned by men. The latest research by the World Economic Forum says it will take 257 years to close this gap.

Meanwhile women and girls do some 12 billion hours of unpaid care work every day that simply does not figure in economic decision-making.

If we are to achieve a fair globalisation that works for everyone, we need to base our policies on statistics that take account of women's true contributions.

Digital technology is another case in point. The lack of gender balance in the universities, start-ups and Silicon Valleys of our world is deeply worrying. These tech hubs are shaping the societies and economies of the future; we cannot allow them to entrench and exacerbate male dominance.

Or take the wars that are ravaging our world.

There is a straight line between violence against women, civil oppression and conflict. How a society treats the female half of its population is a significant indicator of how it will treat others.

Even in peaceful societies, many women are in deadly danger in their own homes.

There is even a gender gap in our response to the climate crisis. Initiatives to reduce and recycle are overwhelmingly marketed at women, while men are more likely to put their faith in untested technological fixes.

And women economists and parliamentarians are more likely than men to support pro-environmental policies.

Finally, political representation is the clearest evidence of the gender power gap.

Women are outnumbered by an average of three to one in parliaments around the world, but their presence is strongly correlated with innovation and investment in health and education.

It is no coincidence that the governments that are redefining economic success to include wellbeing and sustainability are led by women.

This is why one of my first priorities at the United Nations was to bring more women into our leadership.

We have now achieved gender parity at the senior level, two years ahead of schedule, and we have a roadmap for parity at all levels in the years to come.

Our world is in trouble, and gender equality is an essential part of the answer. Man-made problems have human-led solutions. Gender equality is a means of redefining and transforming power that will yield bene-



fits for all.

The 21st century must be the century of women's equality in peace negotiations and trade talks; in board rooms and classrooms; at the G20 and the United Nations.

It is time to stop trying to change women, and to start changing the systems that prevents them from achieving their potential.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Globally, 750 million women and girls were married before the age of 18 and at least 200 million women and girls in 30 countries have undergone FGM.

- The rates of girls between 15-19 who are subjected to FGM (female genital mutilation) in the 30 countries where the practice is concentrated have dropped from one in two girls in 2000 to one in three girls by 2017.

- In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

- One in five women and girls, including 19 per cent of women and girls aged 15 to 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months. Yet, 49 countries have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence.

- While women have made important inroads into political office across the world, their representation in national parliaments at 23.7 per cent is still far from parity.

- In 46 countries, women now hold more than 30 per cent of seats in national parliament in at least one chamber.

- Only 52 per cent of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

- Globally, women are just 13 per

cent of agricultural land holders.

- Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector. The proportion of women in paid employment outside the agriculture sector has increased from 35 per cent in 1990 to 41 per cent in 2015.

- More than 100 countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.

- In Southern Asia, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has dropped by over 40 per cent since 2000.

SDG 5 TARGETS

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

- Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the fam-

ily as nationally appropriate

- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life

- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

António Guterres is the ninth Secretary General of the United Nations



UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND (USOF)

DEFINING UNIVERSAL ACCESS FOR ESWATINI CITIZENS

By Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM)

The essence of Universal Service and Access (UAS) is to ensure that affordable electronic communications services, including broadcasting and postal services, are made available and in good quality to all citizens of Eswatini, regardless of geographical location and any specific national circumstance. The term USO refers to the obligations a nation makes towards maximising the utilisation of telecoms services, encouraging investment in infrastructure, and promoting communication. In Eswatini, the mandate to achieve the above has been placed on the Universal Access and Obligation Fund.

The core strategic objective of the Fund is based on the principle of creating an environment for increased access to ICTs in Eswatini, with a key focus on broadband development.

THE SPECIFIC GOALS ARE;

- To promote and increase the level of ICT and broadcasting services in households through the existing infrastructure and additional infrastructure by licensed operators in the market.
- To increase the level of ICT and broadcasting services access in identified facilities namely; health, education and e-Government.
- To build strategic partnerships that support the Universal Access and Service initiatives.

THE ELEMENTS OF THE SERVICES COVERED UNDER THIS FUND ARE;

- a) Voice communication
- b) Data communication/ broadband
- c) Establishment of infrastructure for provision of voice and data services
- d) Equipment and end user devices
- e) Postal services
- f) Broadcasting services; and
- g) Training and skills development.

The fund is managed by the Universal Service Committee (USC), obligated to lead in the identification, prioritisation and implementation of Universal Access Projects in line with an approved strategy.

This committee was established under Section 29 (3) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2013.

This Section provides for the appointment of the committee to perform the following functions;

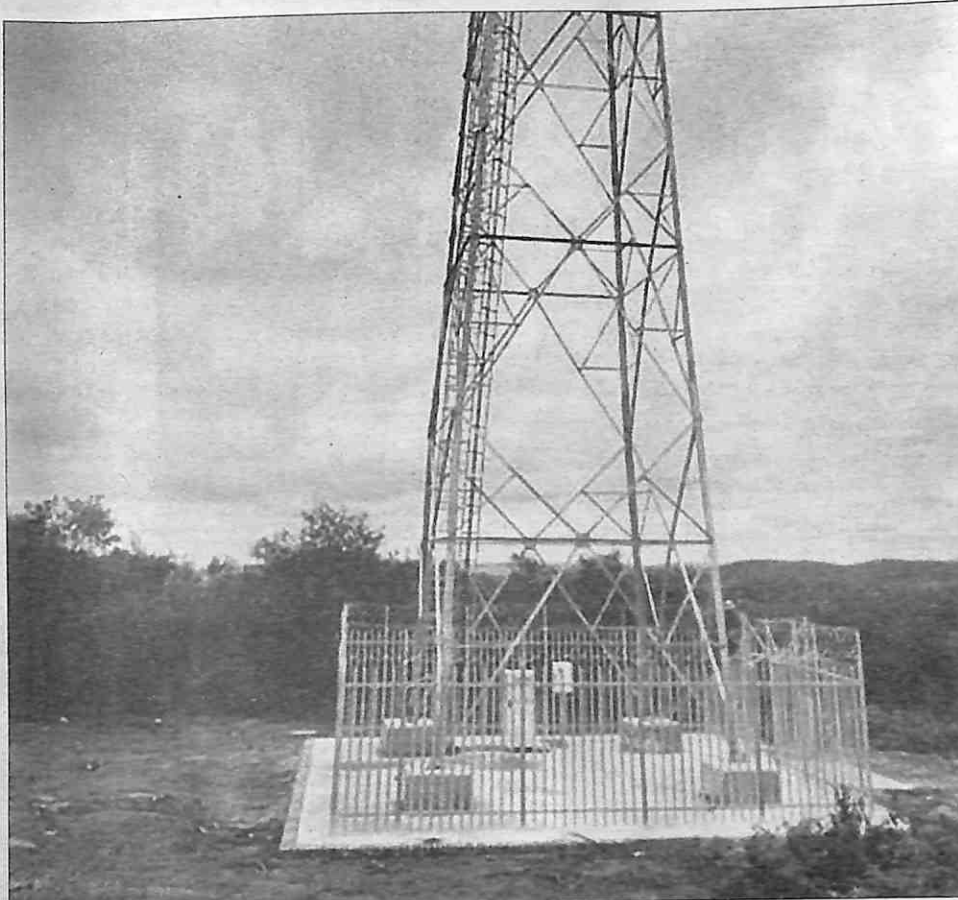
1. To prepare and update a strategic plan that seeks to develop and strengthen the principles and foundation framework essential to achieving the long term goal of Universal Access and Service of broadband internet, broadcast and personal services across Eswatini's four regions for individuals, households, Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), schools, and health facilities.

2. To conduct a needs analysis that will identify the true access gap and the smart subsidy zone, resulting in implementation of a process to address any gaps.

This function is subject to a public consultation process, and the report must also be made available to the public.

3. To determine and make recommendations to the Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) Board on achieving annual objectives.

This must follow a Regulatory Impact Analysis



(RIA) which may be revised from time to time.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

The realisation of the Universal Access and Service Strategy rests on 4 pillars;

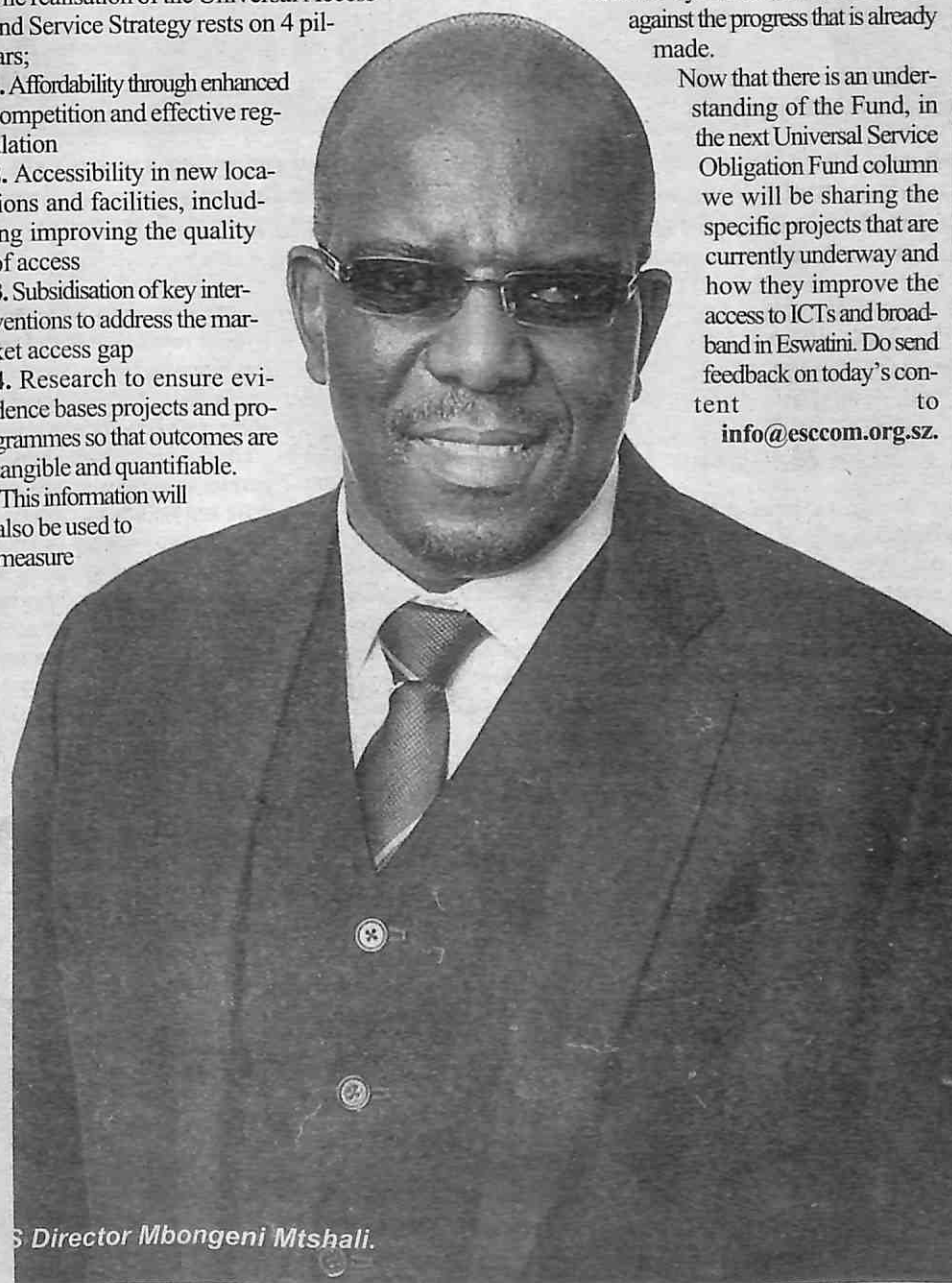
1. Affordability through enhanced competition and effective regulation
2. Accessibility in new locations and facilities, including improving the quality of access
3. Subsidisation of key interventions to address the market access gap
4. Research to ensure evidence bases projects and programmes so that outcomes are tangible and quantifiable.

This information will also be used to measure

progress against objectives and targets.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation of these strategies ensures that they are updated in line with the dynamic environment and against the progress that is already made.

Now that there is an understanding of the Fund, in the next Universal Service Obligation Fund column we will be sharing the specific projects that are currently underway and how they improve the access to ICTs and broadband in Eswatini. Do send feedback on today's content to info@esccom.org.sz.



Director Mbongeni Mtshali.

Ngwenya one-stop-border welcomed by SA

By Bodwa Mbingo

That the Border Management Authority (BMA) Bill that will establish a one-stop border at Ngwenya Border Gate amongst others has been long coming was this week acknowledged by the SA Minister of Home Affairs and Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs Dr Aaron Motsoaledi.

According to defenceWeb, Motsoaledi said the passing of the bill was "long overdue."

"The BMA will enable the country to manage its borders in a manner that facilitates trade and plugs holes in our porous borders. These porous borders lead to, among others, illegal crossing of people, illicit goods, drugs, trafficking of people, particularly of women and children, and stolen vehicles," he said in a statement.

Ahead of welcoming progress of the BMA bill through the National Assembly, a point it has taken close to five years to reach, Motsoaledi indicated the BMA would be implemented in phases with Beit Bridge a priority to become the country's first one stop border post (OSBP).

He did not set out any implementation timeframe.

"Beit Bridge is one of six large land ports of entry identified for infrastructure development. These land ports of entry have high traveller and trade volumes.

It is important to develop them to reflect our commitment to easing movement of people and goods.

"The ports will be developed in partnership with the private sector through public/private partnerships and with neighbouring countries.

The partnerships with neighbouring countries will centre on creating OSBPs."

Advocate Bongani Bongo, chair of the Home Affairs Portfolio Committee, said establishment of the BMA will "remedy the current fragmented border management model".

The BMA Bill now goes to President Cyril Ramaphosa for signature and inclusion on the Statute Book.

Its area of jurisdiction is the 57 official ports of entry into South Africa, covering air, land and sea.

That leaves more than five thousand kilometres of land border not overseen by the still to be formed management authority under the jurisdiction of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

The border protection tasking comes from Cabinet and is exercised under the banner of Operation Corona.

Fifteen companies from mostly infantry units patrol land borders with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe on foot and in soft-skin vehicles assisted by mounted and canine specialists in certain areas keeping undocumented migrants at bay as well as intercepting and confiscating goods meant for illegal sale.

In a presentation recently, the SA Home Affairs minister said that the new One-Stop Border Posts (OSBP) will be developed in partnership with the private sector and with neighbouring countries.

Motsoaledi said the department was looking at incremental establishment and the rollout of BMA to designated ports of entry and key segments of the land borderline.

These ports include:

- Oshoek (Ngwenya)
- Lebombo
- OR Tambo International Airport
- The port of Cape Town



WORD: The participants posing with the ComGen and other officials during the opening of the workshop. (R) **HONOURED:** Dr. Manuel Cordero presenting the ComGen with a medal for supporting the chaplaincy section.

USA FACILITATORS EQUIP HMCS CHAPLAINS

His Majesty's Correctional Services strives for effective rehabilitation and reintegration of the incarcerated community thus the department saw it appropriate to host a five-day course for officers from the chaplaincy sections to impart the necessary psychoanalysis for offenders admitted in the different correctional centres.

The training was held last week at the Bible Society Eswatini – Mahlanga, where chaplains were equipped with knowledge and skills to help align their work with international standards on rehabilitation. These officers are expected to provide the highest quality of spiritual care to the incarcerated, their family members and those affected by injustice.

Productive

The department, together with the Bible Society Eswatini, continues to reinforce its productive strides of equipping officers with the requisite skills, ideas, competences and best practices in chaplaincy, so that they could impart this knowledge to offenders. That is why the department has partnered with the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association (CMCA) in the United States of America. The course was facilitated by Dr. Manuel Cordero, Dr. Michel Reighard and Reverend Daniele Odean.

Commissioner General Phindile LaMakhosini Dlamini has labelled the training a motivational instrument to offenders as they take full responsibility of their actions to be able to find enough reasons to forgive themselves for the errors they committed before incarceration.



WELL DONE: Assistant Chief Officer Thandazile Khumalo receiving a certificate of participation from the ComGen's representative Assistant Commissioner Dumisani Dlamini. (R) **POSE:** Chief Chaplain Bethwell Dlamini (2nd L) with Deputy Chief Chaplain Musa Tsabedze, posing with the CMCA facilitators.

The chaplaincy section is one of the department's rehabilitation and developmental programmes aimed at enhancing the protection of civil society by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to safely and successfully reintegrate into society.

This is done through a spiritual care programme which offers practical, spiritual, emotional, and social support. These programmes impart market oriented skills and re-shape an offender's mindset towards self-development and successful reintegration. The chaplains have been deployed in all the centres to coordinate all spiritual activities within the department and the society.

Dlamini was adamant that this partnership

would bear good fruits since these officers who have undergone the basic chaplaincy training have also been taught about Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

During the training, officers were capacitated to better understand the nature and definition of psychological crisis and psychological crisis intervention, key issues and findings of evidence-based and evidence-informed practice as it relates to psychological crisis intervention, the nature and definition of critical incident stress management and its role as a continuum of care amongst other issues.

Dlamini also recognised the role played by the church, community leaders, stakeholders, offenders' families and

victims of crime in assisting the department with its rehabilitation endeavours and stated that such efforts cannot be over-emphasised. "We are so grateful to them and we ask for their continued support."

The church has been a very important partner in our community corrections drive and this has helped build a positive relationship between offenders, their families and the community at large.

This cohesive relationship has made it easier for offenders to be accepted and reintegrated with the community at the end of their sentences," she said. She then advised officers to impart the knowledge attained from the course to offenders and other officers in their various workstations. She told them to be vigilant and try to

understand every person's spiritual and psychological needs and be ready to assist them. She also said they should be compassionate and tolerant to all religions and treat the believers equally while maintaining the highest level of integrity. Due to the fact that incarceration can greatly affect one's emotional well-being, the department's spiritual care programme comes in to help offenders not only break away from the chain of self-condemnation but also attain sustainable development upon completion of their sentences, which in turn reduces the rate of recidivism. This then calls for the need to keep arming the chaplaincy officers with new skills and ideas in order to administer proper healing in line with each offender's spiritual and emotional needs.

Gratitude

The commissioner general expressed her gratitude to the facilitators, the Bible Society of Eswatini and all other stakeholders for partnering with Correctional Services as their commitments in the transformation and wellness of inmates.

Speaking on behalf of the chaplains, Chief Chaplain Bethwell Dlamini expressed their appreciation to the commissioner general for giving them the opportunity to expand their knowledge which would help them effectively carry their duties professionally.

He said they were grateful for the commissioner general's open door policy of allowing stakeholders from outside the department's confines to be part of the spiritual enhancement of the correctional community.

Dlamini also stated that the workshop has helped enhance the officers' knowledge as they deal with offenders on day-to-day basis to become law abiding citizens upon completion of their sentences.



CERTIFICATES: The participants displaying their certificates while posing with the ComGen's representative Assistant Commissioner Dumisani Dlamini. (R) **IT'S YOURS:** Sabelo Magagula receiving his certificate from the ComGen's representative.



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course

COLUMNS & OPINION



Ackel Zwane
Saturday Observer Editor

THIS CORONAVIRUS THING PUTS STRAIN ON US ALL

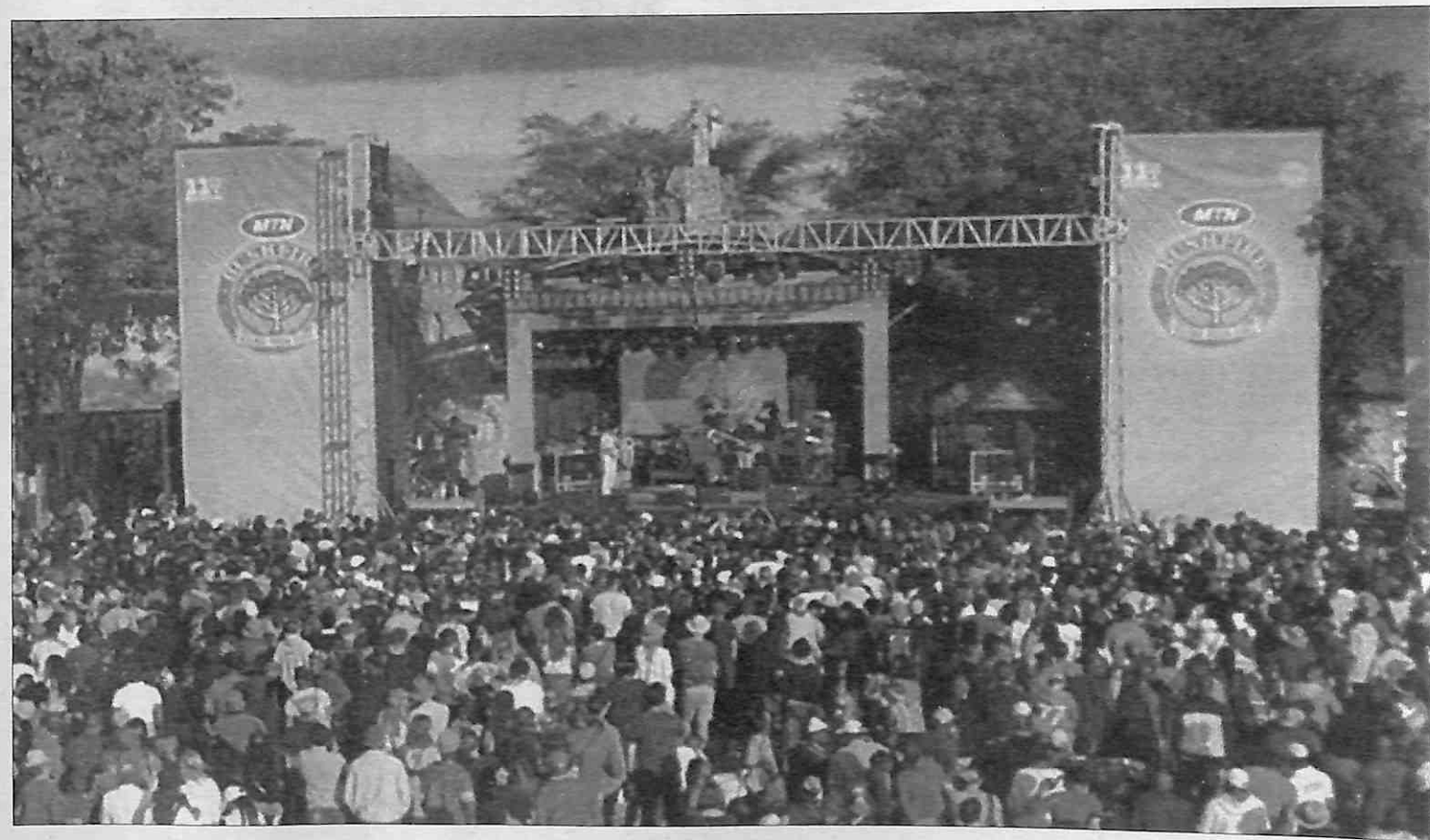
When news broke on Thursday that the first suspected case of coronavirus had been confirmed positive in neighbouring Kwazulu Natal the bowels began to move.

This is especially because the preparedness of Eswatini in containing the spread of this global menace has not been put to the real test. However, it is encouraging to note the precautions taken by the ministry of health in making sure all systems are in place. The main worry, however, is the country's porous borders with the neighbouring countries especially the eastern borderline. The borderline adjacent to Zombodze Emuva at Mshololo and Hhotela in the Shiselweni Region bordering Kwazulu Natal is just one gateway to services on the South African side with some homesteads cut in half by the borderline. The army presence there can be made more effective. People cross to Itshejuba for medical services and return through an informal crossing that is hardly manned by border patrols unless there had been sightings of dagga dealers in the vicinity. Even the border patrols cannot diagnose any of the persons passing through the informal crossing.

Along Matsamo Border in the north are so many informal crossing where Asians are left to cross through even when they do not possess the necessary travel papers. Come to think of it, what would be the effect of a coronavirus carrier Chinaman from Wuhan passing through these crossings to open a restaurant business in Matsapha?

On Thursday South Africa's Health Minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize confirmed that his country had recorded its first positive test case for the Covid-19 coronavirus by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. It was equally settling to hear that a tracer team had been deployed to Kwazulu-Natal and that the positive man had been self isolated.

On Wednesday Health Minister Lizzie Nkosi announced that her ministry was looking into converting one of the country's biggest hospitals into a coronavirus quarantine centre, most likely the tuberculosis hospital in Moneni. This disease has caught Eswatini unaware with some of the hospitals hardly ever coping such as the Lubombo Referral Hospital where equipment was reported to be rotting away while only the out-patient department is functional. Lubombo to this day only has the Good Shepherd Hospital as a referral facility despite that over a decade ago the structure also in Siteki was to have been a referral hospital by now. We don't know where the E27 million to improve the state of preparedness in



Eswatini would come from but it has to come out no matter the economic circumstance of the country.

Media reports are already disturbing that business is already suffering with fewer people visiting to spend their hard currency here. Now that we had hoped visitors were now familiar with the arbitrary drink driving arrests the situation is further exacerbated by the threat of coronavirus next door. Now the dreaded news is the possibility of calling off the much anticipated Bushfire Festival which is a major foreign exchange earner in the world of entertainment.

Tourists

Although we don't know how much this event brings to Eswatini, definitely the numbers of tourists coming into the country on a single weekend most likely surpass those numbers around Christmas and New Year. This means Eswatini would just have to forfeit those millions from the festival if it wants to be safe from coronavirus.

In the beginning of the eighties Eswatini banned the importation of all fruits and veg-

etables when there was a cholera outbreak. This ban had lucrative effects on the economy with the country having to improve on its production of fruits and vegetables. I am not certain if there are any gains to be expected from the coronavirus but surely there must be lessons from the cholera era. Surely we have in the past been able to contain other epidemics such as malaria to the level of winning global recognition, we can surely manage this one even though the world suggests that it might spiral out of control.

London's Daily mail reported on Thursday that a former coronavirus patient had died five days after he was declared recovered from the disease by a Chinese hospital.

The 36-year-old man, Li Liang, died on Monday during post-recovery quarantine in Wuhan, Hubei Province of central China. He suffered a sudden death triggered by respiratory obstruction and failure, according to a death certificate provided by his wife, named by media as Ms Mei.

The cause of death was concluded as the novel coronavirus. Li Liang was discharged

on February 12 after being treated for 13 days at the Guobo makeshift hospital in Hanyang District of Wuhan.

He tested negative on two consecutive days and showed normal temperature for over three days before he left the hospital, according to Guangzhou Daily. Another alleged hospital discharge letter stated the patient was allowed to leave the hospital 'after an examination conducted by the medical expert team'. Li Liang was then put under quarantine at a hotel designated to observe recovered patients.

He was rushed to hospital on March 2 and pronounced dead by the doctors after all rescue efforts failed. Now that is a damper.

But maybe it is too early to press the panic button because the ministry has announced impressive measures to prevent the virus.

Lizzie says 18 nurses and four doctors were eager to work at the envisaged coronavirus facility. She adds that risk communication and counselling has been integrated into entry screening of travellers from China to ensure they comply with the 14 day follow-up after arrival.



Dealing with Diabetes

WITH: Nomalungelo Ginindza

Diabetes
Eswatini PRFOR CORRESPONDENCE, CONTACT;
e-mail us on: diabetesswaziland@gmail.com
CELL: 7607 1889 TEL: 3560 0237

Have you ever heard your doctor refer to the term “metabolic syndrome”? Are you unsure what it is, or how it relates to diabetes?

This column will discuss everything you need to know about diabetes and metabolic syndrome - including causes, risks, symptoms and prevention.

What is metabolic syndrome?

Metabolic syndrome isn't a single disease. Rather, it's a group (or “cluster”) of conditions that have been linked to type 2 diabetes and heart disease. These conditions include high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high cholesterol and excess abdominal fat.

If you have metabolic syndrome, you're five times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than someone who doesn't have it.

The diagnosis of type 2 diabetes can feel very abrupt and unexpected. Do individuals wake up one day and go from having normal blood sugars to having diabetes?

What causes metabolic syndrome?

Metabolic syndrome is more common in people who are overweight or obese. However, even if you are not obese, you may be at greater risk for metabolic syndrome if a parent or other close relative has type 2 diabetes.

Insulin resistance is another key cause of metabolic syndrome. When your cells resist insulin - the hormone that regulate blood sugar levels - you eventually accumulate too much sugar in your bloodstream. This increases your risk of metabolic syndrome, as well as prediabetes and type 2 diabetes.

Are you at risk for metabolic syndrome?

The following risk factors increase your risk of having metabolic syndrome:

- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- High blood sugar
- Low HDL cholesterol levels (the “good” cholesterol)
- High triglyceride levels (triglycerides are fats found in the blood)
- Older age: your chances of getting it increase as you get older
- Ethnic background: the condition is more common among African Americans, Asians, Hispanics and Native Americans

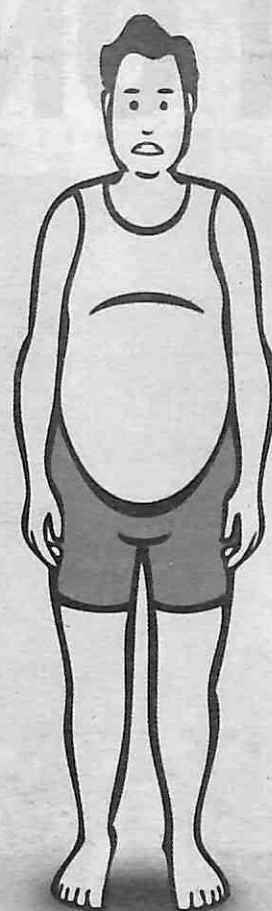
What are the symptoms of metabolic syndrome?

Many of the disorders associated with metabolic syndrome have no symptoms, but there can be some warning signs, including:

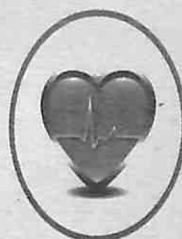
- Tiredness, especially after eating a meal
- An inability to focus properly
- A condition called acanthosis nigricans, which is browning (hyperpigmentation) of the folds of skin around the neck, armpits, groin or between the buttocks
- Most commonly, people with metabolic syndrome have two major symptoms:
 - Abdominal obesity (a waist measurement of more than 88 cm if you're female, and more than 102 cm if you're male)
 - Resistance to insulin

Can you avoid getting metabolic syndrome?

What is the link between diabetes, metabolic syndrome?



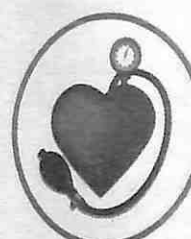
THE METABOLIC SYNDROME



HEART DISEASE



LIPID PROBLEMS



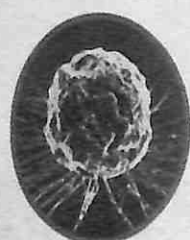
HYPERTENSION



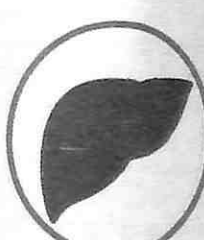
TYPE 2 DIABETES



DEMENTIA



CANCER

POLYCYSTIC
OVARIAN
SYNDROMENON-ALCOHOLIC
FATTY LIVER
DISEASE

The good news is that many of the factors that contribute to metabolic syndrome can be addressed through lifestyle changes. Therefore, engaging in healthy lifestyle behaviours such as regular exercise and eating healthy foods can significantly reduce your risk of developing the condition. Losing even 5 to 10 per cent of your body weight can be extremely beneficial. As a result of healthy lifestyle changes, you may be able to reduce your risk of metabolic syndrome without taking any medications.

However, medication can also help in controlling the disorders associated with metabolic syndrome. Therefore, your healthcare team might prescribe medication to control your cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

Remember, addressing metabolic syndrome at an early stage is key to reducing your risk of developing type 2 diabetes and other conditions related to heart health. If you suspect you may be at risk, visit your healthcare team for a full assessment.

If you make a plan to exercise regularly, you're more likely to keep at it and see its benefits. Making a daily, weekly and even monthly exercise plan is a good way to ensure that

you get fit and stay fit!

Metabolic syndrome is becoming increasingly common. It occurs when a range of metabolic risk factors such as obesity and insulin resistance come together.

Metabolic syndrome increases one's risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

What are the criteria for metabolic syndrome?

There have been multiple proposed definitions for metabolic syndrome over the past 20 years, but the most widely used is the NCEP ATP III definition. This is also the most clinically applicable, as the criteria are all measurements that are easily accessible to doctors.

Diagnosis of metabolic syndrome

An accurate form of diagnosis is not yet universally accepted.

Some experts believe that a combination of three of the following components is indicative of metabolic syndrome:

- Larger waist circumference
- Higher levels of triglycerides
- Lower HDL cholesterol
- Higher blood pressure
- Higher fasting glucose levels

What if I have some of these symptoms?

If you have any of these symptoms, your doctor can run tests to determine whether you have elevated blood sugar levels and therefore insulin resistance.

One of these is the oral glucose tolerance test

Managing metabolic syndrome

It is important to intervene into metabolic syndrome at an early stage, reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes developing.

Diet and exercise are the critical factors in solving this problem.

Weight loss, increased exercise levels and a healthy diet are the primary tools in managing metabolic syndrome.

Life & Entertainment

MBALI PAGES 2-3
IN THE HOUSE



 YouTube

SIFISO NXUMALO:

TAKING UP THE DIGITAL SPACE

PAGES 4-5



WRITER'S NOTE

WITH NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

Welcoming you to a new month and we hope it is filled with lots of love and blessing.

One thing we know, is that it will be filled with entertainment because we got your back. So let's get into it.

This week we have exciting interview for you from our young and upcoming to our main interview.

On pages 2-3, you will find this week's try the trend. We give you tips on why it was important to drink water.

It is true, drinking a lot of water can help with your skin but there are probably a million other reasons why you should drink water on a daily basis.

On L&E Guide, you will find a guide on what to do when you finally meet your in-laws. Now there's one thing you might be worried about, and that's meeting your future in-laws. The worry over whether or not they'll like you can take some of the joy out of the moment.

On Young and Upcoming, we have Mbali Bwenbya. The talented singer describes herself as a shy, timid and yet vibrant young lady who hails from Zambia.

She says although she is originally from Zambia, she was born and raised in the kingdom.

On pages 4-5 we speak to podcaster Sifiso Nxumalo. Sifiso was not doing this just for the fame but to add a mindful aspect in his life.

He mostly wants to help inspire her viewers to live meaningful lives as they continue to live and experience this mysterious life.

He says he always had a strong pull to things that allows him to pursue high levels of truth, especially through conversation.

Read through and get to know more about our young and talented youngsters who are actively working towards their goal.

We hope you read and enjoy this issue but most importantly we hope you get inspired. Remember to follow us on our social media pages, like and comment because we love hearing from you. @observer_1_e on Instagram and Observer Lifestyle and Entertainment on Facebook.

Until next week
Enjoy!

YOUNG & UPCOMING

MRALI

IN THE HOUSE



"I have always known I had the voice but it was not until I joined dance classes that my overall look at art changed."

In today's young and upcoming we get to walk in songbird Mbali Rose's shoes as she shares with the readers her life journey.

Mbali Bwenbya describes herself as a shy, timid and yet vibrant young lady who hails from Zambia.

She says although she is originally from Zambia, she was born and raised in the kingdom.

"I mainly grew up in Matsapha and Mankayane. We often used to bounce from both of these places because of my parents work. So it would be a lot of fun travels being here one day and then in another town on the next day," she says.

Bwenbya says she grew up in a fun and pleasant filled household

where it was always full of enthusiastic, jovial people who always turned towards the good in life. She says she ventured into art in 2008.

According to her, her first experience of being in the art world was a when she decided to sign for dance classes at her primary school and was fascinated by it decided to join.

"I think after my first dance class I realised that I was actually quite good at what I was doing and that I wanted more from it. Although I had not started pursuing music, this was the moment I realised that the performing arts was meant for me. Fast forward almost eight years later, there was a little voice almost pushing me towards becoming a vocalist. It usually wasn't a thought but for some reason it was constantly recurring and then I took the leap. In that moment I knew nothing about it, only that I had a voice and I needed help, she says.

She says she reached out to friend for assistance who then introduced her to someone who owned a studio and had knowledge when it came to the creation of music.

Rose says working on her music she has met her



Try the trend

Don't get it confused I am talking about water. You know what they say for clear skin you need to mind your own business and drink a lot of water, well that is partly true. I do not know about the 'minding your business' part I can definitely vouch for drinking water.

It is true, drinking a lot of water can help with your skin but there are probably a million other reasons why you should drink water on a daily basis.

Well yes, let's be honest, water is exactly the best tasting thing a person can drink, well since it got not taste, but what I am trying to say is, it is no the number one option that it should be when someone wants to quench their thirst.

It's common to hear that water is essential for your health. But why? This substance makes up a majority of your body weight and is involved in many important functions, including, flushing out waste from your body, regulating body temperature and helping your brain function.

You get most of your water from drinking beverages, but food also contributes a small amount to your daily water intake.

DRINK A LOT OF WATER

16 REASONS TO DRINK UP



DRINK MORE WATER

While some people take it a bit too far and add lemons and cucumber to their water, its best

to take baby steps and start with just plain water. Drinking water can seem like a job but it is



"My first problem has always been capital, it has never been easy to get and funding your dream is always so costly. You have to pay producers, pay for studio time and transport to go record and then there are 'post' recording expenses in the form of marketing, promotions, distributions and the like.

share of challenges that were lessons. She says she has come across problems like the lack of capital and finding a suitable and conducive creative space to work from just to name a few.

"My first problem has always been capital, it has never been easy to get and funding your dream is always so costly. You have to pay producers, pay for studio time and transport to go record and then there are 'post' recording expenses in the form of marketing, promotions, distributions and the like. However I have been lucky enough to have had a

couple of side gigs that pay and the support of my parents. It really makes the financial part of it all slightly less stressful. Another challenge I encountered was finding a suitable and conducive creative space. What I learned is that not all spaces allow one to work and show ones capabilities. Another difficulty I would like to illuminate is finding the right group of people to work with. Not everyone is meant to work with each other because of so many reasons but when you find the right people, I say hold onto them and make the

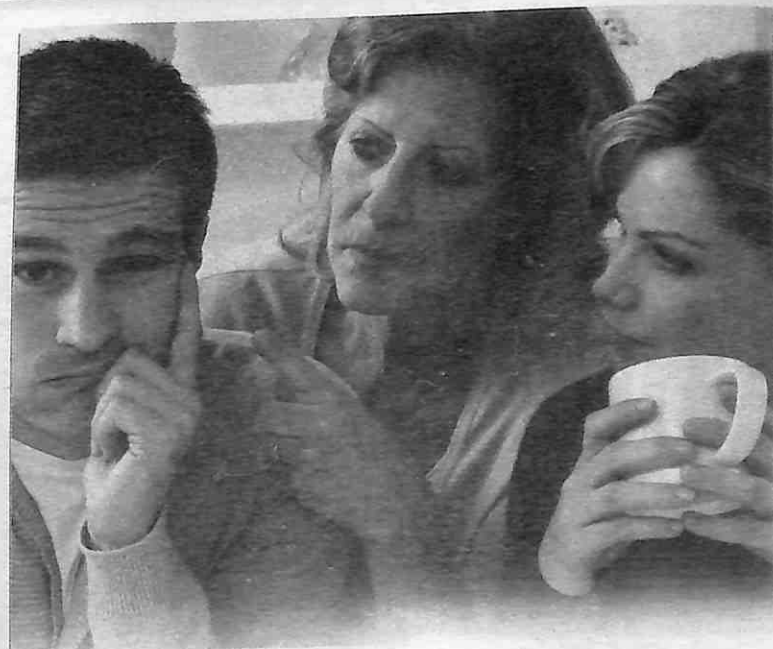
best of it because not all working relationships could go smoothly or could ever be as productive as that perfect fit, she mentions

Although Rose has not worked on a lot of projects except her own offerings, her list of work she would like to work with is quite extensive. She says if she was to pick her top five, it would include; Lunga Sky, Milkiee, Velemseni, Amarii, and 80 Script.

She says her 2020 plans included reaching her full potential academically, redefining the Rose brand and becoming a multifaceted queen, releasing a few more singles and potentially a full project and hopefully releasing her first music video tentatively at the end of the year.

"I ideally i would like to take up the space and cement myself in the music business. I am a full time student at UNESWA studying a Bachelor's in Commerce and like any other 21 year old I am trying to navigate my journey and being a thousand different people at once, all while trying to look cute and leaving sparkle wherever I go," she says.

By Setsabile Nkambule



Lifestyle Guide

MEETING YOUR IN-LAWS

Have you recently gotten engaged? Congratulations! Or are your meeting your in laws? This should be one of the most exciting times of your life.

Now there's one thing you might be worried about, and that's meeting your future in-laws. The worry over whether or not they'll like you can take some of the joy out of the moment.

But don't fret. Most people worry about this first get-together with the family of the people they plan to spend their lives with, but worrying is wasted energy.

It's always nice if both sets of in-laws can be there. Maintain a positive attitude and don't sweat too many small details. If either set of parents is divorced, set up meetings based on family dynamics and how well they get along. You might have to have more than one meeting if the divorced parents can't be in the same room without arguing.

Do your homework

One way to alleviate your fear is to do a little homework and find out the likes and dislikes of your in-laws.

Set up a time and place

Choose a time that is convenient for everyone, and pick a place that is easy for all family members to get to.

Be prepared

Compose a list of conversation starters. Chances are, once people start chatting, they won't need prompts, but it's always a good idea to be prepared.

Dress for the occasion

Remember that you only have one chance to make a first impression, so dress as nicely as you can, based on where you plan to meet. If you are getting together in a restaurant, wear something nice, clean, and conservative.

Bring gifts

Know who all is coming in advance and bring a small gift of appreciation for each family or family member. Make the gift something based on their interests, and you'll make some extra points by showing your consideration and generosity.

Call them by their preferred names

Start out calling your mother-in-law and father-in-law Mr. or Mrs. They may ask you to call them by their first names or perhaps even Mom and Dad. Tell them you're honoured and do as they ask. (The Spruce)

“

It's always nice if both sets of in-laws can be there. Maintain a positive attitude and don't sweat too many small details. If either set of parents is divorced, set up meetings based on family dynamics and how well they get along.



actually one of the best things to do for your body. Here are some of the reasons why you should drink water.

It helps boost energy

Drinking water may activate your metabolism. A boost in metabolism has been associated with a positive impact on energy level.

It aids in cognitive function

Proper hydration is key to staying in tip-top cognitive shape. ResearchTrusted Source indicates that not drinking enough water can negatively impact your focus, alertness, and short-term memory.

It helps keep skin bright

Adequate water intake will help keep your skin hydrated and may promote collagen production. However, water intake alone isn't enough to reduce the effects of aging.

Water is important to nearly every part of your body. Not only will hitting your daily recommended intake help you maintain your current state of being, it may even improve your overall health.

Here are some ideas for how you can be sure you drink enough:

Carry a water bottle with you wherever you go. This way you can drink whenever the need strikes.

Keep track of your intake. Aim to take in optimum amounts every day, a minimum of half your body weight in ounces.

Pace yourself to approach half of your recommended consumption by midday. You can always finish about an hour before you plan to sleep. (Healthline)

COVER ISSUE 276

Sifiso Nxumalo

TAKING UP THE DIGITAL SPACE

A lot of people are taking up space in different fields.

While we have seen many females taking over the digital space in terms of YouTube channels and social media but Sifiso Nxumalo is also killing the game.

Generally, a podcast is a digital audio file made available on the Internet typically available as a series but with the rise of emerging YouTube and or content creators, this definition has become rather archaic as podcasts also come in the form of visuals but are still complemented by a conversation.

Many people start their podcasts for different reasons. Since the youth is so much into the media, people who start podcasts have mostly young people watching.

It is easy to get important messages across.

Sifiso started his podcast to address many issues such as social.

"My podcast falls in the lines of the new wave of podcasting which is both audio and visual. I sit down with a guest/s for candid conversations

which explore social issues and untold stories all of which is aimed to help inspire thousands of listeners/viewers to pursue meaningful lives," he says.

He says added that in the digital world, podcasts play a major role especially nowadays.

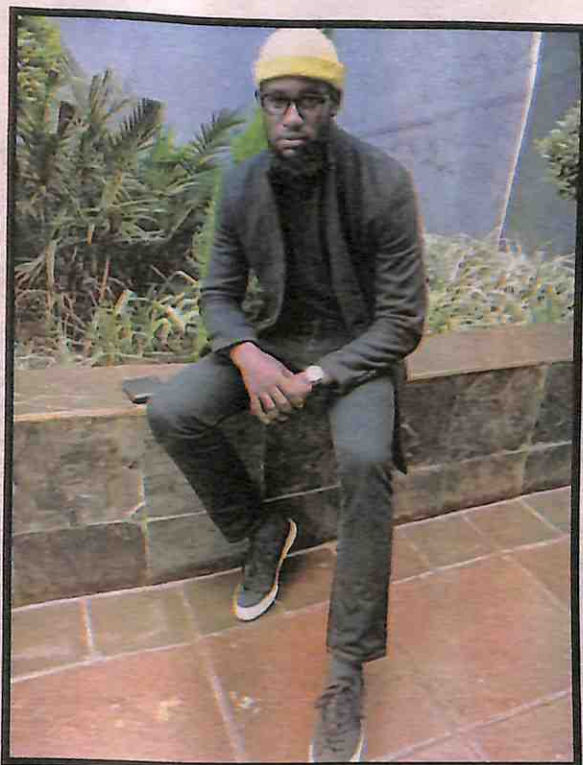
"I guess just like any form of media it has helped in telling and exploring

times and in consequence making people aware, I think that's the essence of it all," he says.

Sifiso was not doing this just for the fame but to add a meaningful aspect in his life.

"I mostly want to help inspire my viewers to live meaningful lives as they continue to live and experience this





mysterious life."

He says he always had a strong pull to things that allow him to pursue high levels of truth, especially through conversation.

"I'm a digital person and as I have been navigating my way and observing (pun intended) the digital space - especially in my country - I found that a lot of the content is entertainment and jokes and not to downgrade the importance of all that but I felt the need for a balance where we can talk about the other parts of our lives which are not so funny and entertaining but necessary and crucial for the human experience because while we're posting our highlights there are lowlights in real life as well," he says.

He says with the knowledge of the positive impact conversation if done right, he finds that a podcast allows a space that's more like a therapy session where people look for healing for their ills.

With that he says he wants this podcast to be like a therapy session but for healing the ills of society and just learning in general.

He says in his podcast he focuses on everything but it's always steered towards finding ways to live meaningful lives because while people can never figure out this life thing, the constant search for answers is what essen-

tially makes it a worthwhile pursuit.

Being in the podcast world, Sifiso says he does not know of a lot of active podcasts in the country.

However, there are many podcasts in the country and in other countries that are run by locals, Sifiso commends everyone who is putting in the hard work to run a podcast.

"As the country we have witnessed a growth in podcasts and the use of the digital space in general and the youth is coming up with ideas to take up that space.

"I do know of The Open Word Podcast, Word Is and Real Talk Real Life and I want to commend them for pushing the envelope. They all respectively focus on different topics and I think that's a cool thing because our viewers are spoilt for choice. My hope is that we see more podcasts emerging in the country because with everything happening in the world, the need for in depth conversation is an absolute certainty," he says.

Content

He added he hopes that they become the generation that's not content with surface level comprehension but get to the root of things so as to understand the process of how the branches and leaves came about.

As a media student, the hardest part

about having his own podcast was the knowledge that bad visuals can be forgiven but bad audio is unforgivable especially for a perfectionist.

"I always want to make sure that I have both intact. This requires good equipment which is expensive."

He said after all the hard work he has done getting a call from The Eswatini Observer asking to cover his podcast was validation that his work is seen.

Sifiso is also part of a group or project called 'Overrated', the mother that birthed the melange of photographs and stories geared towards showcasing women and the intricacies they face in their lifetime 'Her Story'.

"I want to avoid announcing projects

prematurely but yeah, our followers at Overrated should expect another unconventional ground breaking project," he says.

Sifiso says growing up he has always found himself immersed in the World Wide Web 'nerding' so it did not come as a shock when life took him into that direction.

It is great to see young people take up space in this manner. It means the country was definitely in good hands.

If such platforms are talking about real issues then it means many people will be reached and ultimately important issues will be discussed by a broad spectrum of people including young people; who are the future.

Speaking to young, motivated people such as Sifiso makes people realise that they will not only follow their dreams but they can also impact on other people's lives positively.

There are many young people in the country who are working around the

Lifestyle

Celebville

01 SJAVA STRIPPED OF DSTV MZANSI VIEWERS' CHOICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS



JOHANNESBURG - The DSTV Mzansi Viewers' Choice Awards have stripped Sjava of his two nominations amid allegations of rape. Pay channel MultiChoice confirmed to Sowetan LIVE yesterday morning. The announcement comes after the Umama singer was also removed from the Cape Town International Jazz Festival line-up.

He was nominated at the awards for favourite musician competing against Sho Madjozi, Prince Kaybee, King Monada and Dr Tumi.

His song Umama was also up for Song of the Year. The awards

planned to have Sjava performing on the night and have now also cancelled his

performance. "The DSTV Mzansi Viewers' Choice Awards has decided to withdraw the nomination of local artist Jabulani Hadebe popularly known as Sjava, from this year's awards," said Reggy Moalusi, Executive Head Of Corporate Affairs at MultiChoice South Africa.

"This as a result of an ongoing investigation into the local performer by the authorities.

"The decision to remove Sjava's eligibility, including cancelling his performance at the awards is not one that has been made lightly, but we believe is in the best interest of all parties concerned." His withdrawal came after organisers learnt of the case of rape that was opened against him by former girlfriend and musician Lady Zamar.

The awards will take place on Saturday March 14, at Ticketpro Dome in Johannesburg. Hosted by Minnie Dlamini-Jones, performers on the night will include Makhadzi, DJ Zinhle, Master KG, Semi Tee, Kammu Dee and Miano. Stars such as Bonang Matheba, Somizi Mhlongo, Moshe Ndiki, Percy Tau, Anele Mdoda and DJ Fresh are nominated.

Sowetan

02 'Stop pretending to be fake feminists when it suits you'

JOHANNESBURG - As the conversation around femicide and gender-based violence continues to swirl in SA, Amanda Black has taken aim at women who fake being feminists.

Taking to Twitter this week, Amanda said that too often women hate women but try to hide it from the world.

"Women hate women, qha! It's okay just own it, nana. Stop pretending to be fake feminists when it suits you. It's either you're for women or you're not. *Yhuu niyadi-ka man*. Opinion is one thing but the hate yall spew on this app," she said.

She said that these women would often defend men who would never return the favour. "Always ready to defend men who will never defend you,

when it's time to stand by us men will always choose each other. Wrong or not. The same way y'all say you don't believe victims of rape, keep it there, fine you don't believe them. *Thula kengoku*, there's no need for name calling!" she added.

Amanda then cast the spotlight on emotional abuse, suggesting that people familiarise themselves with it before judging.

Times Live



04 MIHLALI GETS THE BLUES: I WOKE UP SAD

JOHANNESBURG - Many think she's got it all together, but social media influencer Mhlali Ndamase has opened up about suffering from emotional episodes and needing her mother by her side during a testing time.

On Twitter, Mhlali said she has been going through episodes that have left her feeling sad.

"Woke up feeling really sad, been going through these episodes often lately. *Idk* why, but at least my mom's flying up to spend the rest of the week with me. I know she'll lift my spirit."

Mhlali has opened up before on the effects fame can have on mental health, saying trending on social media can be a blessing and a curse.

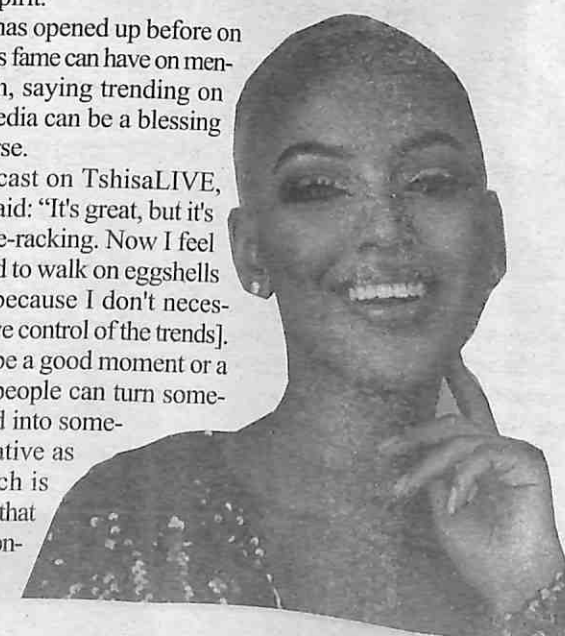
In a podcast on TshisaLIVE, Mhlali said: "It's great, but it's also nerve-racking. Now I feel like I need to walk on eggshells at times because I don't necessarily [have control of the trends]. "It could be a good moment or a bad one, people can turn something good into something negative as well, which is something that I have no con-

trol over. Usually, if that happens, I just let it die down."

However, the influencer won't be forced into being someone she is not.

"No, I'm not trying to be anybody else but myself. So I put myself on the platter and I put myself out there and you take it or you leave it. If you don't like it, don't eat from this platter, eat from another one. I'm a very raw person and I'm very honest and transparent."

Times Live



03 DJ MAPHORISA SLAMMED FOR TRYING TO RAISE MONEY FOR NOKUTHULA

JOHANNESBURG - DJ Maphorisa found a way to capitalise on the Twitter #Nokuthula trend, and while not everyone seemed happy about it, he's explained that he's looking to use the music to help Nokuthula's family.

In another episode of "uniquely Mzansi" humour, the country turned a woman's pain into a "joke" which went viral and eventually turned into a remix of Maphorisa's hit single Phoyisa.

The now-popular mama was introduced to Mzansi through the latest episode of SABC 1 investigative journalism show Cutting Edge.

Maphorisa created a remixed version of Phoyisa, now featuring the mama painfully shouting

"Nokuthula!"

The DJ then took to Twitter to tell followers that if they retweeted the song, he would match every RT with one rand and donate the money to Nokuthula's family.

"The number of retweets I get from this tweet will amount to the money I give to Nokuthula's family ... so one retweet = R1."

While some embraced the idea, others said that it was insensitive to use a women's pain to

get retweets.

Answering the negative criticism, Phori explained that he was just trying to help out the best way he knew how.

"I hope it reaches 1 million retweets, Sauta made it a joke, now we gonna do it together to help Nokuthula's family. Music changed my life, maybe it can change the lives of others too," Maphorisa said.

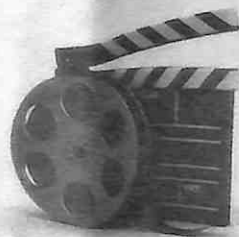
Cutting Edge gave Mzansi a front-row seat into the heart-wrenching story of controversial mother of six Nokuthula Mjekula from Port Elizabeth.

Nokuthula was presumed dead after leaving her home back in 2016 for Cape Town but, as it turns out, she's alive and well. This would have been just a happy reunion if Nokuthula's mom hadn't identified a now-unknown corpse as Nokuthula's and buried it, thinking it was her daughter.

It was the mother's reaction when she saw Nokuthula that went viral. *Times Live*



Movie watch



FANTASY ISLAND

PG13 | 1h 49min | Adventure, Comedy, Fantasy
A horror adaptation of the popular '70s TV show about a magical island resort.
DIRECTOR: Jeff Wadlow
WRITER: Jillian Jacobs, Christopher Roach
STARS: Michael Peña, Maggie Q, Lucy Hale

JAWAANI JAANEMAN

PG13 | 2h 17min | Comedy
A 40-year-old playboy's life turns upside down when he comes to know that he has a 20-something-year-old daughter.
DIRECTOR: Nitin Kakkar
WRITER: Hussain Dalal (additional screenplay), Abbas Dalal (dialogue)
STARS: Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Alaya Fumiturewala

MY SPY

PG-13 | 1h 39min | Action, Comedy, Family
A hardened CIA operative finds himself at the mercy of a precocious 9-year-old girl, having been sent undercover to surveil her family.
DIRECTOR: Peter Segal
WRITERS: Erich Hoeber, Jon Hoeber
STARS: Dave Bautista, Chloe Coleman, Parisa Fitz-Henley

TV Shows (Series)



RIVERDALE

3 SEASONS, 57 EPISODES

Riverdale is a dark teen comedy based on characters from the Archie comics. It mixes in elements of a conventional teen drama — romance, small-town life, and the high-school ecosystem — with a compelling, adult murder mystery. The series takes place in a small town with a 1950s vibe (despite being firmly set in the present) where a high-school teenager is found dead under mysterious circumstances that implicate much of the community as suspects. Riverdale is powered not just by the mystery, but by characters who are instantly likable (Betty, Veronica, and Jughead are all standouts) and easy to invest in. The mystery is so incredibly intriguing that it's almost impossible not to get wrapped up in it as the storyline guides us through numerous red herrings. It's a madly addictive series, occasionally campy, and just self-aware enough not to take itself too seriously.



BLACK MIRROR

5 SEASONS, 22 EPISODES + INTERACTIVE FILM

It cannot be stressed enough how amazing Britain's Black Mirror is. It's severely biting social commentary about the current and future technological age in the form of twisted, dark Twilight Zone episodes. It's an incredible (and incredibly short) four seasons of television, and episode for episode, perhaps the best series on this list. Watch one episode, and you'll be hooked.



RECTIFY

4 SEASONS, 30 EPISODES

Rectify is maybe the best series on television that no one watched. Aden Young, in a soulful performance, plays Daniel Holden, a man locked up and put on death row nearly 20 years ago for raping and murdering his girlfriend. However, DNA evidence has come to light that casts doubt on his guilt, so the court system has no choice but to release him. Is he actually guilty? Or is he innocent and misunderstood? That's the question at the heart of the series, and the question the people in his small town, including his family, have to ask themselves. Is this man we're letting back into our family a murderer and a rapist, or is he the kind, thoughtful man he appears to be? Rectify is a beautiful show about appreciating life that manages to perfectly straddle the line between bleak and hopeful, and quietly features some of the best performances on television.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Harry Styles - Adore you

[Verse 1: Harry Styles]

Walk in your rainbow paradise (Paradise)
Strawberry lipstick state of mind (State of mind)
I get so lost inside your eyes
Would you believe it?

[Pre-Chorus: Harry Styles]

You don't have to say you love me
You don't have to say nothing
You don't have to say you're mine

[Chorus: Harry Styles]

Honey (Ah-ah-ah)
I'd walk through fire for you
Just let me adore you
Oh, honey (Ah-ah-ah)
I'd walk through fire for you
Just let me adore you
Like it's the only thing I'll ever do
Like it's the only thing I'll ever do

[Verse 2: Harry Styles]

You're wonder under summer sky (Summer sky)
Brown skin and lemon over ice
Would you believe it?

[Pre-Chorus: Harry Styles]

You don't have to say you love me
I just wanna tell you somethin'
Lately, you've been on my mind

[Chorus: Harry Styles]

Honey (Ah-ah-ah)
I'd walk through fire for you
Just let me adore you
Oh, honey (Ah-ah-ah)
I'd walk through fire for you
Just let me adore you
Like it's the only thing I'll ever do
Like it's the only thing I'll ever do

[Bridge: Amy Allen]

It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do
It's the only thing I'll ever do

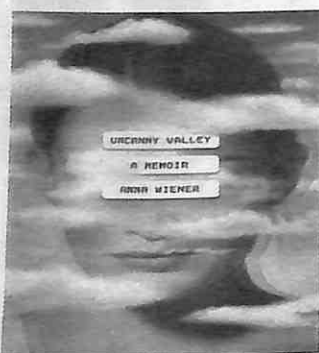
[Chorus: Harry Styles & Amy Allen]

I'd walk through fire for you
Just let me adore you
Oh, honey (Ah-ah-ah)
I'd walk through fire for you
Just let me adore you
Like it's the only thing I'll ever do (Ah-ah-ah)
(It's the only thing I'll ever do, it's the only thing I'll ever do)
I'd walk through fire for you (It's the only thing I'll ever do)
Just let me adore you
Oh, honey (Ah-ah-ah), oh, honey
(It's the only thing I'll ever do, it's the only thing I'll ever do)
I'd walk through fire for you (It's the only thing I'll ever do)
Just let me adore you (It's the only thing I'll ever do)

[Outro: Harry Styles]

Ooh, ooh
Oh, honey
Ooh, ooh
Just let me adore you

Book Review



UNCANNY VALLEY

BY ANNA WIENER

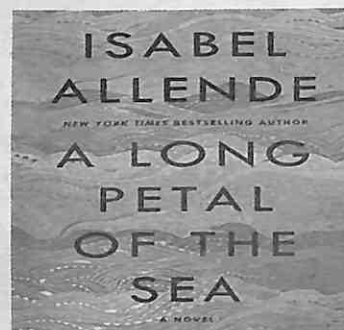
When Anna Wiener moved to San Francisco at 25, the former sociology student dove headfirst into the Bay Area's startup culture, in which twenty-somethings with little professional experience managed and stroked the egos of also-twenty-something CEOs. Her memoir reads like a literary ethnography of the rewards and risks of the sector's early growth.



WE WISH YOU LUCK

BY CAROLINE ZANCAN

Set amid the fraught intensity of a prestigious MFA program, *We Wish You Luck* by Caroline Zancan is a twisted campus novel told in the third person, which collectively expresses the perspective of three ambitious, brilliant students who take it upon themselves to present one of their professors as a plagiarist. It's a rollicking read that offers a sharp take on the creative process, revenge, and envy.



A LONG PETAL OF THE SEA

BY ISABEL ALLENDE

Since she published *The House of the Spirits* in 1982, Isabel Allende has time and again proven herself a master of magical realism. Her latest novel, *A Long Petal of the Sea*—about a couple who flee the Spanish Civil War to Chile, only to later find themselves endangered once again under the Pinochet dictatorship—is about refugees, displacement, and war, but also serves as a paean to human love and endurance.

ESWATINI IS FOR CHRIST CRUSADE ALL NIGHT PRAYER

PASTOR MCDONALDS TURNS 46

Pastor Victor McDonald joined by his wife as he cuts his birthday cake during a celebration hosted by the membership of the God's Glory Ministries fellowship. This was part of the activities of the night during the 'Eswatini is For Christ Crusade all night service' at Mavuso on Friday night. The Pastor celebrated his 46th birthday with the congregation. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Pastor Victor McDonald's birthday cakes





MENTAL HEALTH

WITH: Andile Tsabedze

The art or skill of parenting and raising children lies on parents and guardians who need to be mentally healthy and be in good standing to infuse the same to their developing children.

Parenting is mental health based because the ultimate goal is to raise a child that will cope with in society, contribute positively and utilise strengths over weaknesses. Many factors may unfortunately temper ideal parenting, child and personality development. A few common ones will be discussed as well as some tips to ensure parenting has mental health as a guiding principle.

Theories

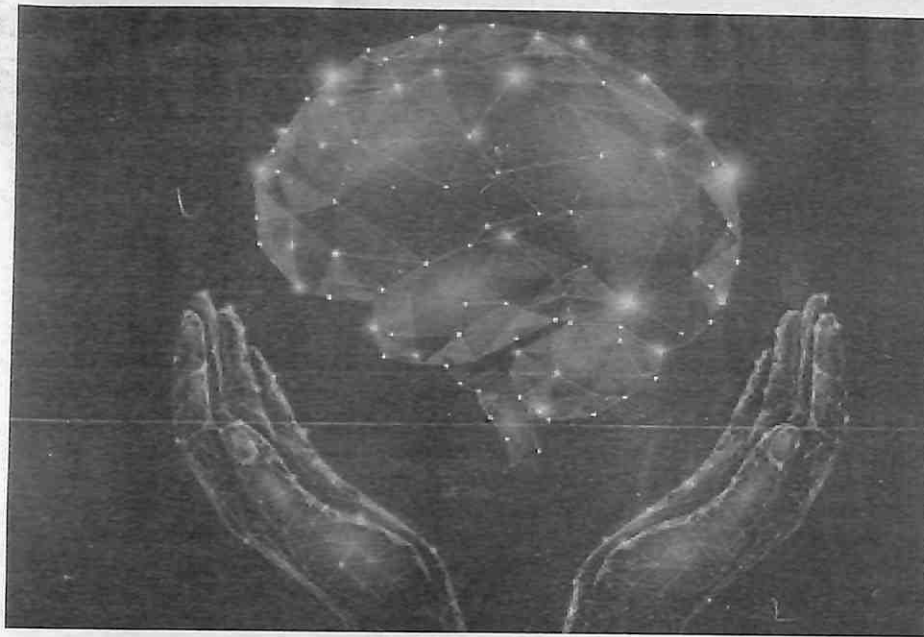
The father of psychology Sigmund Freud developed a basic personality development theory which states that personality of each individual is developed by the age of five. He states that through five stages of development, the adult personality is shaped and the interrelations between three levels of the brain consciousness namely conscious, subconscious and unconscious are important in controlling some experiences that may have happened during childhood years but were repressed and unresolved. The overall mental health and healthy personality is influenced by how they developed at younger ages, if certain stages were underdeveloped there are evident traits in personality that will show at adult years. Anger, low self esteem, unkempt self, antisocial behaviour etc. are some reflections that may be effects of underdevelopment.

Another psychologist and theorist, Erick Erickson built upon Freud's theory stating that issues of trust, mistrust, autonomy, being initiative, ability to establish relationships, isolation, inferiority, identity and role confusion to name a few are possible outcomes of either positive or negative childhood upbringing and experiences. This means that from birth till beyond, through the parenting methods and skills that the individual is exposed to, personality is molded. Since every child is born into an environment with both or one parent or parental figure, such experiences of development are determined by the parenting styles applied. Love, care, attention, active listening, opportunities are some provisions made by parents with positive parenting skills and they contribute to an overall mentally healthy future adult and personality.

Rejection/neglect

Growing up, children demand high levels of attention and approval from their parents. It is in their innate nature to seek appraisal from attachment figures who are mainly parents and other family members to some extent. Children will from time and again ask a parent if they should or should not pick up an item that does not belong to them, whether or not to eat some foods or which pair of shoes they can wear on a certain day. Female children in particular may role play food preparation and tea parties. They invite the parent to sip tea in a toy plastic cup and eat the imaginary cookies. This is their way of interacting with people around them, learning roles, figuring out life and most importantly building self esteem. Child play is very important for children, parents should initiate or take part in this and show approval. This process creates enabling environments which are ideal for childhood development and mental health. Children also feel appreciated and recognised when their parents play with them. Even if a person can love him or herself enough, it is normal for them to feel uplifted when someone else shows love towards them. The same goes for children, parents' love and attention plays a vital role in fostering internal positive attitudes and feelings within the child. Some children suffer unintended neglect from parents in some cases

Mental health percepts in parenting



of child spacing, parents may succumb under the pressure of raising many children who are closely spaced. There may also be additional negative factors leading to neglect such is poverty, unemployment, separation or divorce and abuse. Since mental health is the sum of harmonised interactions within the five aspects of every individual (physical, cognitive, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual) it is difficult to ensure health of one aspect when the other is in disharmony. This means that when physical needs such food, shelter and clothing are not met it can be very difficult for parents to give their children ample attention, love, approval and support because preoccupation with the lack takes up all their time and mental energy. In some cases, parents may have been together, dating or married then separate due to unforeseen circumstances. This may have a negative impact on the child if strategies to positive co-parenting are not adopted. Disputes on child custody is an example of unfortunate occurrences which leaves the child confused, angry and with a tattered sense of belonging having to choose sides between the mother and father. The parent with full custody may start a new relationship, which the child may not be comfortable with. The child is automatically flooded with anger, irritability, feeling unwanted, not enough, and neglected.

Observational learning

Children are said to acquire most of their knowledge base through observation of what happens and is done by people around them. They pick up most or even all behaviour and actions from siblings and parents since these are viewed as attachment figures from whom behaviour is learnt. Some people have grown up to exhibit the same behaviours that their parents showed during their childhood years. Let's clarify that there are many factors that lead to people's behaviours however some learnt ones can be substance use, abusive tendencies, low self esteem, pessimism. That which most people exhibit is greatly influenced by what they have observed and experienced from the family members' behaviours when growing up. The absorbent nature of children's personalities during development requires that the experiences

around children's growth and development be healthy, enabling learning of positive attitudes. Parents have a responsibility to provide a stable environment of peace, love, harmony and appreciation. Family arguments and altercations should not occur in full view of the child because repeated exposure to such cements the idea that this is a proper way of life and behaviour. The use of substances (smoking and alcohol in particular) must ideally not be carried out where children can see. People take substances for various reasons, adolescents may opt for substance use because of largely peer pressure and as behaviour learnt from their parents. Allow children to grow up in healthy environments, let them experience how misunderstandings are resolved without violence or raised voices. Teach them how to establish relationships and communicate well, through the manner in which you communicate and live in harmony with other family members and neighbours. How well you treat other people, of all social standings without any discrimination is exactly how your children will conduct themselves around those people. A parent who looks down upon and is rude, cruel towards janitors, security guards for instance, calls them names in front of their children is highly likely to have these children grow up to become rude and insensitive towards other people.

Violence/abuse

Through observational learning, children may acquire abusive behaviours from family members and parents during development. In some families, there are frequent incidents of violence in all forms. The child may be exposed to domestic violence, e.g. the mother physically and emotionally assaulting the father or vice versa. They grow up to exhibit similar behaviour. Apart from that, it creates a lifetime internal scar in the child's mental health. Our brains are created in a peculiar way, each experience creates an imprint that may either be negative or positive and influences overall personality and mental health. When the child continuously sees their parent enduring the harm from the other parent, thoughts and feelings about this may be suppressed to the unconscious level because they are unpleasant. However, later

in life such may resurface through dreams and show evidence as poor anger management, low self esteem, pessimism, abusive behaviours and cruelty. Experience of violence may create callousness as well, because the child may have to repeatedly conceal how he or she feels, tends to eventually become numb towards the situation. When the child experiences the abuse as the immediate victim, the consequences are even worse and may eventually lead to major depressive disorder, post traumatic stress disorder and even suicide when unattended. The child loses trust towards the parent who is the perpetrator of the violence, it creates grudges and chronic feelings of hatred. This may lead to horrific end results of homicide and murder-suicide cases when such a child gets no counselling and psychotherapy to correct their feelings towards their parents.

Tips

1. Show love, approval and acceptance of children without comparison of their attributes against those of other children.
2. Take time to listen and talk to your child, ascertain their thoughts and emotions. This makes them feel recognised and loved. Knowing how they feel helps you maintain that healthy environment tailored for the child's needs.
3. When children transition or go through major life changes, do not hesitate to take them for counselling and coping skills to help them survive the change.
4. Be real with children, it may be difficult to expose them to only what is ideal because the world is not black and white. The grey areas must be learnt in a proper way, teach some few anger management skills such as not reacting immediately and excusing self off the anger triggering site to cool off.
5. Take part in their play time and dedicate yourself towards genuinely eating on imaginary plates and feeding Teddy bears. The child feels loved and attended to, they will not seek validation in the wrong places in future.
6. Communicate things that happen, involve and affect them. Communicate these in an age appropriate manner e.g. parent's separation, children may ask questions out of curiosity and anxiety. Answer the gradually, not all at once, being careful not to overload them with information they cannot comprehend.
7. Positively build their self esteem by appreciating them and applauding them for their efforts and achievements no matter how insignificant they may seem. Clap hands, tightly hug them or even reward them for good behaviour.
8. Be mindful of the words you utter and the behaviour you showcase because children pick up literally almost everything. Some cruel words may not be directed to the child but someone else, but the child may learn that and use those degrading words towards others.
9. Acquire information through reading and conversing with relevant professionals. This helps you expand your knowledge base and parenting skills, adds variety to your parenting and better places one at a position to be a good parent, a mentally healthy one.
10. Comprehend and accept the fact that they too have mental health that they are not yet able to protect thus it is the parent's responsibility to protect the mental health of the child.



ECONOMICS TODAY

WITH: George Choongwa

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 Southern African Research Foundation for
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 Nurturing sustainable growth

Doing good and sustainable business in Africa demands one to embrace the skill of the clever one. Due to high competition and poor copyright rules which seem not to protect any personal brand or intellect of anyone.

Therefore, using the cash cow cover strategy is what makes entrepreneurs remain competitive.

Cash cover strategy

The cash cover strategy can be likened to a situation where two businesses can be operated by one person; where one is used as a cash cow, while the other is core business. The cash cow is known by everyone and the owner does care about losing it through copying and other forms of competition that can drive it out of the market. It is through the cash cow that clever entrepreneurs operate under the pressure of survival. In most cases this form of business is found in a free market society or structure where there were many buyers and many sellers. The entire driving force at play here is competition where the traders did not care about each other and the entire market. Prices can be spoiled any time and no one cares about what happens.

Price means everything

The main controller of the market is the price. Due to market forces of demand and supply, the general market will determine its own price and the sellers will have to linger around the established price of the commodity. This makes the entire market structure really an arena of survival. The trader or seller knows that; its either kill or die. Therefore, much pressure for survival is put on the marketing aspect. This is where the real meaning of having a cash cow comes into play, because all that mattered was the cash at hand and other things like the industry and the like. As long as a seller had the cash in his or her hand, then what happens next is not anyone's business.

Therefore, this form of business remains very vulnerable to external shocks and can collapse at any time. However, the goodness of the matter is that the market would always emerge though sometimes in another form since this business was opportunistic in nature.

Using the decoy to confuse the enemy

The cash cow business on the other hand would also mean the establishment of a fake business as a means of protecting the main stream of business. What this means is that, there are some other beneficial or lucrative businesses or industries where the players would not wish them to get saturated. Therefore, they would wish to protect it from other players who might take a chance by exploring it. Hence, what these traders would do was that they would come up with a cover business also known as cash cow for the sake of keeping the opponents busy in a fake industry. In war, this could be referred to as a decoy where the enemy would be confused and mislead. For example, *McDonalds'* real business was not in selling fast food staff, but in real estate. Therefore, what they did in selling the fast foods was not their core business, but simply the enabler towards their real business. Therefore, they use the fast food strategy as a

means of sustaining their real business of real estate.

Many eggs in one basket

Others might call it as a form of promoting multi investment, but the reality is based on the concept of having putting many eggs in many baskets. This concept in business has saved many and only the prudent ones live by it. Business in Africa can be so uncertain such that without having a clever approach, most entrepreneurs would just perish like that. Most of the economies in Africa have of late remained unstable, making most of the entrepreneurs less effective. It is then key to have a cash and the core business if one was to remain relevant.

The core business is the final business that strategically designed to be fed and sustained by the cash cow. What this mean is that it is through the core business that an entrepreneur would accumulate wealth. The point is driven by the fact that the core business is mainly a long term investment whose returns would only be appreciated with the passing of time.

In this regard, a clever entrepreneur would have many cash cows so that they generated

income as a lump sum so that in return capital projects could be established as well. Building a financial empire on this principle makes the core business operate on a more stable basis as it would have enough time to penetrate the market, acquire the assets more than liabilities, at the same time penetrate the market share.

When funding becomes a problem

This is where most African business face it hard, the owners might have been exposed the best business ideas, but the funding part of it has seen many in either total failure or having a static growth trends which might not be so rewarding in the long term. Most of these firms have remained stuck with the ideas, but with nothing regarding to where to start from. The answer is simple, most of these entrepreneurs didn't start the business with small and simple things.

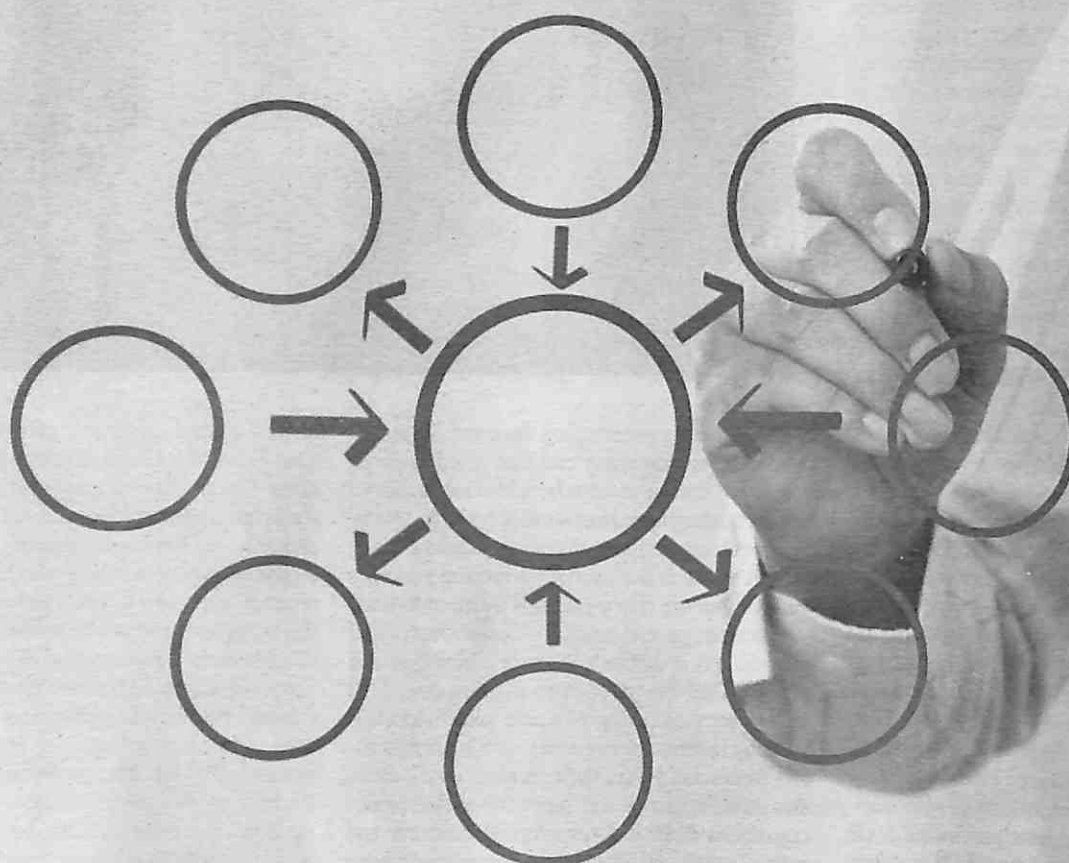
Therefore, the size of a cash cow can be as small as possible since it was only used to generate income for the main business project. However, depending on the financial availability of the owner of the business, a cash cow can be as big as the owner was comfortable in

operating it with minimum effort. Remember that a cash cow must be as simple business as possible. The key driving factor for this concept is that it was only the means to the end and the not the end in itself.

Use your talent to raise capital

Since the cash cow would need to be as simple as possible, the issue of investing in human talent and skill comes out very handy here. It is prudent to use the personal skill to raise capital for the business; it is cheap and very effective. This is on the fact that using your own talent and skills for a start is the best move in business. This is because there could be less or no effort of making raising capital for the core business. An entrepreneur must therefore, be creative and innovative so that his or her ability of skill could be used as basic tools which might be used to build a financial empire for the core business. Therefore, never rely on one business if you are to make it, but always keep two or more business ventures operating so that two birds can be killed by one stone: One would be raising capital, at the same time building a long term investment plan.

Cash cow vs core business



Columns & Opinion

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LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE,
EAT WISELY

Ministry of Agriculture Home
Economics Section

Someone who is infected with the coronavirus can spread it with just a simple cough or a sneeze, scientists say. More than 3,200 people with the virus are now confirmed to have died and over 94,000 have been infected. Here's what we know so far:

What is the coronavirus?

A coronavirus is a type of virus which can cause illness in animals and people. Viruses break into cells inside their host and use them to reproduce itself and disrupt the body's normal functions. Coronaviruses are named after the Latin word 'corona', which means crown, because they are encased by a spiked shell which resembles a royal crown.

The coronavirus from Wuhan is one which has never been seen before this outbreak. It has been named SARS-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. The name stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2.

Experts say the bug, which has killed around one in 50 patients since the outbreak began in December, is a 'sister' of the SARS illness which hit China in 2002, so has been named after it.

The disease that the virus causes has been named COVID-19, which stands for coronavirus disease 2019.

Dr Helena Maier, from the Pirbright Institute, said: 'Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that infect a wide range of different species including humans, cattle, pigs, chickens, dogs, cats and wild animals.'

'Until this new coronavirus was identified, there were only six different coronaviruses known to infect humans. Four of these cause a mild common cold-type illness, but since 2002 there has been the emergence of two new coronaviruses that can infect humans and result in more severe disease (Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronaviruses).

'Coronaviruses are known to be able to occasionally jump from one species to another and that is what happened in the case of SARS, MERS and the new coronavirus. The animal origin of the new coronavirus is not yet known.'

The first human cases were publicly reported from the Chinese city of Wuhan, where approximately 11 million people live, after medics first started publicly reporting infections on December 31.

By January 8, 59 suspected cases had been reported and seven people were in critical condition. Tests were developed for the new virus and recorded cases started to surge.

The first person died that week and, by January 16, two were dead and 41 cases were confirmed. The next day, scientists predicted that 1 700 people had become infected, possibly up to 7 000.

Just a week after that, there had been more than 800 confirmed cases and those same scientists estimated that some 4 000 – possibly 9 700 – were infected in Wuhan alone. By that point, 26 people had died.

By January 27, more than 2 800 people were confirmed to have been infected, 81 had died, and estimates of the total number of cases ranged from 100 000 to 350 000 in Wuhan alone.

By January 29, the number of deaths had risen to 132 and cases were in excess of 6 000.

By February 5, there were more than 24 000 cases and 492 deaths.

By February 11, this had risen to more than 43 000 cases and 1 000 deaths.

A change in the way cases are confirmed on February 13 – doctors decided to start using lung scans as a formal diagnosis, as well as laboratory tests – caused a spike in the number of cases, to more than 60 000 and to 1 369 deaths.

By February 25, around 80 000 people had been

What do we know about the Coronavirus?



infected and some 2 700 had died. February 25 was the first day in the outbreak when fewer cases were diagnosed within China than in the rest of the world.

Where does the virus come from?

According to scientists, the virus almost certainly came from bats. Coronaviruses in general tend to originate in animals – the similar SARS and MERS viruses are believed to have originated in civet cats and camels, respectively.

The first cases of COVID-19 came from people visiting or working in a live animal market in Wuhan, which has since been closed down for investigation.

Although the market is officially a seafood market, other dead and living animals were being sold there, including wolf cubs, salamanders, snakes, peacocks, porcupines and camel meat.

A study by the Wuhan Institute of Virology, published in February 2020 in the scientific journal Nature, found that the genetic make-up virus samples found in patients in China is 96 per cent identical to a coronavirus they found in bats.

However, there were not many bats at the market so scientists say it was likely there was an animal which acted as a middle-man, contracting it from a bat before then transmitting it to a human. It has not yet been confirmed what type of animal this was.

Dr Michael Skinner, a virologist at Imperial College London, was not involved with the research but said: 'The discovery definitely places the origin of nCoV in bats in China.'

'We still do not know whether another species served as an intermediate host to amplify the virus, and possibly even to bring it to the market, nor what species that host might have been.'

So far the fatalities are quite low. Why are health experts so worried about it?

Experts say the international community is concerned about the virus because so little is known about it and it appears to be spreading quickly.

It is similar to SARS, which infected 8,000 people and killed nearly 800 in an outbreak in Asia in 2003, in that it is a type of coronavirus which

infects humans' lungs. It is less deadly than SARS, however, which killed around one in 10 people, compared to approximately one in 50 for COVID-19.

Another reason for concern is that nobody has any immunity to the virus because they've never encountered it before. This means it may be able to cause more damage than viruses we come across often, like the flu or common cold.

Speaking at a briefing in January, Oxford University professor, Dr Peter Horby, said: 'Novel viruses can spread much faster through the population than viruses which circulate all the time because we have no immunity to them.'

'Most seasonal flu viruses have a case fatality rate of less than one in 1,000 people. Here we're talking about a virus where we don't understand fully the severity spectrum but it's possible the case fatality rate could be as high as two per cent.'

If the death rate is truly two per cent, that means two out of every 100 patients who get it will die. 'My feeling is it's lower,' Dr Horby added. 'We're probably missing this iceberg of milder cases. But that's the current circumstance we're in.'

'Two per cent case fatality rate is comparable to the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918 so it is a significant concern globally.'

How does the virus spread?

The illness can spread between people just through coughs and sneezes, making it an extremely contagious infection. And it may also spread even before someone has symptoms.

It is believed to travel in the saliva and even through water in the eyes, therefore close contact, kissing, and sharing cutlery or utensils are all risky. Originally, people were thought to be catching it from a live animal market in Wuhan city. But cases soon began to emerge in people who had never been there, which forced medics to realise it was spreading from person to person.

There is now evidence that it can spread third hand – to someone from a person who caught it from another person.

What does the virus do to you? What are the symptoms?

Once someone has caught the COVID-19 virus it may take between two and 14 days, or even longer, for them to show any symptoms – but they may still be contagious during this time.

If and when they do become ill, typical signs include a runny nose, a cough, sore throat and a fever (high temperature). The vast majority of patients will recover from these without any issues, and many will need no medical help at all.

In a small group of patients, who seem mainly to be the elderly or those with long-term illnesses, it can lead to pneumonia. Pneumonia is an infection in which the insides of the lungs swell up and fill with fluid. It makes it increasingly difficult to breathe and, if left untreated, can be fatal and suffocate people.

Figures are showing that young children do not seem to be particularly badly affected by the virus, which they say is peculiar considering their susceptibility to flu, but it is not clear why.

What have genetic test revealed about the virus?

Scientists in China have recorded the genetic sequences of around 19 strains of the virus and released them to experts working around the world.

This allows others to study them, develop tests and potentially look into treating the illness they cause.

Examinations have revealed the coronavirus did not change much – changing is known as mutating – much during the early stages of its spread.

However, the director-general of China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Gao Fu, said the virus was mutating and adapting as it spread through people.

This means efforts to study the virus and to potentially control it may be made extra difficult because the virus might look different every time scientists analyse it.

More study may be able to reveal whether the virus first infected a small number of people then change and spread from them, or whether there were various versions of the virus coming from animals which have developed separately.

How dangerous is the virus?

The virus has a death rate of around two per cent. This is a similar death rate to the Spanish Flu outbreak which, in 1918, went on to kill around 50 million people.

Experts have been conflicted since the beginning of the outbreak about whether the true number of people who are infected is significantly higher than the official numbers of recorded cases. Some people are expected to have such mild symptoms that they never even realise they are ill unless they're tested, so only the more serious cases get discovered, making the death toll seem higher than it really is.

However, an investigation into government surveillance in China said it had found no reason to believe this was true.

Dr Bruce Aylward, a World Health Organization official who went on a mission to China, said there was no evidence that figures were only showing the tip of the iceberg, and said recording appeared to be accurate, Stat News reported.

PET OBSERVER

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Columns & Opinion

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Choking occurs due to an obstruction of the airway from a foreign object in the throat, severe swelling of the throat or due to constriction of the neck.

Foreign object

Dogs and cats get all kinds of things stuck in their mouths, such as large pieces of food, bones, balls, toys, wood, cloth, metal and even fish hooks. Whether the foreign object obstructs the airway (choking) or is just stuck in the mouth, it still needs attention - for example bones can get stuck between teeth, between the upper and lower back molars or even stuck on the roof of the mouth.

Severe throat swelling

Usually associated with an allergic reaction or response to trauma. The tissues in the throat swell and block the opening to the airway.

Constricting neck injury

Usually associated with collars and ropes that are too tight or get tangled. In severe cases, dogs and cats can hang themselves. For example, a dog may be tied to a leash with just enough slack to jump the fence but not enough slack to allow the dog to touch the ground on the other side. Exuberant puppies pulling on a choke chain can choke. **Puppies should not be walked on choke chains.** Constricting neck injury can cause pulmonary edema - when the lungs fill with fluid.

What to watch for

- Drooling
- Gagging

My pet is choking



- Difficulty swallowing
- Difficulty breathing
- Pawing at face
- Regurgitation
- Anxiety and distress.

Veterinary treatment

A foreign object needs to be removed immediately and the mouth examined again in case of wounds, for which oral antibiotics may be prescribed. For neck injuries, the collar and any constricting item must be immediately removed. In extreme cases hospitalisation,

oxygen supplementation or a ventilator may be required. Pulmonary edema may require diuretic medication to try to reduce the fluid in the lungs. In an emergency a temporary tracheostomy may be required. A small incision is made in the neck. The trachea (windpipe) is then cut to allow a breathing tube to be placed directly into the trachea.

Home care

- Remove the collar or anything that may be restricting the neck.
- Examine inside the mouth and remove any

foreign object that **you can see and identify**. Do not blindly place your hand down your pet's throat and pull any object you feel. You may damage the small bones dogs and cats have that support the base of their tongues.

If you cannot easily remove the object, lift and suspend a small animal with the head pointed down. For larger animals, lift the rear legs so the head is tilted down. This can help dislodge an item stuck in the throat.

Failing that, administer a sharp hit with the palm of your hand between the shoulder blades.

Failing that, try a modified Heimlich maneuver. Stand behind the dog, grasp him around the waist with both arms, place a fist just below the ribs and compress the abdomen with 3-5 quick pushes. Or lay the dog on his side on a slope with hindquarters higher than head. Press below the lowest ribs with 3-5 quick pushes (compress the abdomen not the ribs).

Even if the object is expelled, go to the vet to check for other injuries.

Prevention care

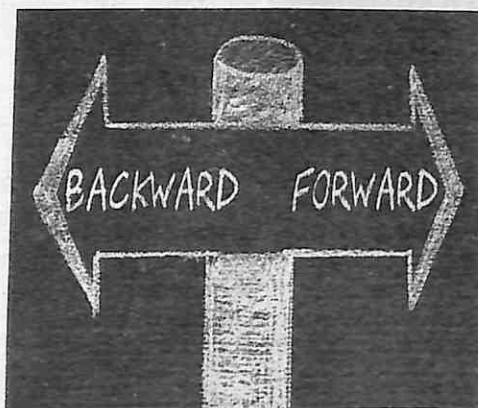
Make sure your pet's collar fits properly. Do not tie any animal on a rope/wire. If a temporary tie is necessary, use a running wire (loop the dog's leash onto a wire running between two posts).

All toys must be too large to be swallowed. Feed only very big bones even to small dogs.



Eswatini Standards Authority

Standards lessons then a head scratch



Document standards are a difficult type of documents to deal with. Understandably so, the jargon used therein tends to be in both legal and scientific terms.

Law and science are two different worlds that have been made to coexist in one document, and unfortunately a standard is a document that has to be understood and implemented by ordinary technicians as well as operatives in a production or service environment. What worsens the situation is the lack of pictorial expressions in such documents, this makes reading a mammoth task to most of the operatives in industry.

In view of the above, it is noted therefore that even if the benefits of certification were well articulated, industry would still find it difficult to implement standard-based systems with ease and speed. How the documents look and also the language used seem to account for the fatigue in implementing standards in the econ-

omy of Eswatini. At face-value the document easily forms a mental block and the quick wish is that a consultancy be engaged. Well, in as much as an external resource may be engaged, the concerned organisation has the responsibility to own the system. Because they own the processes, so are the related systems, therefore internal people have to take charge.

The big question is how do we start?

The first thing that needs to be put in place is a project team, however named; QMS Team, Quality Team, Food Safety Team, HACCP Team, these are options depending on the relevant standard. Members from different departments have to form part of the project team. The

team has to be trained on the relevant standard and be given a clear mandate by management. Management representation must be included in the team formulation. The reason for this person is to frequently update management on key issues including supply of resources and challenges. The destructive tendency is that the rest of the organisation leaves all the work on the shoulders of the team, this is to be discouraged. The team is usually overloaded with clerical work which is entirely out of their scope. This practice is incorrect and will stifle the project. The main task of the team is to facilitate the work, not to do on behalf of process owners and operatives.

Key documents which are a responsibility of the team include but not limited to; the commitment from top management, quality policy, quality objectives, control of documents, corrective action, and preventive action, control of records, internal audit and control of non-conforming products procedures. The control of documents procedure is the first document to develop, it carries the design for all types of document, so it is the blue-print. Process owners and operatives are to be trained on the control of documents procedure because they have to align all their procedures and related documents to the dictates of this procedure. It is the responsibility of the process owners and operatives to develop and approve operational procedures. In

food safety, it is important to conduct a risk analysis and identify measures to manage the risk where possible. For each identified risk area, a procedure has to be in place detailing what controls are to be executed. Once all important operational procedures are in place, allow the processes to run according to the documented procedures, observe and record evidence as per pre-determined schedules for at least six months before you can go for certification.

Eswatini has a National Standards Body (NSB), the Eswatini Standards Authority (SWASA) which exists and is capacitated. SWASA was set up to support industry in implementing and getting certified against international and/or national standards. SWASA offers training and certification services against all international and/or national standards. The training programme is flexible, and offers in-house training packages at negotiated rates. This is to ensure that all team members and relevant personnel get to understand the details of the standard to remove mental block and allow ease of implementation.

The SWASA certification scheme has the advantage of reduced overheads as it is local, a well, a well capacitated audit team with no language barriers; well-trained auditors which are familiar with the Eswatini scene and a very strong economic growth mandate from the Government of Eswatini. Any business can never be in better hands for quality and standards assistance.



Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini

Invariably, to date, men still believe that when they date a beautiful woman and ultimately marry her who is sweet to the marrow and very obedient to the last word of their command, she will ever be like that.

They assume, often times wrongly, that when they are in love with a woman she loves them back as much. Scales is not saying women cannot and do not love their husbands. However, alongside that holding, there are a number of couples where the woman is strung along the man's love, she has never loved him and given a fresh chance to choose, she will opt for someone else, imaginary *noma lenye nje indvodza lemnyama layitsanzako yena*. Some women, for the rest of their marital lifespan will harbour hatred deep in their hearts towards the man she is married to who does not answer to the dictates of heart, by his physical design *kwekucala nje*, his socio-economic status or his character. They will start a family with him *atale bantwana labanengi* and some day, she will tell her children, *mine ngendziswa kubabe wenu, abengesisio singani sami* and further spill the pain she has gone through to make it all work, for the sake of the children, as they would all normally claim. However, in their quest for better, which is mapped away from the incumbent husband, a woman can become the worst three things once can ever endure in marriage.

You know, your wife can hold back in matters that matter the most in marriage. Not that she doesn't give in at all but she has limits how far she can give which invariably indicates that she is not happy with you. This has nothing to do with her being provoked, offended or even cheated. She is a woman who has never been in love with you. Under any circumstances or with any other man she will openly give it all, *ugodlela wena nje*. She will only strive to be a dutiful and ever present wife, nothing more. She neither warms up to your romantic advances nor offers any herself. Here is LaNgcamphalaa married to Heshembane Mamba, a miner. The guy had snatched this woman whilst at high school, paid for her tertiary education and later married her traditionally. Rumour has it that she would never let the man kiss her and told him she has never liked *kucabuza nje emphilweni yakhe*. She would dutiful give herself for sex once in a blue moon. The man realised something was amiss and to his confirmation he discovered she was dating a fellow teacher. With the new guy *abemcabuza shengatsi ukhotsa sidikisele seyoghurt* and she wanted more. Ntfulini further learnt, she had sex with the teacher every time, everywhere and anytime opportunity availed itself. That is the worst thing your wife can be - to hold back love, romance and sex. Consequently she would withhold any resources to make the two of you progress. In the event you fight and you are found to be at fault as her husband, she will magnify the wrong for everyone to see how bad you can be!

A woman who holds back the above cited amenities from her husband will ultimately stop respecting him. She will not adhere to his leadership style and often times she would be challenging him openly even in front of their children or publicly. She will pass innuendos for everyone to see there is trouble in paradise. In most case the husband would end up succumbing to her mood swings, innuendos and sullen attitude. No matter what the husband brings to the table from the labour of his toils,

she will always show little enthusiasm in receipt and in appreciating same. Believe Scales, with a man she loves, *ubonga agangadze noma eta netinhloko tetimfishi for umshibo*. She would not even cooperate and help the man in whatever project he embarks on to uplift the lifestyle of the family. *Umfati lokwenyanyako uyindvodza yakhe avumati nekutsi uhola nini*. Here is Fred coming to a man's boutique to buy himself a few shirts and being confronted by one of the shop assistants, *"Hhayi babe Maseko ungalitsengi leloshirt, ukutsengele make abela!* He was further told his wife had bought many male items and all assumed she was buying for the husband. Upon getting home, he asked her about the purchase, *waphika waze wagoniyuluka* and he that she had never been to the shop in the first place. Some months later the man found a new watch in her bag which later disappeared and found out she was seeing another guy. He was the recipient of all these things. She had never bought the husband even a handkerchief in their eleven years of marriage.

Pretend

The other worst thing she can become is that she cannot pretend for ever to be the loving wife. *Kutamehlula ngalelinye lilanga* in the way she does things or what she says to you or anyone else. Pastor Mkhatsalisi Mavuso Of Bazokholwa Christian Church had a huge matter to deal with when an elder member's wife came to report that she had tried everything a woman can do but it doesn't work out, *"Angimtsandzi mbamba Ndlangamandla*

mfundisi". All she wanted was a smooth divorce and thereupon requesting *umfundisi* to ask the husband to comply and cooperate.

● **A woman who has never loved her husband cannot forgive her husband even in matters where he is truly remorseful and apologising. She does not expect any offence coming from him because she is doing him a favour by being his wife in the first place.**

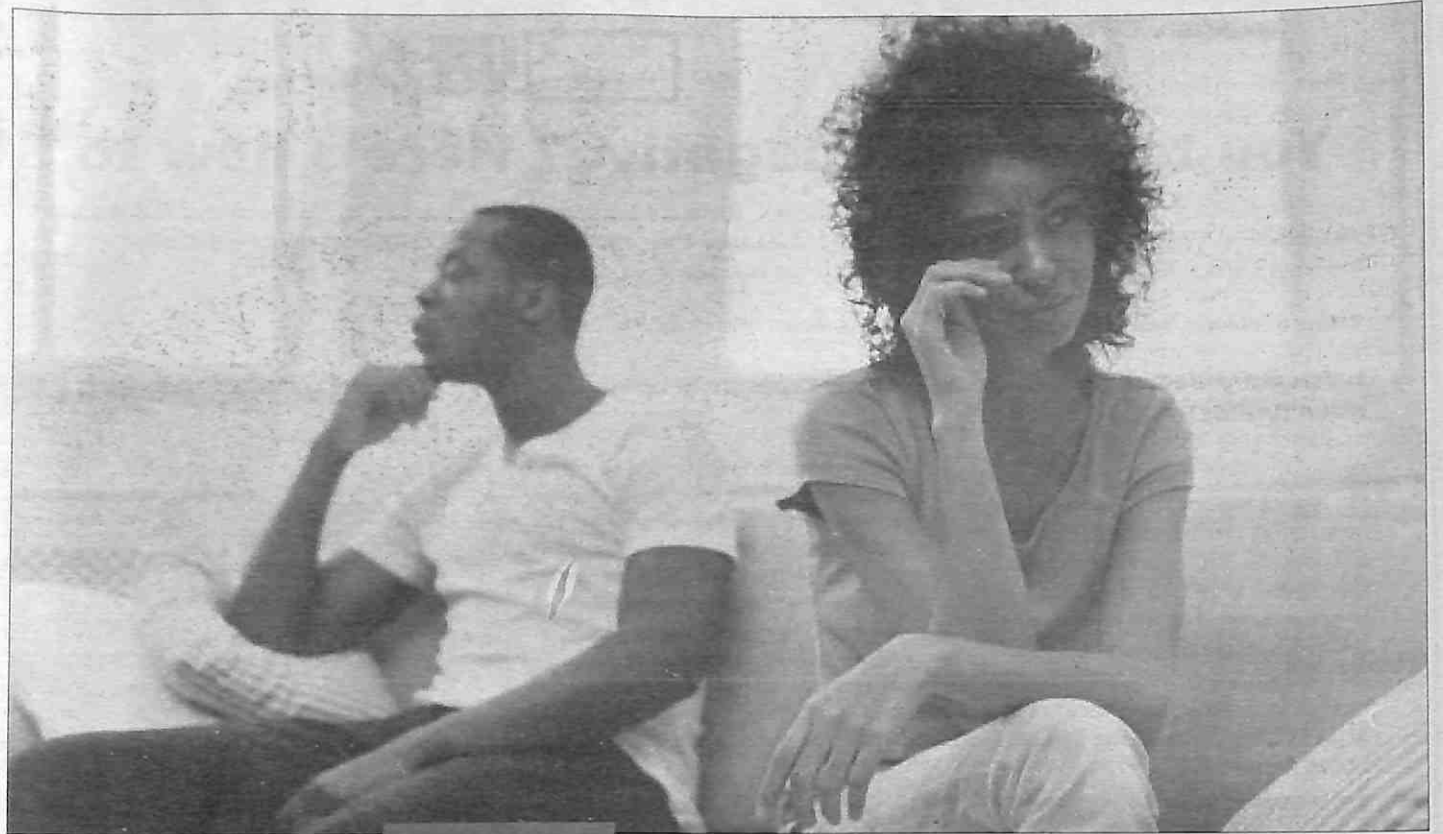
They looked like a solid couple with two beautiful children. They were the most envied and admired couple in the church. These creatures designed after Eve cannot pretend forever and men are not so blind not to see a woman who ain't truly into him. There are so many dead marriages in whose confines, the woman has

never loved the man she is constructively married to. She is not one to complain much instead she holds back a lot by omission or commission. She will not do what is expected of her or indulge on what the husband would least expect from his wife. *Esuke nje agcoke libhuluko aya ekhaya kini eMagubheleni*.

A woman who has never loved her husband cannot forgive her husband even in matters where he is truly remorseful and apologising. She does not expect any offence coming from him because she is doing him a favour by being his wife in the first place.

This is a woman who would never decorate him with any medals for whatever feat he achieves in the house. In an equal measure she will never apologise for anything, *uhlala ayimphi nje* and the man is supposed to be ever on his knees *ancenga make*. The worst thing your wife can be is when she does not appreciate the very concept of being someone's spouse. She will never enjoy the spectacle, experience, challenges and joys of being a married woman if she has never loved the husband she is circumstantially married to. In her quest for an ideal husband, she finds the incumbent a frustration, kill joy and *simamnyango nje*.

Outside her sorrows, there is an ideal man out there she can meet, chance permitting, who can be everything the man she is married to ain't. Until you marry a woman who loves you and not the one you love, you will never embrace the experience of being a content husband!



The worst thing your wife can become in your marital course



You tested HIV negative? Here's how to stay negative...

Congratulations on taking care of your life by testing for HIV. There are 2 outcomes when you test for HIV. You either test positive or negative. Both outcomes are manageable and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has made it easy for the nation to get assistance to treat HIV or prevent HIV. This week's article focuses on prevention of HIV for those who test HIV negative.

4 ways to prevent yourself from getting HIV after a recent confirmed HIV negative result:

1. Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC)

Research shows that male circumcision can reduce the sexual transmission of HIV from females to males by 60 percent. This is a medical procedure performed by a trained doctor and nurse. Globally, VMMC is recommended as a key component of HIV prevention for countries. If you are not circumcised, visit Litsemba Letfu Men's Clinic in Matsapha or call us at 1212 to get information on a site that performs VMMC around you.



2. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

PrEP is a way for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of getting it to prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day. When you have a partner who is HIV positive and you are negative, you need to consider PrEP as it can work for you to keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection. When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. PrEP is much less effective if it is not



3. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Post-exposure prophylaxis is a medication taken after one high-risk event to prevent HIV infection. PEP should be used only in emergency situations and must be started within 72 hours after a recent possible exposure to HIV. If you think you've recently been exposed to HIV, talk to your health care provider about PEP right away.



4. Correct and consistent condom use

Finally, correct and consistent condom use is important for anyone engaging in sexual activity with someone whose status is unknown or who may have been at risk of HIV infection, or when one partner is HIV positive. Using condoms consistently and correctly will help further protect you from the risks of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies.



We would like to hear from you. Contact us for your feedback or question. Call our toll free number 1212 and follow us on social media as shown :

Litsemba Letfu
Got it? Get it
New start Swaziland

Special Feature

By Tim Stickings

Two EU officials have tested positive for coronavirus in Brussels, it emerged yesterday, in the first cases to strike the bloc's institutions.

One patient, a European Defence Agency staffer, had recently returned from Italy and tested positive after feeling ill at the weekend.

Meetings at the headquarters of the Brussels-based defence agency have been cancelled until March 13 as a result.

The second virus patient works in a security unit of the European Council and is believed to have been in contact with a previous case in Belgium, an EU official said.

The European Defence Agency staffer returned from Italy on February 23, started feeling sick on Saturday and subsequently tested positive. 'We have confirmation of the case,' European Commission Spokeswoman Dana Spinant said.

EDA Spokeswoman Elisabeth Schoeffmann denied a report that the man had attended a four-hour meeting with 30 other officials before he was diagnosed.

The report by Euractiv had claimed that one of those other officials was already being tested for coronavirus.

The European Parliament has already limited public access to its buildings in Brussels and Strasbourg, amid fears that large gatherings could hasten the spread of the global outbreak.

But by Wednesday this rule was already

Two EU officials test positive for coronavirus



under fire after an exception was made for teenage activist Greta Thunberg, who is in Brussels to lobby for more determined climate action.

The Belgian health ministry said that any case reported in the EU Brussels agencies would be counted in the Belgian figures as they track the spread of the virus.

That also includes the second EU case, who is thought to have been in contact with another patient in Belgium.

There have been at least 23 cases in Belgium, 10 of them reported within the last 24 hours.

Nine of the 10 new cases represent victims who have recently returned from Italy, the worst hit so far of European nations. Belgian media today reported the first case which had been transmitted on Belgian soil, rather than brought home from abroad.

European Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen said earlier this week that the EU's disease prevention agency ECDC had raised the risk level 'from moderate to high'.

"In other words, the virus continues to spread," she told reporters.

To coordinate the EU reaction to the out-

break, EU health ministers will gather in Brussels today for an extraordinary meeting, the second this year to address the coronavirus crisis.

The health council could be held in parallel with an extraordinary meeting of EU migration ministers, an official said.

EU experts have so far agreed that turning people potentially infected with the virus back at borders could help spread the disease, but this position is subject to weekly reviews.

Closing Schengen's internal borders on health grounds would be unprecedented.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

SA'S FIRST COVID-19 CASE KNOCKS RAND

JOHANNESBURG - The Rand weakened yesterday on the confirmation of the first coronavirus case in South Africa, surrendering the gains it made earlier on the narrowing of the current account deficit.

The Rand fell to R15.53 against the Dollar at 4.14pm as the market digested the news of the confirmation of the virus.

By 5pm, the currency exchanged hands 17 cents lower against the greenback at R15.5204.

Banking stocks also retreated 0.89 per cent to 7742.89 points, while mining stocks also fell 0.54 to 40433.47 points. The JSE All Share Index and the Top 40 Index remained flat.

Peregrine Treasury Solutions' Bianca Botes said the market had been rattled by the confirmation of the virus in the country.

"The markets are on edge, with many questioning the ability of the government to deal with a breakout in South Africa efficiently," Botes said.

Earlier, the Rand took slight relief after data showed the current account deficit narrowed to its lowest in nearly a decade in the last quarter of 2019.

The SA Reserve Bank said that the



deficit narrowed to 1.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) from a shortfall of 3.7 per cent in the third quarter.

The central bank said that the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments eased by R120 billion to R68.1bn in the fourth quarter of 2019 from R188.1bn in the third quarter.

As a ratio of GDP the current account deficit narrowed further to 1.3 per cent from 3.7 per cent in the same period. On an annual basis, the ratio narrowed to three per cent in 2019 from 3.5 per cent in 2018.

The trade balance showed a wider surplus of R102.5bn in the fourth quarter, more than double the revised R44bn surplus in the previous three months.

The SA Chamber of Commerce and Industries also said business confidence rose marginally in February on lower inflation, increased imports and new vehicles sales.

However, the Rand had tracked emerging-market currencies that weakened as investors weighed the spread of the coronavirus and California calling a state of emergency. *Business Report*

Midlands school confirms closure amid first case confirmation

DURBAN - Cowan House Preparatory School in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands announced that there will be no school yesterday and all extra-curricular activities, including sports events, will be cancelled.

This comes in the wake of reports that a parent at the school was confirmed as the first South African to have tested positive for coronavirus in the country. It is believed that the patient's children are enrolled at the school. "At this stage there is limited information available to the school to inform the decision of whether to close the school or not. We have been in constant communication with the experts of the

National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD). Their advice has been that it is unnecessary to close the school. However, due to the lack of clarity and uncertainty at this point, we have taken the conservative decision to close school," said school Headmaster, Derek Braans.

He said the closure will afford the school time and the opportunity to obtain additional advice and guidance.

"We do not wish to create alarm or unnecessary concern, but feel a conservative action is appropriate under these circumstances," he said. Braans said further information will be communicated to parents and the community. *The Mercury*

Thaba Nchu community fearful after quarantine rumours circulate

FREE STATE - The small rural community of Thaba Nchu in the Free State is fearful and angry after rumours spread that the town will be chosen as a site of quarantine for South Africans returning from Wuhan, China - the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Black Mountain Hotel, perched on a mountain at the end of a long, isolated road in Groot Hoek, has allegedly been inspected by government for this purpose. Should these rumours be

true, and the Black Mountain Hotel has indeed been selected to quarantine South Africans evacuating Wuhan, some say there will be an uproar in the community.

News24 understands that government has already inspected Black Mountain Reserve, but according to Popo Maja, spokesperson for the Department of Health, 83 other sites in South Africa have also been inspected and no final decision has been made on the location for quarantine.

News24

Pull out all the stops - WHO warns

GENEVA - The global march of the new virus triggered a vigorous appeal from the World Health Organisation yesterday for governments to pull out 'all the stops' to slow the epidemic, as it drained colour from India's spring festivities, closed Bethlehem's Nativity Church and blocked Italians from visiting elderly relatives in nursing homes.

As China, after many arduous weeks, appeared to be winning its epic, costly battle against the new virus, the fight was revving up in newly affected areas of the globe, unleashing disruptions that profoundly impacted billions of people.

The UN health agency urged all countries to 'push this virus back,' a call to action reinforced by figures showing there are now about 17 times as many new infections outside China as in it. To date, the virus has infected nearly 97 000 people and killed over 3 300.

"This is not a drill. This is not the time for giving up."

This is not a time for excuses. This is a time for pulling out all the stops," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a daily briefing in Geneva.

"Countries have been planning for scenarios like this for decades. Now is the time to act on those plans."

Virus fears also affected the joyful Indian celebration of Holi, in which Hindu revellers celebrate the arrival of spring with bursts of colour, including bright powders smeared on faces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders said they wouldn't attend Holi events and the Holi Moo Festival in New Delhi was cancelled.

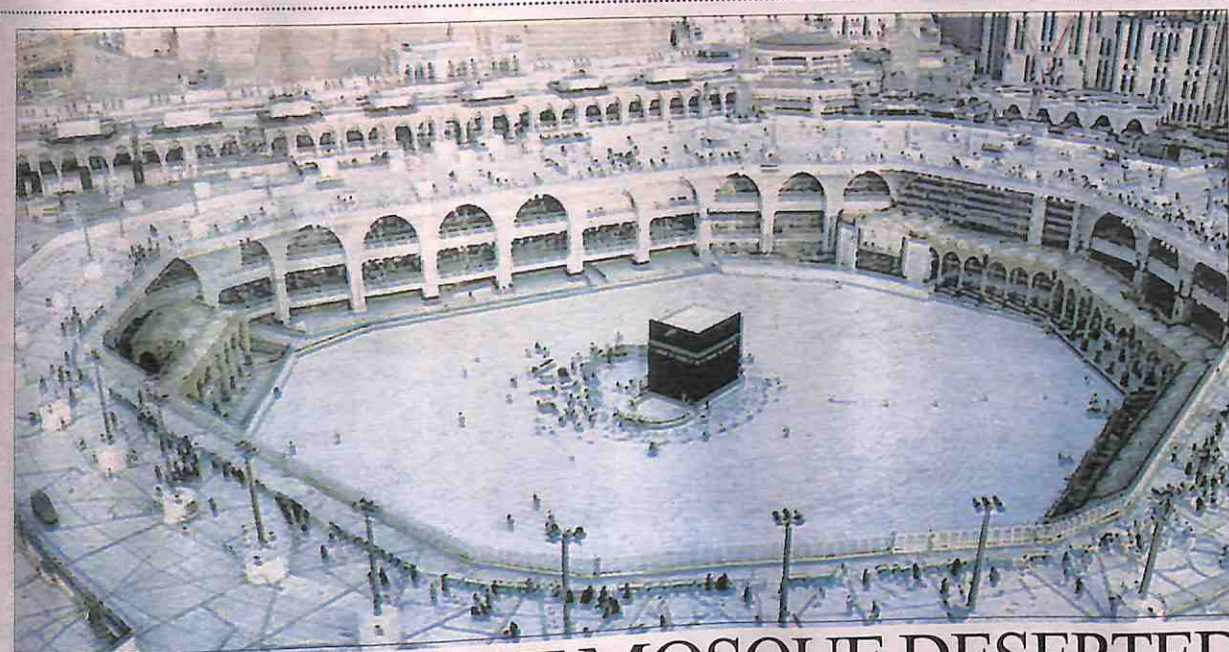
Palestinian officials closed the storied Church of the Nativity in the biblical city of Bethlehem indefinitely, weeks ahead of the busy Easter holiday.

The Christian holy site closed indefinitely from 4pm yesterday after suspected virus cases emerged in the town.

The news is a blow to tens of thousands of worshippers who were expected to descend on the church for Easter next month.

Daily Mail

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.



MECCA'S GREAT MOSQUE DESERTED

MECQA - The central courtyard of the Great Mosque of Mecca was completely closed on Thursday as workers disinfected it in an attempt to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Photos and videos showed the area around the cuboid Kaaba - the holiest site in Islam - completely deserted except for cleaners in near-unprecedented scenes.

It comes after Saudi Arabia banned its citizens from making pilgrimages to the site, having already banned for-

eigners from coming amid fears it was spreading the virus.

The courtyard of the mosque is at its busiest during the Hajj Pilgrimage - which this year falls during July and August - but remains busy throughout the year for Umrah Pilgrimages, meaning it is almost never empty.

Saudi Arabia has so far confirmed five cases of coronavirus, all of them in citizens who had recently returned from Iran - which it at the centre of the outbreak in the Middle East - or their relatives.

Having initially dismissed the outbreak as 'no big deal', Iran's mullahs seemed to have woken up to the scale of the crisis as yesterday prayers were cancelled in major cities to prevent the disease spreading.

It comes after troops were placed on alert to help deal with the crisis, travel between major cities was restricted, holy sites were disinfected, and 54 000 prisoners who had tested negative were freed to stop it spreading in jails.

The country has also urged people not to use paper money. *Daily Mail*

SOMALIS TURN TO DR HYENA

MOGADISHU - The growls from the caged hyena reverberate through the room as Mohamed Sheikh Yakub slumps silently in a chair nearby, hoping the animal will frighten away the evil spirits he says have troubled him since his divorce.

The traditional treatment - rooted in the belief that hyenas can devour the 'jinns' or spirits widely blamed in the region for depression and mental illness - takes place in a sweltering shack in Somalia's capital Mogadishu.

The Horn of Africa nation, which has suffered decades of civil war, only has three trained psychiatrists, the World Health Organization says.

In the absence of conventional therapies, many people are turning to traditional healers including Yakub's exorcist - a spry 70-year-old called Aden Igaal who goes by the name of Dr. Hyena.

Medics at the capital's Turkish-funded Erdogan Hospital say there is no scientific basis for the treatment. "I don't think it can help," said neurosurgeon Dr. Nur Abdullahi Karshe.

Psychiatric nurse Abdirahman Ali Awale, known as 'Dr. Habeeb', says he always encourages people to get clinical rather than traditional treatment.

"I am trying to educate them to not go to the hyenas," he said.

But patients at Dr. Hyena's shack and their families say they have little choice given the shortage of alternatives.

Fatuma Ahmed says she took her 13-year-old daughter to Dr Hyena after giving up on other avenues.

"I took her to every hospital in Mogadishu but wasted my money. I was hopeless," Ahmed tells Reuters. She says the treatment worked.

Reuters

'Courts abused to weaken the Public Protector's office'

PRETORIA - South Africa's judicial system is being abused by politicians and if this trend is not reined in, other institutions that demand accountability - like the Office of the Auditor-General - will also find themselves under attack, says Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane.

Speaking at an event held by the Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa at the University of Witwatersrand on Thursday night, Mkhwebane argued that the country's courts were now taking over the role of running institutions, instead of

administering justice.

The Public Protector has been taken to court numerous times by politicians unhappy with the findings of her reports, including President Cyril Ramaphosa and Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan.

Last year, Mkhwebane found that the president deliberately misled Parliament when he responded to a question about a R500 000 donation by late Bosasa CEO Gavin Watson to his 2017 ANC presidential campaign.

She has also made several findings against Gordhan.

News24

Sex workers being victims

CAPE TOWN - Sex workers and transwomen have called on the government to not only remember them during the launch of HIV/Aids campaigns, as a key demographic, but also when discussions are held about women subjected to gender-based violence. In the second report of the "Say Her Name" campaign launched on Thursday, by the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task-force in partnership with Sisonke Sex Worker Movement, the number of murdered and abused sex workers was highlighted.

Reuters

Ouattara will not run in election

KONRAKY - Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara said on Thursday he would not run in October's election, ending months of speculation over his intentions. "I would like to solemnly announce that I will not be a candidate in the October 31, 2020 presidential election and I will transfer power to the younger generation," Ouattara said in a speech to Congress. Ouattara came to power in 2011 after a prolonged crisis that ended with the ousting of then-president Laurent Gbagbo following bloodshed that claimed 3 000 lives.

AFP

Five police killed in restive north

ABUJA - Jihadists have killed five policemen in an attack on a northern Nigerian town where more than 100 schoolgirls were abducted two years ago, residents said. Fighters aligned to Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in four trucks fitted with machine guns stormed Dapchi Town in northeastern Yobe State late on Wednesday, sparking intense fighting with security forces, according to local residents. "This morning, we collected the bodies of five policemen killed in the fight with the insurgents," a resident told AFP on condition of anonymity.

DPA

Ninow appeals conviction

JOHANNESBURG - Convicted child rapist Nicholas Ninow is appealing his sentence and conviction. He was sentenced to life in prison for raping a then seven-year-old girl at a Dros Restaurant in Pretoria. Ninow confessed to raping the child, saying she walked in on him in the bathroom where he was doing drugs. The court, however, found that he stalked the victim and followed her to the bathroom where the rape occurred.

eNCA



'MNANGAGWA BE NOT SURPRISED BY RENEWAL OF US SANCTIONS'

HARARE - The newly formed opposition People's Party led by Walter Mzembi has slammed President Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration for pretending to be surprised by the renewal of United States sanctions on ZANU PF elites adding that the regime was failing to institute "real" reforms.

In a statement seen by Nehanda Radio, the party led by Mzembi, a former Foreign Affairs minister under the late President Robert Mugabe's administration, accused Mnangagwa of failing to unite Zimbabweans after he grabbed power during the November 2017 military coup.

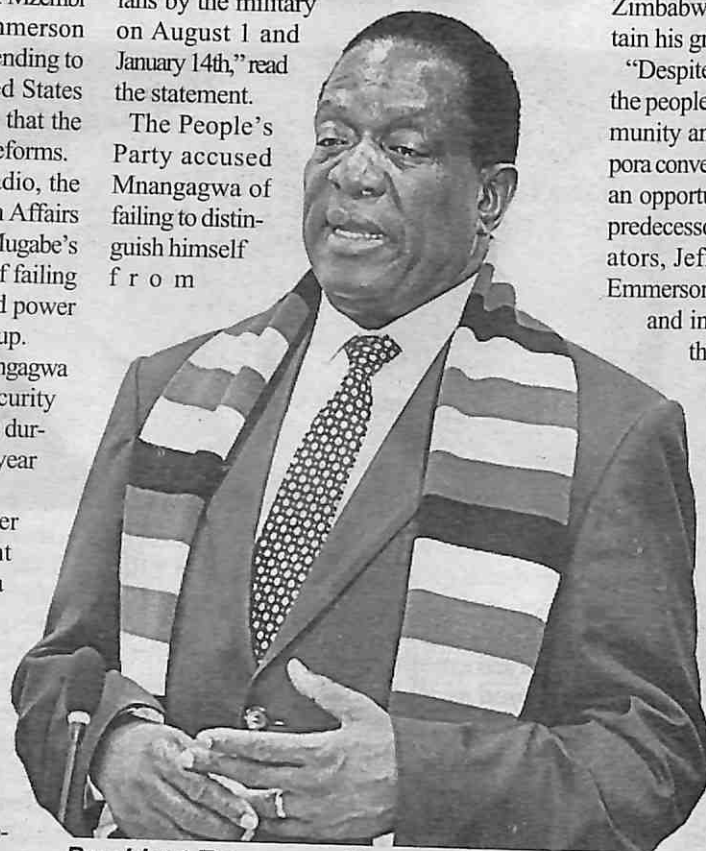
The US has been constantly telling Mnangagwa to hold to account members of the security forces involved in the killing of civilians during public disturbances in August 2018 year and January 2019.

"After the military coup of November 2017 that overthrew former President Robert Mugabe, Emmerson Mnangagwa was presented with an excellent opportunity to change the political trajectory of the nation of Zimbabwe.

"An excellent opportunity to unite Zimbabweans across the political divide. He failed to do so. Instead his presidency has been characterised by summary arrests of opposition members, ex-

cution of unarmed civilians by the military on August 1 and January 14th," read the statement.

The People's Party accused Mnangagwa of failing to distinguish himself from



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Mugabe, who in his time as the President of Zimbabwe used repressive measures to maintain his grip on power.

"Despite a history of human rights violations, the people of Zimbabwe, the international community and indeed Zimbabweans in the diaspora converged and gave Emmerson Mnangagwa an opportunity to distinguish himself from his predecessor. "In fact, in a meeting with US senators, Jeff Flake and Chris Coons in 2018, Emmerson Mnangagwa assured Zimbabweans and indeed the international Community that real reforms would be implemented. This has not happened," added the People's Party.

The People's Party said it was concerned with the direction the country has taken adding that, "people are suffering whilst those connected to the Mnangagwa administration live lavish lives."

"The deep economic problems, are a result of mis-governance, corruption and the deep-rooted patronage culture. The People's Party will not continue to watch this regime impoverish the citizens of Zimbabwe.

Nehanda Radio

Imam, wife charged under Uganda's anti-gay laws

KAMPALA - An imam and the 'wife' he married without realising 'she' was a man have been charged with 'going against nature' under Uganda's anti-gay laws.

Sheikh Mohammed Mutumba, 27, and Richard Tumushabe, 19, were bailed last Thursday ahead of their trial for 'having carnal knowledge with a person against the order of nature.'

Mutumba, who has been suspended from duties at his mosque in Kayunga, claims he only discovered Tumushabe was a man when police arrested his 'wife' for theft.

Mutumba claimed he hadn't been intimate with his 'wife' since the wedding two weeks before because Tumushabe said 'she' was menstruating.

The pair were released on 1 million



shillings (£200) bail each at Mukono

Magistrates' Court.

Tumushabe, who is also charged with two counts of theft, admitted pretending to be a woman so he could marry the imam and steal his money, local media reported.

Mutumba said he thought he was marrying a woman called Swabullah Nabukeera when they wed in a traditional Islamic ceremony in December.

But Tumushabe was shocked when he was arrested for theft of a television set and clothes from his next door neighbours in January.

A female police officer carried out a body search on the suspect, thinking Tumushabe was a woman, and found out he was actually a man.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

World News

'I DID IT TO MANAGE MY ANXIETIES'

NEW YORK—Bill Clinton claims that his affair with Monica Lewinsky was one of the 'things I did to manage my anxieties'.

The former President suggests, in an explosive documentary seen by DailyMailTV, that he had the fling with the ex-White House intern while he was in office because it helped with his own issues.

Bill reveals that at the time he met Lewinsky the pressure of the job made him feel like a boxer who had done 30 rounds and he looked at Lewinsky as 'something that will take your mind off it for a while'.

He makes the claims in an interview featured in the new documentary series that will air on Hulu about his wife Hillary Clinton, called 'Hillary', where the former First Lady and Secretary of State candidly reveals that in the aftermath of the scandal the couple underwent 'painful' marriage counseling.

Bill offers an apology to Lewinsky in the documentary that premiered yesterday, and says he felt 'terrible' that her life was defined by their affair.

But he said that at some point when things don't return to normal 'you've got to decide how to define normal', suggesting the infamous former intern should just move on.

The four-part series features extraordinary access to the Clintons' inner circle and examines Hillary's public life from her student days to losing the 2016 election to Donald Trump.

But the part about the Lewinsky affair - which

the political couple rarely address in public - will likely be the most scrutinised.

The scandal led to Bill being impeached in 1998. But he survived the trial in the Senate and remained in office during his second term.

The last time Bill spoke about the scandal was in 2018 and it backfired spectacularly

because he said that he did not owe Lewinsky a private apology.

Emotional

This time he went through in great detail, at times appearing emotional as he talked about the moment he finally came clean to his wife.

His hand was forced in 1998 when it became apparent he had lied to a grand jury investigating his personal affairs by denying the affair.

Bill had also denied it to Hillary - and she believed him.

He said in the interview: "I went and sat on the bed and talked to her.

I told her exactly what happened, when it happened. I said I feel terrible about it. We've been through quite a bit in the last few years.

I said I have no defense, it's inexcusable what I did".

Hillary tells the cameras: "I was just devastated. I could not believe it. I was so personally just hurt and I can't believe this, I can't believe you lied."

Hillary told Bill that he was the one who had to tell their daughter Chelsea, who was 18 at the time.

He thought it was worse than telling his wife and he said that doing so was 'awful'.

Asked why he took such a risk with his family, his marriage and his country, Bill said he wasn't thinking about those things when he cheated.

Instead, the pressures of being in the White House led him to seek a distraction. *Daily Mail*



TO MANAGE: Bill Clinton.

R. Kelly pleads not guilty to child pornography charges

NEW YORK - R. Kelly has pleaded not guilty to an updated federal indictment that includes child pornography charges and abuse allegations from a new accuser.

Kelly, 53, wore prison garb before a judge while his attorney entered the plea on his behalf at an arraignment hearing in Chicago on Thursday. Authorities recently seized more than 100 electronic devices, including cell phones and hard drives, in the case against Kelly and Prosecutor Angel Krull said the government plans to file more charges in the upcoming weeks.

A new accuser has also come forward, but the details of their claim has not been made public. Potential of new charges was one of the reasons U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber pushed the R&B singer's April 27 trial to October 13.

The 13-count superseding indictment, which was unsealed last month, is similar to the original indictment but includes a reference to a new accuser, listed only as 'Minor 6.'

Kelly is reported to have met the girl in either 1997 or 1998, when she was 14 or 15-years-old. He is accused of engaging in sexual contact or sexual acts with her when she was under 18. *Daily Mail*

Dubai ruler to face UK justice over kidnap of daughter

LONDON—Ministers helped a billionaire sheikh get away with the kidnap of his daughter from the streets of Britain, the High Court has heard, and now British authorities are facing pressure to bring the Gulf state monarch to justice.

The ruler of Dubai, a friend of the Queen and close UK ally, ordered henchmen to abduct Princess Shamsa from Cambridge in 2000, a judge found.

The teenager said armed bodyguards grabbed her, injected her with sedatives and rendered her to Dubai, where she was tortured.

Yet when Cambridgeshire police launched a criminal probe, it was allegedly shut down amid 'interference' by the Foreign Office - as a diplomatic favour. In an astonishing ruling, Sheikh Mohammed al-Maktoum, one of the world's richest men, is today also exposed as having waged a campaign of 'fear and intimidation' against his youngest wife, Princess Haya, who fled to Britain last year fearing that he would kill her. The court found he masterminded behaviour which, on the balance of probabilities, potentially runs 'contrary to the criminal law of England and Wales, international law and internationally accepted human rights norms'.

Daily Mail

WARREN ENDING HER PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN - REPORTS

NEW YORK—Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren is dropping out of the Democratic presidential race after failing to win a single state on Super Tuesday, including her own, US media reported.

The 70-year-old progressive lawmaker will hold a call with her campaign staff to announce that she is suspending her bid for the party's presidential nomination, The New York Times, CNN and other US media outlets said.

Warren had taken a battering at the polls, not placing first or second in any of the 18 polls she contested in.

She follows other hopeful Michael Bloomberg, who dropped out this week, but threw his support behind candidate Joe Biden.

Warren led some national polls last summer but she never managed to build a broad coalition to carry her through to success in the primaries, finishing behind fellow progressive Bernie Sanders and moderate Biden in 14 states on Super Tuesday.

Warren's withdrawal makes the Democratic race effectively a two-man contest between Biden, the 77-year-old former vice president, and Sanders, the 78-year-old Vermont senator.

Warren finished third in her home state of Massachusetts behind Biden and Sanders on Tuesday.

Warren's decision to drop out comes one day after that of billionaire former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, who quit on Wednesday after a disappointing Super Tuesday performance and endorsed Biden.

According to the Times, Warren does not plan to make an endorsement when she announces that she is quitting the race.

Sanders told reporters that he had spoken to Warren on Wednesday. *DPA*

BRIEFS

Turkey, Russia agree to ceasefire

MOSCOW - Turkey and Russia announced a ceasefire in northern Syria on Thursday, agreeing to end weeks of heavy fighting that sparked a humanitarian disaster and raised fears of their armies clashing. The agreement will also create a security corridor along the key M4 highway in northern Syria, where Turkish and Russian forces will launch joint patrols from 15 March. The deal aims to put a stop to intense fighting in Idlib, the northwestern province of Syria. *AFP*

First venomous snake bite reported

DUBLIN - The miracles of the saints just aren't appreciated like they used to be. A 22-year-old Dublin man was hospitalised after being bitten by a snake - the first venomous snake bite reported in Irish history, according to the Irish Post - just weeks before the world celebrates St. Patrick's Day. Legend has it that Saint Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland more than 1,500 years ago. Despite this obvious blessing, people can still import them, even venomous ones, as pets. *Reuters*

Suu Kyi honour revoked

LONDON—The City of London Corporation on Thursday revoked an honour granted to Aung San Suu Kyi over the treatment of minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Elected representatives on the body that runs London's historic centre and financial district voted to revoke the freedom of the city granted to Suu Kyi three years ago. The move followed her appearance, as Myanmar's civilian leader, at The International Court of Justice in The Hague to personally defend her country. *DPA*

Weinstein moved to Rikers Island

NEW YORK - Former movie producer Harvey Weinstein, who was convicted of rape and sexual assault last week, was being transferred to New York's Rikers Island jail complex from Bellevue Hospital after undergoing heart surgery, according to his spokesman. Weinstein was in the process of being moved shortly after 1 p.m. (1800 GMT), said his spokesman, Juda Engelmayer. He was taken to Bellevue following his conviction on Feb. 24. *AFP*

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RN173862



It's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength



Shirley Siphumelele
Masango (LaKunene)

Kwatsiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Shirley Siphumelele Masango (LaKunene) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni ufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eMacetjeni (eMphosi) ngeLisontfo 08/03/2020 emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Allen Duma Masango umnyeni wakhe.



Mvaleliseni Elliot
Dlamini

Kwatsiswa tihlobo, bantfwa benkhosi base Mbikwakhe kutsi mkhulu Mvaleliseni Elliot Dlamini akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya kakhe eMacetjeni eMphosi ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 07/03/2020 emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngeMalangeni.



'Gudaguda' Motsa

Friends and relatives of Phumelela 'Gudaguda' Motsa are notified of his Demise. Funeral will be held at his parental home at Bulunga, Ndlandlameni on Saturday morning commencing at 06h00, 7th March 2020 after a night vigil. Announcement by his family.



Jabulane Mandla
Mabuza

Kwatsiswa tihlobo nemndeni wa Jabulane Mandla Mabuza kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa nebasekhakhakhe baka Nhlengetfwa. Utawufihlwa mhlaka 08/03/2020 emuva kwemlindzelo ngeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkakhe egameni lemndeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eMphaphati.



Thulisile Otilia
Phangisa

Friends and relatives of Thulisile Otilia Phangisa are notified of her demise. She passed away on the 28/02/2020 and She will be laid to rest on 07/03/2020 at her parental home at Mangweni Tingonini. Announcement by family.

JOB 13:15

Though He slay me,
yet will I hope
in him; I will surely defend
my ways to his face.

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close to the
broken-hearted;
He rescues those
whose spirits are
crushed.

It's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength

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MAYWEATHER PREDICTS TYSON FURY WILL SOON BE DETHRONED

LAS VEGAS-Tyson Fury unquestionably holds the keys to the heavyweight division after hammering Deontay Wilder into submission in devastating fashion last month.

The self-styled Gypsy King captured the WBC world title and the Ring Magazine belt in his dismantling of Wilder and took his position as the rightful king of the giants.

Anthony Joshua, who holds four of the major belts, is the next major player while Wilder is still very much part of the heavyweight triumvirate.

Working quietly in the shadows below is a strong group of young up-and-comers and prodigious talents plotting their route to Fury and Joshua.

"There's going to be a heavyweight who is not from the UK and not from the US who is going to make a lot of noise. Everybody remember that, mark it down," he said.

Here are the next generation of heavyweights across the world set to make a splash in the next few years.

Adam Kownacki

You'll struggle to find a more game heavyweight than Adam Kownacki.

The 30-year-old has established a popular reputation Stateside for his toe-to-toe style but to brand him a slugger would be doing him a disservice.

Kownacki is a pressure fighter and a very effective one at that. For someone almost as rotund as Andy Ruiz Jr, he is relentless and picks his shots well.

He was in a bit of a life-and-death fight with Charles Martin - the former IBF world champion who Anthony Joshua blasted out in two rounds - back in 2018 but has mostly been comfortable in his 20 victories.

Kownacki boasts a decent resume, and has the scalps of Martin, Artur Szpilka, Gerald Washington and Chris Arreola.

He has been slowly creeping up the



rankings and is now on the cusp of the top 10. Although he's 30 years old, Kownacki is definitely a heavyweight to keep an eye on.

The Polish fighter is out against the well-respected Robert Helenius next and will move one step closer to title contention with victory.

Daniel Dubois

Probably one of the hottest prospects in boxing let alone just heavyweights, Daniel Dubois is next up on this list.

Dubois may be limited in terms of experience but he has taken to the professional ranks like a duck to water.

The Londoner has already chalked up 14 victories and will face Olympic silver medallist Joe Joyce in a massive all-British showdown next month.

Win that - as most are predicting - and he will already be considered a serious contender in the heavyweight division.

Tyson Fury sparred with him in 2017 and anointed him 'the future king of the

heavyweight division."

How does that saying go? Oh yeah, greatness recognises greatness.

In just three years, Dubois has risen from southern area to fringe world level and has displayed frightening power along the way, 13 of his 14 opponents not hearing the final bell.

And at just 22, he is only going to get better and better.

Arslanbek Makhmudov

Arslanbek Makhmudov's turning heads and for good reason.

The Russian has knocked out all of his 10 opponents - including seven in the first round - and has only been taken beyond the third round on one occasion.

So it's no surprise then that he's quickly gaining traction as one of the most explosive punchers in the heavyweight division.

At 6 foot 6 and 260 lbs Makhmudov is a physically imposing and intimidating figure.

He is much more of a brawler than a boxer and at times is hard on the eye, but what he lacks in elegance he more than makes up for with brute strength.

He is currently being trained by Marc Ramsay, who is probably best known for working with Jean Pascal.

Ramsay is convinced the 30-year-old is destined for the top but recently indicated that he's journey is being mapped out carefully so it may be a few years yet before we see him in the ring with Fury or Joshua.

Frank Sanchez

Call this left-field if you want but you can't have a list of prospects without including a Cuban!

Plus Frank Sanchez is a pretty handy fighter.

When we talk about a fighter's capabilities we always go back to amateur pedigree and Sanchez has that in abundance coming through Cuba's renowned amateur system.

Sanchez was a Cuban national cham-



pion and finished his amateur career with a record of 214-6, including wins over Erislandy Savon, who suffered a narrow defeat to Anthony Joshua at the London Olympics in 2012.

Since turning over, the 27-year-old has amassed 14 straight victories, 11 coming by way of knockout.

He faces the first big test of his professional career this weekend when he takes on American Joey Dawejko - not that he is expecting to fall short.

Asked about his chances of reaching the top last year, he said: 'One hundred per cent I will. I have all the pedigree in the world to become a world champion.'

He's a confident fellow then.

Efe Ajagba

Efe Ajagba is a 2014 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist and is unbeaten from 12 fights, registering 10 big knockouts.

At 6 foot 6 and built like an Adonis, Ajagba is a physically daunting man with serious power in his hands which more than compensates for his clumsiness and wildness.

The Nigerian had been tipped for a bright future but there are some reservations about him after he almost came off on the wrong end of a fire-fight with Iago Kiladze last time out.

The 25-year-old needs to make a few changes and be a bit more measured in his attacks as he won't want to be exposed again like he was against Kiladze, who floored him heavily moments after being knocked down himself.

Ajagba still looks like a future world-level fighter in my book and it will be interesting to see him rise up the ranks over the next year or so.

He fights veteran and former world title challenger Razvan Cojanu next which would be a good name to add his record at this stage of his career.

One to pay close attention to for sure. Blink and you'll miss it.

Michael Hunter

The American should be looking

onwards and upwards but instead a bad decision has left him standing still.

Most, if not everyone who watched the fight believed Michael Hunter beat Alexander Povetkin in Saudi Arabia back in December.

But the judges deemed it a draw. It was very harsh but doesn't change the fact that Hunter is still clearly a force to be reckoned with up at heavy-weight.

The 31-year-old has taken some brave moves since moving up in weight but has proved his class with comfortable wins over Alexander Ustinov, Martin Bakole and Sergey Kuzmin.

The only man to ever beat him in the professional ranks is Oleksandr Usyk when they were both cruiser-weights and there's no shame in that.

Hunter is ranked in the top 10 of all the governing bodies bar the WBC - who have him in 11th - and could find himself in a position to fight for a world title with two decent victories this year.

Filip Hrgovic

The sky is the limit for Filip Hrgovic according to those closest to the Croatian.

The way he has started his professional career, it's hard to disagree.

Hrgovic has won all 10 of his fights and knocked out former world title challenger Eric Molina in just his ninth pro contest in his last outing.

The 27-year-old won all three of his fights last year by knockout and was nominated for the World Boxing Council's (WBC) 'Prospect of the Year' award for 2019 - although Vergil Ortiz was the eventual winner.

He is already highly-ranked by most and closing in on a position to challenge for a world title next year.

Hrgovic is relatively unknown on these shores but did once make a splash in the UK after he sliced David Haye's eyebrow open during a sparring session in Vauxhall, causing his fight with Tyson Fury in 2013 to be postponed.

He is out again next month against Jerry Forrest, whose only defeats have come at the hands of Michael Hunter, Gerald Washington and Jermaine Franklin.

Ivan Dychko

Ivan Dychko is on a war path to Anthony Joshua.

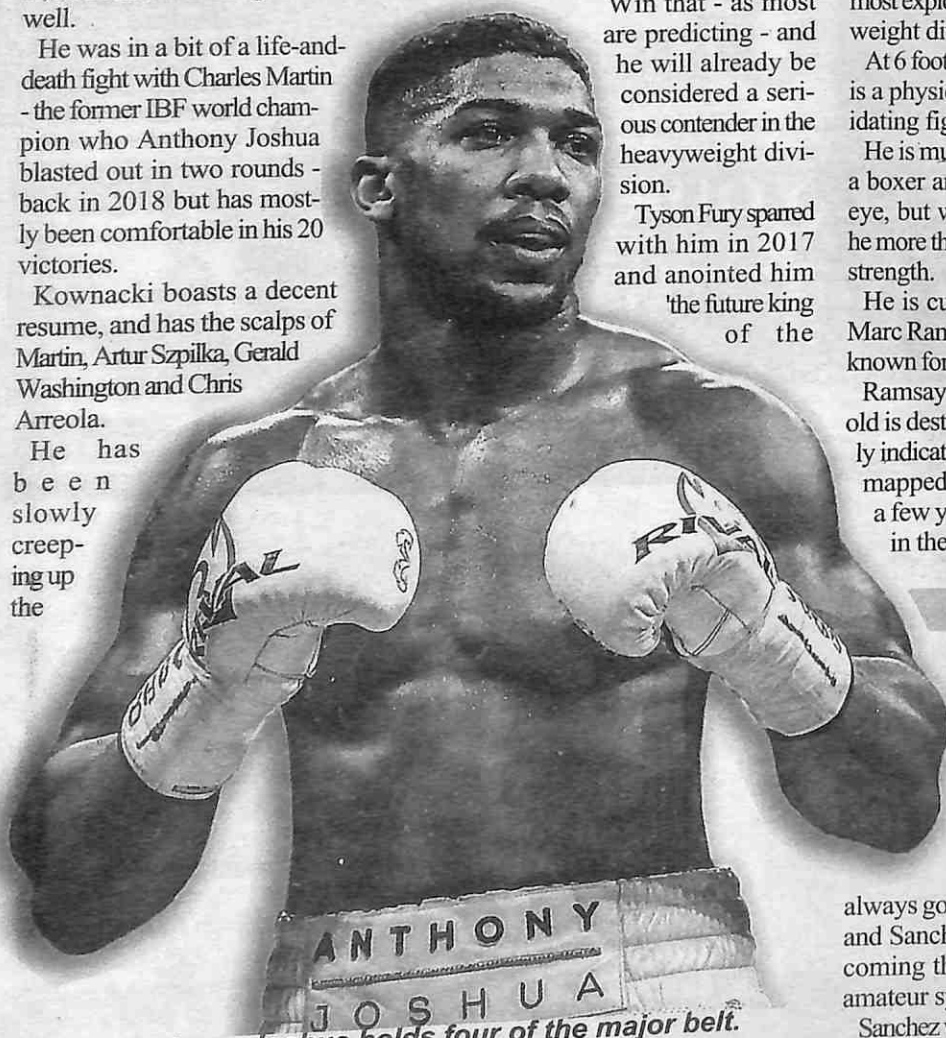
The Kazakhstan fighter's journey to the top of the heavyweight ladder is being fuelled by revenge and a sense of injustice.

The two-time Olympic super-heavyweight bronze medallist has a contentious history with Joshua after he was on the losing end of a contentious decision in the semi-finals of the London 2012 Games.

Since turning over in 2017, Dychko has set his sights on righting the wrongs of that night and has knocked out all nine of his opponents.

He even threw his name in the hat to fight Joshua last year, saying: 'He knows he didn't beat me then and he still can't beat me.'

Daily Mail



FOUR: Anthony Joshua holds four of the major belt.

GEMILI, FELLOW TEAM TO SETTLE SPONSOR AHEAD OF TOKYO 2020

LONDON - The heated marketing row that casts a shadow over Team GB's preparations for the Tokyo Olympics is expected to be resolved next week.

Sportsmail understands the group of leading athletes, fronted by Adam Gemili, are finalising the details of a compromise over the Rule 40 dispute with the British Olympic Association after almost four months of discussion.

The argument erupted in November when Gemili spoke out in this newspaper about 'ridiculous' and 'unlawful' marketing restrictions on athletes during the Games.

The sprinter was speaking as the head of a group — including Mo Farah, Katarina Johnson-Thompson and Laura Muir — who took the extraordinary step of launching legal action against the team they will represent in Japan.

Under the BOA interpretation of the International Olympic Committee's Rule 40, athletes are limited in how they can engage with their sponsors during the Games.

For example, they can only thank a personal sponsor with one tweet during the Olympics, which they argued has a drastic impact on their earning potential and was out of kilter with other nations.

The BOA pointed to the need to protect their own sponsorship which, they argued, was essential to cover the £60 million cost of supporting Team GB in an Olympic cycle.

While the concessions made on each

side have been portrayed by one source as nothing seismic, the end to a messy impasse is timely with less than five months until the start of the Olympics.

In December, the BOA had said it was "dismayed by the legal tactics being conducted in the background, which in no way reflect the spirit of the discussions held".

Daily Mail



COMPROMISE: Adam Gemili.

WINGER MARTINS BANNED FOR SIX MONTHS

MONACO - Gelson Martins has been slapped with a six-month ban after the Monaco midfielder pushed the referee in defeat to Nimes.

The Portuguese international was shown a straight red card last month for pushing match referee Mikael Lesage having taken issue with a red card for team-mate Tiemoue Bakayoko moments prior.

Bakayoko was dismissed for a hazardous tackle and having pushed Lesage once to express his annoyance, Martins bizarrely produced an even harder push

once he had been sent off.

The Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP) which acts as a disciplinary panel in French football felt the 'brutality' of the situation merited a hefty six-month suspension to end the 24-year-old's season early.

"After examining the file and hearing the player, the commission has decided to sanction Gelson Martins with a closed six-month ban," the statement by the LFP read. This decision is effective from February 6.

The consequence of the ban means Martins will not play again for Monaco

this season and is now likely to be excluded from Euro 2020 selection.

Martins had expressed his regret at the pushes on the referee soon after the match and the club had hoped that his previously clean disciplinary record would have acted in his favour come the judgement of the LFP.

Monaco are currently seventh in Ligue 1 and will now chase down the six-point deficit on fourth-placed LOSC Lille without Martins.

So far this season, Martins produced four goals and one assist from his 23 appearances. *DPA*

Braithwaite hails amazing Messi for helping him settle in club

BARCELONA - Barcelona striker Martin Braithwaite has heaped praise on Lionel Messi for helping him settle at the club following his shock move to the Nou Camp.

The Danish striker was drafted in as an emergency signing last month with Barcelona left short of attacking options by a long-term injury to Ousmane Dembele.

Braithwaite has so far made just two appearances off the bench for Quique Setien's side as he continues to find his feet at the Spanish giants.

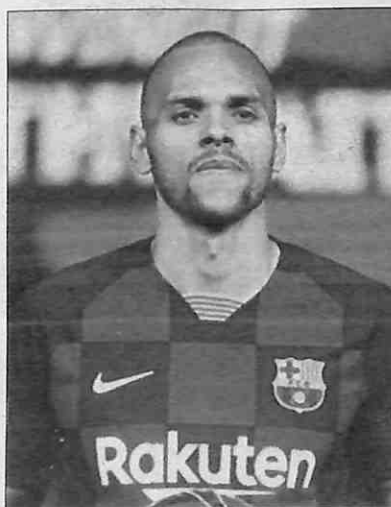
But he has hailed the support he has been given from team-mates, notably Lionel Messi, and said recently that Messi is the god of football.

Asked how the Argentine has helped him adapt to his new surroundings, Braithwaite told Mundo Deportivo: "Amazing. He is a great guy, he is waiting to help the players."

"He is helping me to join the team and in the field, of course, it is incredible, it is nice to see him."

Asked how he feels now he has had time to process his big move, the former Middlesbrough striker said: "Amazing. It has been an incredible beginning."

"It is a great club, the feelings I have are really special. Despite its greatness, it is a family club, everyone helps you, there is a warm energy for everything to be positive." *Sports Mail*



HAILS: Martin Braithwaite.

Rory McIlroy's the man to beat

NEW YORK - Another masterpiece from Rory McIlroy but a nightmare first round for Tommy Fleetwood at the Arnold Palmer Invitational to suggest he was more bothered by Paul Azinger's intemperate words than he let on.

While the Northern Irishman shot a six-under-par 66 to continue the sublime form that has seen him post six successive top-five finishes, the Englishman who has been almost as consistent stumbled to a score no fewer than 10 shots worse.

McIlroy is one shot off the lead held by American Matt Every, who shouldn't be underestimated given his two wins as a pro both came in this event.

Fleetwood's goal yesterday was preserving his record of not missing a cut for almost three years — by far the longest of any current player — which is under grave threat.

Fleetwood finished third here last year but spent the build-up in the middle of a media storm, after Azinger had dismissed the Merseysider's considerable achievements to this point in a television commentary last Sunday and said he had to win in America to prove himself.

Interestingly, in an exclusive interview with Sportsmail, Fleetwood pointed out the damage such comments could cause to a player's mental health. While he did not think it would

bother him, it hardly seems coincident that this was the first time in 118 rounds on the PGA Tour that he failed to register a birdie.

McIlroy's first six holes included a ball in the water, a missed two-foot putt and another that came up short in the jaws of the hole.

The world No. 1, however, is so good right now that he can afford to give everyone a six-hole head start, and thereafter he was a man transformed, playing his last 12 holes in seven under.

He was not happy with his driving in his first three tournaments this year — he did, after all, only finish third, tied fifth and fifth — but some extra practice paid dividends with a formidable display of power hitting.

McIlroy led after the first round in Mexico a fortnight ago, only to fade. In words that sounded like a warning to the rest, the 30-year-old said:

"I'm playing a lot better here and this course suits my style of play more than Mexico."

Two Englishmen who have experienced their own frustrations of late found their way on to the leaderboard.

Tyrrell Hatton, back after a wrist operation took weeks longer than expected to heal, shot a fine 68 to be tied fifth.

"It makes you appreciate the game more after being desperate to start practising again, but the doctor tells you the wrist still needs a few weeks longer," he said.

Sports Mail



SAIL THROUGH: Jo Konta.

JO KONTA SAILS THROUGH TO QUARTER-FINALS

LONDON - Jo Konta booked her place in the last eight of the Monterrey Open with a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over Tatjana Maria.

The Briton, who kicked off the week with a straight-sets win against Kim Clijsters, had 10 break points without converting a single one on her way to a first-set tie-break against her German opponent.

The second seed eventually edged in front and a single break of serve in the second set was enough to wrap up the match in an hour and 47 minutes.

Konta will now meet Russian teenager Anastasia Potapova in the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, top seed Sofia Kenin was on the brink of defeat but overcame qualifier Jaqueline Cristian to toil to reach the quar-

ter-finals of the Lyon Open.

Kenin was a set and a break down against the Romanian world No. 174 but forced a deciding set with two quick breaks.

The third set was also a tussle, Cristian blinking first as she was broken for 5-3, but Kenin also dropping a game as she served for the match before the American finally won 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4.

She will go on to face Oceane Dodin who had a walkover against Jil Belen Teichmann, while second-seed Kristina Mladenovic was dispatched in straight sets by Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-3, 6-3.

Seventh seed Daria Kasatkina beat Irina Maria Bara 6-3, 6-2 and Viktoria Kuzmova defeated Tereza Martincova 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Mail Online



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'Everyone knows how I feel about club that I supported as a boy'

LONDON - Roy Hodgson has signed a one-year contract extension to stay on as manager of Crystal Palace.

The 72-year-old has led the Eagles to 11th and 12th place finishes in the Premier League over the last two seasons and looks likely to keep them up this campaign.

The new deal will ensure Hodgson's managerial career will go beyond 44 years and he said he is 'delighted' to have agreed new terms with his boyhood club.

Hodgson said: "I am delighted that the club

and I have reached an agreement to extend my contract. I am proud of what we have achieved since I was appointed two and a half years ago, and I look forward to us working together for the foreseeable future.

"Everyone knows how I feel about the club that I supported as a boy, I feel a special bond with the supporters and know that myself, the owners and the players are all working together to achieve the same goal."

The former Liverpool and Fulham manager held preliminary discussions with Chair-

man Steve Parish earlier in the season, with his previous deal due to expire at the end of the campaign.

A new contract was placed in front of the former England manager midway through February and he has now agreed to extend his stay at Selhurst Park.

Parish added: "I'm delighted that Roy has agreed to extend his contract with the club, and has reinforced his commitment to help us extend this period of unprecedented stability in the top flight." *Sports Mail*



Giroud now wants to stay at Chelsea

LONDON - Olivier Giroud is eager to stay in west London for the foreseeable future with the in-form Frenchman aiming to secure a new contract at Chelsea.

The World Cup winner looked a certain January transfer window exit after the 33-year-old grew frustrated with a lack of game time with the Premier League club.

A move to join Inter Milan was very close to materialising while a switch to arch rivals Tottenham was on the cards before Chelsea pulled the plug on both deals having failed to sign a replacement.

However, owing to the injury to Tammy Abraham, Chelsea boss Frank Lampard has had to call on Giroud to lead the line and the Frenchman has turned in some standout performances.

Giroud has featured in Chelsea's last four games, and got on the scoresheet in last month's huge win over Spurs at Stamford Bridge.

That sort of form has rejuvenated the former Arsenal man, who is looking to sign an extended deal at the club. His current contract expires this summer. "Yes. Yes. Yeah, of course," he told the Evening Standard. "There are a few months to go, games to win and maybe another trophy, and after, you know, I think I have two (or) three nice seasons in front of me. It's not the time to talk about contracts and everything but I will take a decision when it comes."

Giroud revealed that the first half of the season was a struggle having seen first-team opportunities severely limited. "It was a tough month for me. I just spoke with the manager and I believed what he said, that I would get my chance and he has given me my chance." *Daily Mail*

THE BLUES BROTHERS

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana is set to leave Anfield in the summer, following the expiration of his contract.

The 31-year-old, who signed from Southampton in July 2014, will be available on a free transfer and a series of clubs have already begun to register an interest.

Lallana's contract comes to an end in June and the player has expressed a determination to play

more regular first-team football.

North London rivals Arsenal and Tottenham are each monitoring the situation, and are placed to make offers to the player's representatives.

Tottenham lost playmaker Christian Eriksen to Serie A giants Inter Milan in January, while Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta is on the lookout for ball-playing midfielders as he attempts to bring a possession-based style back to the Emirates.

Leicester City are also watching the player, with Manager Brendan Rodgers keen to add to his mid-field ranks.

Lallana signed for Liverpool during Rodgers' reign, and played briefly for the northern Irishman before later going on to flourish under successor Jurgen Klopp.

Liverpool parted with £25 million to take Lallana from Southampton, and handed the playmaker a fresh deal in February

2017, understood to be worth in the region of £150,000 per week putting the player in the upper bracket of earners at Anfield.

So far Liverpool have moved to tie down all first team players whose contracts are on the verge of expiring, apart from Lallana and fellow midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum, who has 18 months left on the five-year contract he signed when joining from Newcastle.

The Mail Online

Abraham scoops Premier League Player of the Year, Young Player of the Year

LONDON - Tammy Abraham earned double honours at the London Football Awards as he was crowned Premier League Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year at a star-studded bash in Camden.

A host of figures from the game attended the event, including David Seaman, Ashley Cole and Carlton Cole as players and organisations from across the region were recognised for their achievements.

While Chelsea striker Abraham, 22, took the headline awards, Ben Foster of Watford was named Goalkeeper of the Year and Arsenal forward Vivianne Miedema took the Women's Player of the Year prize for the second year in a row.

Abraham, in his first full season with Chelsea's first team, has struck 15

goals in 34 appearances across all competitions.

The Camberwell-born poacher also scored his first goal for England in a 7-0 rout of Montenegro in Euro 2020 qualifying in November.

The 22-year-old beat off competition from team-mate Jorginho and last year's winner Son Heung-min to claim the main prize, while he edged out another fellow Blue, Mason Mount, to lift the junior award.

Abraham has been the stand-out performer for Chelsea in a campaign notable for the large number of young players integrated into the squad, with Mason Mount, Fikayo Tomori and Callum Hudson-Odoi also to the fore.

There were a number of other awards also issued throughout the night at the event, held at Camden's Roundhouse. *Sports Mail*



Minamino admits he's still settling in at Anfield

LONDON - Liverpool new boy Takumi Minamino admits he is still settling into life at Anfield but says he is aware that he must start producing the goods quickly in order to 'win the trust from my teammates'.

The Japanese forward has been largely used as a fringe player by Jurgen Klopp following his January arrival from Red Bull Salzburg.

Minamino has so far made six appearances for the Reds, chalking up 322 minutes, but is yet to find the back of the net or provide an assist.

Team-mates Fabinho and Andy Robertson were both given time to adapt to Jurgen Klopp's methods before they were given regular game time and Minamino says he is still finding his feet but knows performances must follow soon.

"I don't really know how much I still need to learn. But day by day, I'm feeling that I understand his [Klopp's] philosophies and I'm getting better," Minamino told the club's official web-



site. "I have to show results. I think this is very important in order to win trust from the teammates and trust from the supporters. I think this is a very important thing that I have to achieve. "I have been in this club for three months and I haven't played many

games and my playing time is not that much - but this is not a good excuse. "In order to appeal to my teammates and [for them to] understand what I'm good at, I have to do what I really need to do."

Sports Mail

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Ingwenyama Cup Finals Programme

0600HRS – GATES OPEN
0615HRS – VENDORS
0800HRS - SOCIAL GAME (MVA VS KINGS OFFICE)
0900HRS – CULTURE COMPETITION
1145HRS – SOCIAL GAME (CEOS VS MPS)
1240HRS – SOCIAL GAME (PRINCES VS CHIEFS)
1320HRS – GRAND CLOSING
1415HRS – TROPHY PARADE/TEAMS WARM UP
1455HRS – INTRODUCTION OF TEAMS TO GUEST OF HONOUR
1500HRS – KICK-OFF (MBABANE HIGHLANDERS VS. GREEN MAMBA)

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YOUNG GUNS FIGHTING FOR ENGLAND'S EURO SQUAD SPOT

- Jadon Sancho, James Maddison and Tammy Abraham are now tipped for places
- Phil Foden, Mason Mount and Dean Henderson seen their names put in the hat
- But England boss Gareth Southgate can only pick a few for his 23-man squad

GARETH Southgate has been left in an enviable position ahead of Euro 2020 - an abundance of talented youngsters chomping at the bit to play. The likes of Jadon Sancho, James Maddison and Tammy Abraham have lit up the Premier League and Bundesliga and are tipped for places in the squad. And



recent performances from Phil Foden, Mason Mount and Dean Henderson have seen their names

chucked in the hat. But the England manager can only pick a select few for his 23-man squad, with some

destined to be disappointed this time around. Here, Sportsmail has sifted through the young stars who are giving Southgate something to think about and rated their chances of featuring in the Euros.

PHIL FODEN:

Calls for Phil Foden to be given a shot in the England squad have been ramped up after an impressive man of the match performance in the Carabao Cup final.

The 19-year-old Manchester City midfielder ran rings around Aston Villa and set up Sergio Aguero's 20th minute goal.

The teenager shone in front of England assistant Steve Holland at Wembley, while Gareth Southgate sat in for the Everton versus Manchester United game in Merseyside.

And after the match, Foden made his intentions clear, saying: 'I want to be there obviously but it's very difficult with the players that we have.'

'Hopefully, Gareth was watching the final and saw things that he liked. That is all I can do, just show what I can do every time I play and see where it takes me. The Three Lions face Italy and Denmark in two home friendlies over the next international break and Foden could yet become a wildcard option for the summer European Championship.

Euros chance: 7/10



JADON SANCHO:

A name on everyone's lips at the moment is Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho.

After leaving Manchester City for just £8million in August 2017, the 19-year-old has flourished in the Bundesliga and the likes of Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea are trying to lure him back to England.

Sancho has already bagged 14 league goals this season, tucking him in behind Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski on 25, and RB Leipzig's Timo Werner, who has 21.

The figure puts him level with Marcus Rashford in the Premier League and ahead of fellow England hopeful Tammy Abraham.

So far London-born Sancho has scored two goals in 11 appearances in an England shirt and is hoping to net a few more at the Euros.

He told Bundesliga.com in February: 'I would love to get picked. It would be my first major competition with England and obviously doing that at my age would be an amazing feeling for me and my family.'

Euros chance: 10/10



JAMES MADDISON:

James Maddison had already caught England bosses' eyes while at Norwich City in the Championship.

But the 23-year-old has proven he has what it takes to play in the top flight, having helped Leicester City surge to 3rd in the Premier League this season.

Maddison has enjoyed a stellar campaign as a vital cog in Brendan Roger's side, and looks set for Champions League football next season. His performances have earned him rave reviews with his nine goals and three assists only helping further his profile. Yet he has only made one appearance for England's senior side, in a 7-0 routing of Montenegro in a Euro 2020 Qualifying match in November.

And in October he was cautioned by Southgate when he was caught in a casino just hours after withdrawing from international duty.

Maddison was pictured gambling while England were losing to the Czech Republic, when he was supposed to be off sick. Southgate revealed Maddison had contacted him about the incident. **Euros chance: 8/10**



TODD CANTWELL:

Despite the Canaries sitting rock bottom of the Premier League, 21-year-old Todd Cantwell has starred in his first season in the top flight and has emerged as a key player under Daniel Farke. His form has attracted the attention of league giants Manchester United and Liverpool after impressing against both clubs.

Cantwell has six Premier League goals to his name, with half of those coming against Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal.

And the England Under 21 international is certainly confident in his ability, but has said he does not want it mistaken for arrogance.

He said after Norwich's narrow loss to Liverpool in February: 'I think I'm improving game by game and I feel like I'm becoming a better footballer. On a personal note, I'm loving it, playing in the Premier League against the best.'

At an international level Cantwell is yet to be given an opportunity to prove himself, with the Norfolk lad only making one start for Aidy Boothroyd's U21 side in September. Due to this, and seemingly endless list of midfielders available to Southgate for the Euros, it is unlikely Cantwell will get picked.

Euros chance: 2/10



TAMMY ABRAHAM:

If fit, Tammy Abraham looks destined to be a part of Southgate's England set up, especially with fears over Harry Kane's injury and Marcus Rashford a doubt.

The Chelsea forward was sidelined at the end of February to battle an ankle injury that had niggled him for over a month.

The ex-Aston Villa loanee has enjoyed an impressive breakthrough campaign in the capital, having scored 14 goals in 25 appearances.

But his stellar form was brought to an abrupt halt after sustaining a knock against Arsenal, with Abraham then failing to fully train throughout the top flight's two-week winter break. He may miss England's friendlies against Italy and Denmark in March, but will be hopeful for the Euros after Lampard said the injury would not require surgery. Abraham has shown he is made of the right stuff by ignoring what appeared to be the jinx of Chelsea's No 9 shirt to become a successful spearhead of their attack. He told Lampard in the summer he was ready for the role as 'pressure drives me on', scored in his first appearance in pre-season and has not looked back. Fifteen more goals have followed for club and country and Abraham is well-placed to don the national shirt in Kane's absence. **Euros chance: 7/10**



DECLAN RICE:

Declan Rice is almost single-handedly launching West Ham's survival bid, with a sequence of top performances to keep the east Londoners out of the bottom three.

The 21-year-old holding midfielder patrolled the defensive area against Southampton expertly to see the Hammers win 3-1.

For England he could be a suitable replacement for out-of-favour Tottenham player Eric Dier. And West Ham boss David Moyes has gone as far as to say Rice is the best in the role in the country.

Moyes realises he could lose Rice this summer, regardless of survival, and he likened his potential exit to the time he had to sell Wayne Rooney when Everton manager. The Scotsman said: 'Declan is arguably the best holding midfielder player in the country.'

'The best thing about Declan is he is young and he will get better. He's not missed a game, not missed a minute. What would be the first thing you want at a club? 'You tend to find clubs in trouble have loads of injuries, and Declan Rice hasn't missed a day's training or a game. Declan Rice is carrying a lot of the team at the moment.' Rice got three Ireland caps before switching to England, who he has played for seven times.

Euros chance: 7/10



JARROD BOWEN:

It was only in January that Jarrod Bowen made the jump from Championship side Hull to Premier League outfit West Ham.

He scored 54 goals in 131 appearances for the Tigers in total since making his debut in 2014.

But some questioned if he was going to be able to perform in the top flight, or even get a game what with the Hammers investing millions in top European talent. Yet the 23-year-old forward, who can also play on the

wing, has so far proved himself, made a stunning impact in his debut against Southampton on Saturday where he bagged his first goal.

His silky run through the Saints' defence seemed to disprove claims from his manager Moyes that he could not be the Hammers' saviour.

It may be too early for Bowen to step up another level and compete internationally, but if Saturday's performance was anything to go by he could in Southgate's mind for the future.

Euros chance: 3/10

MASON MOUNT:

Chelsea's 21-year-old midfielder has been given a chance to shine by boss Frank Lampard, and has grasped the opportunity. Mason Mount played under the former England captain when he was on loan at Derby County last season, and racked up eight goals in 35 appearances at the Rams.

And he has continued his form this campaign, scoring five goals and adding five assists so far.

Southgate handed Mount his first senior call up in October, where he was part of a humiliating 2-1 loss to the Czech Republic. But the youngster was one of few on the pitch to show signs of promise.

Since then, he has netted once for his country - in a 4-0 win over Kosovo - and made five more appearances. Mount is likely to make the cut for Southgate's side but, like Maddison, may have to make an impact off the bench due to more senior players in his position.

Euros chance: 7/10



DEAN HENDERSON:

Dean Henderson has excelled on loan at Sheffield United, suggesting he may have a long-term role to play for his parent club Manchester United and England.

Out of the English keepers in the Premier League, the 22-year-old comes out on top in terms of save percentage this season.

He has faced 86 shots on target and let in just 22 goals for a save percentage of 74.4,

helping the Blades to a surprise 8th league position. This is only bettered by non-Englishmen Alisson of Liverpool, Tottenham's Hugo Lloris and Crystal Palace pair Vicente Guaita and Wayne Hennessey, with the latter having played just twice.

Henderson even has United's first choice keeper David De Gea - who is slated as one of the best in the world - unsure of his place.

Leading the Spaniard in clean sheets, goals conceded and save percentage - and with only one costly error marked against his name - Henderson is building a strong case were he to return to Old Trafford.

An obvious choice for Southgate, Henderson will surely be in his Euro squad. But whether he beats an out of form Jordan Pickford and Burnley's promising Nick Pope to the number one shirt remains to be seen.

Euros chance: 8/10



HARVEY BARNES:

Leicester attacker Harvey Barnes has emerged as a late contender to gatecrash England's Euro 2020 plans. Barnes has impressed during the Foxes' excellent season, that looks set to culminate in them qualifying for the Champions League.

And the 22-year-old's sterling performances have not gone unnoticed by national boss Southgate.

But Barnes faces stiff competition, with Raheem Sterling, Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Nathan Redmond all battling it out to be the wide men this summer.

He is certainly under consideration by Southgate ahead of March's internationals against Italy and Denmark, particularly with Rashford set to miss out with a back problem.

Even if Barnes does not make it this time, his moment will surely come.

Euros chance: 4/10



DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN:

Dominic Calvert-Lewin has turned his season around in dramatic fashion. The 22-year-old was inconsistent and did not have the faith of Everton boss Marco Silva at the start of the season.

But since Carlo Ancelotti took over in December he has a new lease of life and has benefited from being instructed to stay central and split the centre halves.

The England Under 20s World Cup winner has gone from being an Everton

scapegoat to their stand-out player and worthy of the famous No 9 shirt. Given that Ancelotti has worked with several legendary strikers including Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Cristiano Ronaldo, his view that Calvert-Lewin can become one of Europe's best came as a huge boost.

'Hearing that, you go on to the pitch feeling a foot taller,' says Calvert-Lewin, who is already a well-built 6ft 2in. The next big step would be forcing himself into Southgate's England plans ahead of Euro 2020. **Euros chance: 4/10**





Sports readiness means that a child has the physical, mental, and social skills to meet the demands of the sport.

While general guidelines can help you select a sport based on age, it's important to remember that children develop at different rates.

Children are more likely to enjoy and succeed in sports when they have the physical, mental, and social skills required by the sport.

AGES TWO TO 5

Before age six years, most children do not have the basic motor skills for organised sports. Balance and attention span are limited, and vision and ability to track moving objects are not fully mature. Instead, look for other sports activities that focus on basic skills such as running, swimming, tumbling, throwing, and catching. These skills can be improved through active play but do not require organised sports activities. Children at this age have a short attention span and learn best when they can explore, experiment, and copy others. Instruction should be limited, follow a show-and-tell format, and include playtime. Competition should be avoided. Parents can be good role models and should be encouraged to participate.

AGES SIX TO 9

By age six, most children have the basic motor skills for simple organised sports. However, they may still lack the hand-eye coordination needed to perform complex motor skills and may not yet be ready to understand and remember concepts like teamwork and strategies. Sports that can be adapted to be played at a basic level and focus on basic motor skills are the most appropriate. This includes running, swimming, soccer, baseball, tennis, gymnastics, martial arts, and skiing. Sports that require complex visual and motor skills, quick decision-making, or detailed strategies or teamwork (football, basketball, hockey, volleyball) will be difficult unless modified for younger players. Rules should be flexible to promote success, action, and participation. The sport should focus on learning new skills rather than winning. The equipment and rules should also be appropriate for young children. For example, smaller balls, smaller fields, shorter game times and practices, fewer children playing at the same time, frequent change of positions, and less focus on score keeping.

AGES 10 TO 12

By ages 10 to 12, most children are ready for more complex sports. They have the motor skills and cognitive ability to play sports that require complex motor skills, teamwork, and strategies. Most experts believe that sports at this level should focus on skill development, fun, and participation, not competition. Most children would rather play more on a losing team than less on a winning team.

Some children in this age group may be starting puberty. During this time, the physical differences between children, particularly boys of the same age, can be dramatic. This can make a difference in what sport is best for your child. Boys who start puberty sooner will be temporarily taller, heavier, and stronger. This may give them a physical advantage, but it doesn't mean they are more talented and will continue to excel in sports. If possible, they should compete with boys with the same phys-



HEALTHY LIVING

ical ability. Similarly, boys who mature later may experience a temporary physical disadvantage in sports. This should not be seen as a lack of talent or ability. These boys should be encouraged to play sports with less emphasis on physical size, such as racquet sports, swimming, martial arts, wrestling, and certain track events.

Also, growth spurts can temporarily affect coordination, balance, and the ability to perform a skill. Keep in mind that it can be frustrating if this is seen as a lack of talent or effort.

Sport makes children to feel valued

Every child can be successful at one sport or another. However, it takes time for parents to find the sport suitable for the child. Therefore, they should be patient in selecting the sports, since it is a process that will pay off in the long run.

No other thing in life affords children such opportunity to develop positive character traits and to soak up many quality values as sports does. Here are some benefits that may come from playing sports:

Children character and moral principles are formed through fair play. Moreover, children who are actively engaged in sports can be good role models for their peers from school, neighborhood, or even school choir, and inspire them to start playing some sports as well.

Playing sports enables them to create friendships they otherwise might not have formed. For example, the friendships professional athletes create on the field remain intact even when they are not playing sports, and often last a lifetime.

Sports bring people together from all over the world, regardless of their nationality, reli-

gion, culture, or skin color.

Teamwork and benefits of social interaction among children are best seen in sports. Kids learn they are part of a team that requires the same effort from all members to succeed, as well as how to win with class, and lose with dignity.

They view competitions on and off the field as opportunities to learn from their success and failure. In addition, losing often motivates kids to work even harder next time.

They learn to respect authority, rules, team colleagues and opponents.

Sport is an important learning environment for children. Numerous studies have shown that children who play sports perform better at school. It is also within sport that peer status and peer acceptance is established and developed.

Sports experiences help building positive self-esteem in children.

In addition, participating in sports can be a helpful way of reducing stress and increasing feelings of physical and mental well-being, as well as fighting against juvenile delinquency, conflict and aggressive outbursts. The point is to keep the body in good health in order to be able to keep our mind strong and clear.

When children learn positive life lessons through sports, there is no doubt they will become honest, reliable adults who will try to help others in need at any moment.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to NOT impose unrealistic expectations and hard achievable goals on children from the start. Children should participate in sports not for instant success and results, but rather to develop their physical and intellectual skills.

Otherwise, forcing the child to play some sports may create a counter-effect and as a result make them develop an aversion to sports in general.

Instead, let your child get used to sports, accept it and get to like it so it can become part of his and her everyday life. Results, achievements, medals and awards may come later on, though they require a lot of hard work, discipline and sacrifice.

Also, it is important to allow your child to discover and explore other interesting things too besides sports so they don't feel suffocated at your constant nagging about how sports is good for them. Let them see the values of sports for themselves.

“

Before age six, most children do not have the basic motor skills for organised sports. Balance and attention span are limited, and vision and ability to track moving objects are not fully mature.

”



MTN Premier League 2019/20

EXCITING ACTION IN MTN PREMIER LEAGUE

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER – It's an exciting action in the MTN Premier League as four teams will play catch up fixtures in the exhilarating 2019/20 campaign.

Capital city giants and title hopefuls Mbabane Swallows will head up to the north in the Lubombo region to face relegation threatened Mhlume Peacemakers at their own fortress, the Mhlume Stadium.

A relegation battle between Manzini Sea Birds will take centre-stage at the King Sobhuza II Stadium.

SEA BIRDS, MALANTI IN RELEGATION BATTLE

Manzini Sea Birds vs Malanti Chiefs

(3pm, King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium)

It will be a battle of the survival of the fittest when these two sides meet this afternoon at King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium.

Both sides are languishing at the basement of the log standings and are not safe from the dreaded axe.

'Izinyoni Zolwandle' will rely on the experience of Ndumiso 'Skhokho' Shongwe and Laurent Abah to save them from the jaws of relegation. On the other hand, Malanti Chiefs will be pinning their hopes on their South Africa born import winger, Sandile' Bhubesi' Mazibuko to put the Manzini based outfit to sword.

Manzini Sea Birds

Coach: Van Rooyen Magagula



Captain: Sibusiso Dlamini

Key Players: Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze, Thembumenzi Mayisela, Ndumiso Shongwe

Match Winner: Wandile Nhleko

Malanti Chiefs

Coach: Christopher Tembo

Captain: Siyabonga Nkambule

Key Players: Innocent Jere, Thokozani Dlamini, Lindokuhle Fakudze

Match Winner: Sandile' Bhubesi' Mazibuko

'BIRDS' IN BOGANDAGANDA TEST

Mhlume Peacemakers vs Mbabane Swallows

(3pm, Mhlume Stadium)

Struggling outfit Mhlume Peacemakers will be hoping to collect maximum points this afternoon when they host capital city giants Mbabane Swallows.

Bogandaganda as Peacemakers affectionally known among their supporters, are desperate for a win in order to move out from the relegation zone.

The main advantage for the team is that they will be playing at home and it is yet to be seen if they will be able grind positive results against the star-studded opposition.

Meanwhile title contenders Swallows will come out guns blazing to outsmart the sugar belt side.

A win today will see Honour Janza's men closing the gap on pacesetters Young Buffaloes have equally capable players to do the job in the likes of Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and Sizolwethu Shabalala.

Mhlume Peacemakers

Stand in Coach: Bongani Nxumalo

Captain: Mancoba Zwane

Key players: Shaka Nkwanyana, Muhle Shiba, Sihawu Dlamini

Match winner: Sibongiseni Ndzimandze

Mbabane Swallows

Coach: Honour Janza

Captain: Tony 'TT' Tsabedze

Key players: Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko, Nhlanhla Ngwenya, Menzi Sithole

Match winner: Sizolwethu Shabalala

MTN Premier League log

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1. Young Buffaloes	18	14	3	1	46	10	36	45
2. Mbabane Swallows	17	10	6	1	28	7	21	36
3. Royal Leopard	18	10	5	3	25	11	14	35
4. Momeni Pirates	18	9	4	5	25	17	8	31
5. Green Mamba	18	8	4	6	26	14	12	28
6. Denver Sundowns	18	6	7	5	19	20	-1	25
7. Mbabane Highlanders	18	4	11	3	12	13	-1	23
8. Tambuti	18	4	9	5	22	29	-7	21
9. Milling Hotspurs	18	4	7	7	13	22	-9	19
10. Sea Birds	17	4	5	8	18	25	-7	17
11. Manzini Wanderers	18	4	5	9	19	32	-13	17
12. Malanti Chiefs	17	5	0	12	13	27	-14	15
13. Peacemakers	17	3	4	10	14	25	-11	13
14. Black Swallows	18	3	2	13	17	40	-23	11

CYCLING UPDATES

ALL SET FOR CAPE TOWN TOUR

By Mbusi Mlotso
(Guest writer)

AS you read this article, we (including our president), are among many cyclists in the Mother City counting hours before the ultimate race tomorrow morning.

Cycling manners are very important in such mass cycling events because riding badly can cause big crashes or even a swollen lip or blue eye.

One of the most well organised races I've done. Information is that it's the biggest mass cycling event in the world.

I recall this one time in the same race when I was towards the finish and so tired that I couldn't even keep the bike straight.

This one cyclist of European origin who was coming from behind shouted 'keep your lane, dammit.' I didn't even respond due to fatigue.

MY CHEAP BIKE VS YOUR EXPENSIVE BIKE

This one has always been a debat-



able issue.

I recall when I led the national team to Pietermaritzburg for the first time my charges were defeated even before the race because our equipment compared to that of the opposition was inferior and it hit on their psyche heavily.

I was happy to see cyclists from

Rwanda and Eritrea performing very well during the African Championships using entry level bicycles.

I even use it as a coaching point to this day on my boys.

No superior bike will help you perform well if you have not trained.

As a matter of fact, riding an expen-

sive bike gives you a small advantage over the one who does not have.

One thing for a fact it makes you want to ride more because of the value you attach to the bike.

They say 'if you feel lazy to ride, buy new equipment.'

EGOS KILLING SPORT

Another topic that excites me.

This one comes with both good and bad because ego can help you perform better just like it could lead to one's downfall. I will quote two instances to try and illustrate my point.

When two athletes are both idolised and they have to compete against each other they will both dig into their reserves to beat the other to ensure that their ego is not bruised.

Now here is an athlete who is successful and because of that he starts disrespecting his coach or leaders because he feels like a hero and this ultimately leads to his downfall.

I have seen very good athletes getting wasted due to ego.

Other athletes even go to an extent of dodging events where they fear to be beaten to save their egos.

MHLOSINGA MTB RACES AROUND THE CORNER

Focus is on the Mhlosinga MTB Race at the end of the month.

Personally I can't wait to do the long one this time around. This is one lovely race that will surely attract more participation this year after a well-executed event last year.

Good luck and safe ride to all the Eswatini cyclists who are here.



INGWENYAMA CUP 2019/20



FINAL BUILD-UP

IT'S TIME FOR MBABANE HIGHLANDERS TO SHINE – SAUL CHAMINUKA

By Noel Munzabwa
(freelancer writer)
in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

SOCCER - Former Mbabane Highlanders coach, Saul Chaminuka has declared that it is time for his former side to stand, shine and win the 2019/20 SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup after last season's miss at the hands of outgoing champions Young Buffaloes.

Speaking in his home country, Chaminuka, who is fresh from the Botswana stint with TAFIC SC, said memories from last season's defeat were still vivid and agonisingly painful, stating that his side did not deserve to lose.

"Memories from last year's Ingwenyama Cup final are still fresh and playing in a cup final is something every other coach envies in their careers.

For me, last year's final meant a lot personally and even some of the players who played for Matsapha United against the same opponent in the EswatiniBank Cup. It was an opportunity to atone.

"I will state it today with conviction Highlanders didn't deserve that defeat but due to some factors I will not mention for professional reasons, crumbled in the second half



after a strong first half show, we lost the match.

Now given the second chance some of the players who played last year have the burning desire to make up for that defeat," said Chaminuka.

For many who watched the match will remember former Mbabane Highlanders utility player Vusumuzi Zungu playing as a striker, adding venom upfront which was all lost in the second after he was miraculously dropped to the midfield in the second half. "As a coach I take the blame but there are certain fac-

tors beyond coaches which I will not mention but that is all history, let us focus on Sunday's match and encourage the players. Everyone in the Highlanders fans has a role to play.

The team is clearly on the recovery path after a lengthy dry spell. I hear they won the Charity Cup so they can add to that.

"They have a seasoned coach (Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati) who has seen it all as a player and has won it all as a coach. He knows what it means to win and he knows what



it means to lose and I hope people support his choices. A unity of purpose will bring glory days back to Highlanders as the players know what is expected from them.

"They need to fight for Highlanders' glory, they need to fight for fans and most importantly, for their glory as well. It's time for Highlanders to stand up, shine and win. They will need to be tactically disciplined throughout the match and focus is another key. The fans must play their role on the

terraces. Rise Highlanders rise, it's your win on Sunday," said Chaminuka

who equally wished to watch the match.

He, however, could not commit to score-line prediction.

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER- The stage has been set tomorrow in the Ingwenyama Cup finals between capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders and Correctional Services side Green Mamba at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Eswatini Observer Sports Desk takes a look at some of the players who could decide the outcome of the match of the tournament that blends football with culture.

Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze
(Mbabane Highlanders)

The utility player has been instrumental in the team quest for glory. He has three goals under his belt and vying for the Golden Boot Award. The goal he scored against National First Division outfit, Tambankulu Callies in the semi-finals, was superb. Gamedze may be the answer in the black and white team in tomorrow's match.

Khanyakwezwe Shabalala
(Mbabane Highlanders)

The former Matsapha United and former Moneni Pirates goal minder is undoubtedly on form as he has kept a clean sheet throughout the tournament. His acrobatic saves has steered the team to the second final of the prestigious five year old tournament. As the last man in defence, the shoot stopper experience will be key in this tough encounter.

Jimoh Moses (Mbabane Highlanders)

The Nigerian born defender is maturing like red wine in every match. He is the rock of Gibraltar. He is the commander of the troops

The stars that could decide the Ingwenyama Cup final



and lead by example at the back.

The former Matsapha United player is the main reason why his defensive partner Siphwe Manana regained his form. It will be interesting to see how the duo will fare against the likes of Phinda Dlamini and Musa Dlamini.

Lindani 'Rio' Matsenjwa

The youngster has dazzled and delighted fans with his breath taking skills. He will carve open the Green Mamba defence with his silky skills.

Njabulo Thwala (Green Mamba)

What a player! The pint-sized midfielder is the heat beat of the team. He makes the cor-

rectional services tick with his God given talent. There is no doubt that Njabulo has matured as a player.

He is undisputed a playmaker and everything flows around him.

The former Piggs Peak Black Swallows player carries the hopes of 'Inyoka Eluhlazana' in their quest for glory.

Musa Dlamini (Green Mamba)

The pint sized veteran striker is the mass weapon of destruction for the team. After surviving a career threatening injury earlier in the week, the striker is back with a bang. He has

what it takes to destroy Mbabane Highlanders tomorrow.

Mcolisi Mkhontfo

The midfielder cum striker has a knack for goals and enjoys playing behind the striking force. He strikes like thunder in the opposition box

Thokozani Mkhulisi (Green Mamba)

The veteran goal keeper will be expected to organise his defence throughout the match. His experience will come in handy in this encounter.

Titans geared up for Intervarsity Games

By Phumlani Gumedze

RUGBY – The Titans are oozing with confidence as the dates for the Intervarsity Games draw and they have declared war on their opponents from Botswana and Lesotho.

The team is motivated by the ERU's kind gesture, as it was offered one of the national team's kits to use during the international games, which will be played from 15-18 March in the country at a venue yet to be confirmed.

The team Chairman Phasika Dlamini emphasised on the mood of the team and also gave clarity that Mario de Sousa will be leading the team as the coach during the games.

"The team is in a good mood lately, the players are highly-motivated by the upcoming tournament and are ready to go for the kill, while the team has been boosted by the arrival of a well-experienced coach in Mario de Sousa, who will be in charge of the team's hot seat during the tournament," he said.

Meanwhile, the captain Peter Mupoto challenged their counterparts, highlighting that his charges were well drilled and were ready to carry out their duties during the international assignment.

"Preparations have been going on well for both our teams and we are happy to be joined by a number of new players who are showing great potential and have enthusiasm for the game. We are well prepared to take on our opponents at any given time from now," he said.

Way Inn face REPS in Dixies League

By Melusi Mlotso

PPOOL – Last year's runners-up Way Inn face Police Academy in the E40 000 sponsored Dixies International Pool League.

This is according to fixture released by Manzini Regional Pool Association Secretary Mbongeni 'Mdikiza' Gamedze.

The highly-anticipated match is scheduled for Malkerns Game Room at 4pm.

Another interesting fixture is between Correctional, who will lock horns with Manzini 1.

Meanwhile, new kids on the block, Ludzeludze will entertain France, whilst Stairs will be up against Nicks.

Dixies /MRPA fixture

Today

Ludzeludze	vs	France
Mahlanya	vs	Mankayane
Correctional	vs	Manzini 1
Stairs	vs	Nicks
Bhunya	vs	Garrison
Way Inn	vs	REPS

Manzini Masters Figa

League prize breakdown

Champions -	E8 000 plus trophy and gold medals
Runners-up -	E5 000 plus bronze medals
3rd prize -	E3 000 plus silver medals
4th -	E1500
5th -	E1200
6th -	E1100
7th -	E1000
8th -	E900
9th -	E800
10th -	E700
11th -	E600
12th -	E500
13th -	E400
14th -	E300
15th -	E250



ZITHANDE OFF TO SOUTH AFRICA

By Jongile Xuba

ATHLETICS – Zithande Athletics Club members are off to South Africa to attend the Secunda PwC KOSMOS 3-in-1 Marathon scheduled for this morning.

The local club is using the annual race to prepare for the upcoming Comrades Marathon slated later this year.

The club's members left the country yesterday afternoon to attend the annual race. This was confirmed by Zithande Coach Nsizwa Thwala, who said this was the club's second international marathon in the current season. "We'll be out of the country this weekend, where we will be attending the 3-in-1 race in Secunda on Saturday (today)."

"This unique race is good for the Comrades Marathon preparations

which will see the athletes running a total of 73km," he said.

The first race is a 42.2 km route, which starts at 6am, followed by a 21.1km race at 1pm ending with a 10 km race at 5pm to make a total of 73.3 km. After the 3-in-1 marathon, the team will return for their high mileage training, which will see them run a 35km route from Zakhele Sports Ground to Somhlolo National Stadium.

Maphosa earns continental coaching recognition

By Sibusiso Masilela

VOLLEYBALL – Malawi-based Zimbabwe-born former Correctional Services volleyball coach, Thulani

Maphosa has received a Confederation of Africa Volleyball (CAVB) certification as a continental volleyball coaches trainer, after attending a training programme held in November last year.

In a letter addressed to Eswatini Volleyball Association President Mpendulo Dlamini an association through which Maphosa was still affiliated to despite relocating to Malawi, the CAVB awarded him with the certificate that will enable him to convene coaching clinics.

"In the framework of the implementation of the CAVB Strategic Plan to develop, spread and activate the Volleyball and Beach Volley all over Africa, I have the pleasure to inform you that your nominated coach excelled in the FIVB/CAVB Level III Train the Trainer Volleyball Course.

"Due to their success in the above course and their successful participation in the CAVB coaches' Continuous Learning Programme, Dr. Maphosa has acquired the status of CAVB Coaches' Instructor. We have attached to this letter the certificates for Dr. Maphosa.

"In order to ensure a return on the massive investment made on Dr. Maphosa, as well as the knowledge he has acquired, we recommend that he be allowed to cumulatively facilitate at least two courses in your country per year and also give him preference in your national volleyball programmes. This will also help him gather necessary experience for possible con-



CONTINENTAL: Thulani Maphosa.

firmation as FIVB instructor in the future.

"We once again would like to congratulate your national federation and Dr. Maphosa on this massive achievement and investment and we are convinced it will go a long way in improving the quality of volleyball coaching, not only in your country but on the entire continent," read the letter signed by CAVB President Amr Elwani.

When contacted, an elated Maphosa welcomed the certification.

"We attended a trainer's trainer course last year in November and there were about 40 candidates selected from all over Africa with a level two or three. So I already had a level three from Thailand.

"We spent three weeks training and they selected five candidates to be certified as instructors while others were given a train the trainers certificates. "So now we can conduct coaching courses within the continent and certify coaches and this gives me great joy and humility to contribute to the growth of the game on the continent. I am humbled," said Dr. Maphosa.

Dr. Maphosa relocated to Eswatini more than 15 years ago for employment opportunities but his passion for volleyball refused to die as it led him to rise to the national coaching post and has won several awards both in and out of Eswatini.

Last year, Maphosa relocated to Malawi for greener pastures.

SBS Tertiary Netball League continues this weekend

By Jongile Xuba

NETBALL – The Swaziland Building Society (SBS) Tertiary Netball League continues this weekend as the second round fixtures will take place at the University of Eswatini, (UNESWA) Kwaluseni Campus. Kicking off the proceedings will be UNESWA Luyengo Campus, who will take on Ngwane Park Youth and Training Centre at 9am followed by Voctim against UNESWA Luyengo Campus at 10am.

Voctim will be looking to build on their first performance following their recent 50-0 win against Mbabane Campus last week.

Kwaluseni Campus will also be hoping to get their second win in as many games when they face Ngwane College at 11am.

Kwaluseni edged Good Shepherd College of Nursing 31-30 in their match last week.

The last match of the day will see Voctim take on Ngwane Park at noon.

The league is part of the Eswatini National Netball Association's (ENNA) strategic plan to promote netball in the country.

SBS Tertiary Netball League

Luyengo Campus	vs	Ngwane Park	9am
VOCTIM	vs	Luyengo Campus	10am
Kwaluseni Campus	vs	Ngwane College	11am
VOCTIM	vs	Ngwane Park	12pm

GREEN MAMBA SCARED OF BULL TECHNICAL BENCH

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER - Buckle Up. The game is on!! Correctional services side Green Mamba are worried about the danger that is being poised by the Mbabane Highlanders technical bench ahead of the Ingwenyama Cup final clash slated for Somhlolo National Stadium tomorrow.

The match will kick-off at 3.30pm, where the two teams will be fighting for the E1.4 million first prize money.

This was revealed by Green Mamba assistant coach Mduduzi Nxumalo, who said the capital city giants boast of the strongest technical bench which was a threat to them.

However, the former Sitsebe Samhleka coach said he was confident that his troops would certainly



READY: Green Mamba captain Banele Dlamini posing for a picture with Mbabane Highlanders captain Jimoh Moses



WAR: Mbabane Highlanders technical adviser Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini sharing a light moment with Green Mamba assistant coach Mduduzi Nxumalo.

come to the party on the day.

"We have been preparing hard for this match and covered all the aspects that need our attention. The boys are ready. However, we are also worried about Highlanders as they have the

strongest technical bench," he said.

Nxumalo further mentioned that they understood the importance of the match and they cannot afford a loss on the big day.

"The boys are in good space and

geared for the match. This is one cup we want to win at all costs to redeem ourselves following our poor start in the league.

We invite our supporters to come in their numbers to watch the entertain-

ing match. God willing, we will lift the cup," he said.

Green Mamba captain Banele Dlamini echoed his coach word by saying the match was a motivation on its own.

"Playing against a big team like Mbabane Highlanders is a motivation on its own. We respect them given their status, but we won't respect them inside the field of play. It will be also pleasing to lift the trophy before the King," he said.

Mbabane Highlanders Technical Director Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini said they were ready and looking forward to the encounter against Green Mamba.

"We cannot take this game lightly. We are ready to face them and the boys are looking good.

They want to showcase their talent before His Majesty King Mswati III. We will close all their channels and it will not easy to score against us," he said. He also invited the team supporters to come in their numbers tomorrow to watch good football.

Highlanders' captain Jimoh Moses said they were geared up for the finals.

"We are ready both mental and physical to play in the final. We want to bring back the glory days and it will be a nice thing to lift the trophy before the King," he said.



INJURED: Kenneth Moloto and Josef Lekata.

LEKATA DOUBTFUL FOR BULL

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER - Mbabane Highlanders might suffer a major blow ahead of the Ingwenyama Cup final against Green Mamba after their South Africa-born striker, Josef Lekata is still nursing an injury.

The former AmaZulu player suffered the injury recently in the EswatiniBank Cup against hub giants, Manzini Wanderers

It has been learnt that doctors are working around the clock to help the striker recover in time ahead of tomorrow's clash billed for Somhlolo National Stadium.

Highlanders PRO/ Manager Paul 'Magidzeludzakeni' Masilela confirmed the news when contacted yesterday morning.

"Yes, it's true that Lekata is doubtful for the final. We are still waiting for a report from the doctors and technical team if the player will be available," he said. Attacking midfielder Banele 'Stiga' Ndzabandzaba will also not be part of the final since he is cup-tied for the tournament after appearing for his former side Peacemakers during the round of 32.

Meanwhile, the black and white outfit will welcome speedy winger Kenneth Moloto for the match who has been out of action for a month

The former Ally Tigers player has been out of action for a month after he sustained an ankle injury. The capital city giants will be playing for the second time in the Ingwenyama Cup finals following their 1-4 loss to Young Buffaloes during the finals of the previous edition which was graced by His Majesty King Mswati III and former South Africa President Jacob Zuma.

'Stopper' 'Beetle' joins Leopard Ladies team

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER - Former Royal Leopard players Mxolisi 'Stopper' Mtsetfwa and Thokozani 'Beetle' Mamba have joined the team ladies soccer team.

Information gathered from a source close to the team revealed that Mtsetfwa has been appointed the head coach, whilst Mamba assumed the goalkeeper trainer position.

The duo was expected to begin their work last weekend during their match against Shiselweni Roses, which was eventually called off. However, Shiselweni Roses failed to show up and they are expected to forfeit three points and three goals to the police services side.

Royal Leopard Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Frank Hurube confirmed the appointment of the two coaches when contacted yesterday. "Yes, it's true that the national commissioner has appointed Mtsetfwa and

Mamba to lead the ladies soccer team. We are hopeful that they will do a good job," he said. On another note, Hurube congratulated the Ingwenyama Cup finalists in Mbabane Highlanders and Green Mamba for reaching the final of the prestigious knockout competition. "We know the magnitude of this tournament as we reached the finals twice. We wish both teams luck and the spirit of fair play must prevail," he said. Meanwhile, Royal Leopard Ladies Soccer team lie fourth in the Women Football League standings. They will face Interladies today at Lobamba technical Centre. The encounter will be preceded by Aa match between Mbabane Swallows and Kappa Ladies.

The new look Royal Leopard Ladies technical team

Manager

Xolile Dlamini

Head coach

Mcolisi 'Stopper' Mtsetfwa

Goalkeeper Trainer

Thokozani 'Beetle' Mamba

Van Rooyen re-joins Sea Birds

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - Forgotten veteran mentor Van Rooyen Magagula has resurfaced at Manzini Sea Birds.

The coach started drilling the team on Tuesday afternoon and he is working alongside assistant coach Sibusiso Mngometulu.

Magagula has replaced Anthony Mdluli, who recently joined the new look Sihlangu technical bench as goalkeeper coach.

Sea Birds Manager London Dlamini confirmed the news when reached

yesterday.

"Van Rooyen is back with the team and he will be with us until the end of the season, where will sit down and discuss a way forward. We are confident that he will change the fortunes of the team, especially in the league where we are sitting in a good position," said.

Magagula's last stint with Sea Birds was during the 2017/18 season. Magagula's first assignment will be today during Sea Birds' MTN Premier encounter against Malanti Chiefs at the King Sobuzali Stadium. Sea Birds are currently perched at position 10 with 17 points.

MTN Premier League log

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Young Buffaloes	18	14	3	1	46	10	36	45
Mbabane Swallows	17	10	6	1	28	7	21	36
Royal Leopard	18	10	5	3	25	11	14	35
Moneni Pirates	18	9	4	5	25	17	8	31
Green Mamba	18	8	4	6	26	14	12	28
Denver Sundowns	18	6	7	5	19	20	-1	25
Mbabane Highlanders	18	4	11	3	12	13	-1	23
Tambuti	18	4	9	5	22	29	-7	21
Milling Hotspurs	18	4	7	7	13	22	-9	19
Sea Birds	17	4	5	8	18	25	-7	17
Manzini Wanderers	18	4	5	9	19	32	-13	17
Malanti Chiefs	17	5	0	12	13	27	-14	15
Mhlume Peacemakers	17	3	4	10	14	25	-11	13
Black Swallows	18	3	2	13	17	40	-23	11

Take a seat Mr Kgomongwe: Swallows were not built overnight

Mbabane Swallows FC have since retaliated to a recent article published by one of the local dailies where they quoted Mbabane Highlanders Director Ally Kgomongwe

Swallows have since responded through their Marketing and Communications Officer Manqoba Mabuza to the article with a statement sourced from their official website in response to some of the issues which we allegedly said by Kgomongwe. "Today we woke up to a news story our director in which Mbabane Highlanders' Ally Kgomongwe, once again exposed his leadership bankruptcy and wisdom-deficiency to the whole world.

"When he did it some few months back, we chose to ignore it, even though we were silently saying: Poor 'Benny comes to town'! Why not give him a chance to win himself a newspaper headline, we asked our-

selves at the time as we allowed Mr. Kgomongwe to get away with it. He repeated it today and abused the name of our glorious club in an article that had nothing to do with Mbabane Swallows!

"Instead of using the newspaper space to give direction and promote the Sunday game he decided to bring Mbabane Swallows into the whole thing because, to his credit, he knows that this great African brand called Mbabane Swallows is too powerful, to an extent that it has the potential to give relevance to an attention-hungry person. "In his words, as they appear in the newspaper, "I promised before that as long as I am the MD, Swallows (Mbabane) will not beat me and have lived up to those words." What a childish comment! Ideally, and consistent with our out-of-this-world tradition informed by class and focus, we should not be stooping to levels of responding to this,

especially given the calibre of the individual in question. "However, it is an indisputable fact that our club is such a noble brand, that is respected across the continent and beyond, hence it would be gross injustice for us not to call Ally to order. Mr. Kgomongwe, you are behaving in an unprofessional, childish, disrespectful and attention-seeking manner. "Hands off our club and focus on yours! Why not talk about your club and leave Mbabane Swallows FC to us? Why bring the name of this giant club whenever you are given an opportunity to speak? What is your aim? Can you please give us some fresh air; just get a chair and sit down, please! Do not be over-excited and start dancing to a false musical genre. Mbabane Swallows was built over time and it took many years for this club to be where it is (ranked 47th in Africa). There are no short cuts in football and instead

of dancing to some song "composed in London" as you claim you must start investing in a solid administrative infrastructure, management and leadership, Marketing and PR, high professional standards and technical performance. That is what made Mbabane Swallows to be where it is today; there was never a magic or miracle. This thing is not as easy as you think. Do not be carried away, stay focused, work hard and results will come with time.

Advice

"That is what we did and we want to give this advice free of charge. Great as we are at Mbabane Swallows, we heeded to the advice: you must never be despondent because today the weather is bad, nor should you turn triumphalist when tomorrow the sun shines!

"Asewinyekele i-Mbabane Swallows. We do not say a word about your club!

FIKTURES

ABSA PREMIERSHIP
15:30 Baroka FC
18:00 Golden Arrows
20:15 Bidvest Wits
20:15 Kaizer Chiefs

PREMIER LEAGUE
14:30 Liverpool
17:00 Sheffield United
17:00 Wolves
17:00 Southampton
17:00 Crystal Palace
17:00 Arsenal
19:30 Burnley

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
15:00 TP Mazembe
15:00 Mamelodi Sundowns
21:00 Etoile du Sahel

SPANISH LALIGA

14:00 Eibar
17:00 Atlético Madrid
19:30 Barcelona
22:00 Getafe

vs Black Leopards
vs Orlando Pirates
vs Chippa United
vs AmaZulu FC

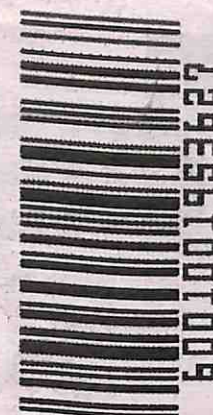
vs Bournemouth
vs Norwich City
vs Brighton
vs Newcastle United
vs Watford
vs West Ham United
vs Tottenham

vs Raja Casablanca
vs Al Ahly SC
vs Wydad Athletic Club

vs Mallorca
vs Sevilla
vs Real Sociedad
vs Celta de Vigo

YOUR DEDICATED SPORTS FEED

SPORT



March 7, 2020

Nobuhle rakes in over E19 000 at Jabra Open

By Sibusiso Masilela

GOLF – Local golfer Nobuhle Dlamini has raked in over E19 000 in the annual Jabra Golf Open which was played over a period of two days at the Glendower Golf Club. The Lobamba-born golfer secured a top 10 spot after finishing sixth alongside the South Africa pair of Monique Smith and Kelsey Nicholas, where she took a total prize of E19 740.

Dlamini is fresh from competing in the South West golf competition in Australia, where she banged in E10 000 to take her earnings for the week to E29 740. The former St Mary's pupil is now expected to compete in the Investec Ladies open pre qualifier on Monday where she is on a mission to qualify for the main competition two days later at the West Lake Golf Club. Dlamini could not be revealed for comment by the time of compiling this report late last night.



THE JABRA OPEN TOP 14 RESULTS

1. Ashleigh Buhai	RSA	84,000.00	-17	199	63	69	67
2. Stacy Bregman	RSA	69,000.00	-12	204	67	68	69
3. Casandra Hall	RSA	46,680.00	-10	206	70	66	70
4. Jane Turner	SCO	33,000.00	-5	211	71	69	71
5. Emilie Peronnin	FRA	28,140.00	-1	215	75	68	72
6. Nicole Garcia	RSA	19,740.00	Par	216	69	74	73
6. Nobuhle Dlamini	SWZ	19,740.00	Par	216	71	71	74
6. Monique Smit	RSA	19,740.00	Par	216	73	69	74
6. Kelsey Nicholas	RSA	19,740.00	Par	216	68	73	75
10. Mimmi Bergman	SWE	13,860.00	+1	217	69	78	70
10. Bianca Lohbauer (a)	RSA	Amateur	+1	217	73	72	72
10. Kim Williams	RSA	13,860.00	+1	217	73	72	72
10. Rachel Rossel	SUI	13,860.00	+1	217	76	66	75
14. Tandi McCallum	RSA	12,120.00	+3	219	72	75	72
14. Kaiyuree Moodley (a)	RSA	Amateur	+3	219	74	71	74
14. Sharmila Nicollet	IND	12,120.00	+3	219	71	71	77

GREEN MAMBA SCARED OF BULL TECHNICAL BENCH

STORY ON
PAGE 43

...Correctional services side say their opposition possess a strong coaching panel

Action packed...
idiski lemnandzi!



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Terms & Conditions apply

1ST PRIZE E15,000
2ND PRIZE E9,000
3RD PRIZE E7,000

Consolation: E600 each for 15 winners
Deadline: **24 April 2020**



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