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MENTAL PATIENTS LET LOOSE

● staff fed-up as hospital inhabitable due to dysfunctional drainage system, became health hazard

STORY ON PAGE 3

'ZWEMART' RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

PAGE 7

'SNAT CoLA STRIKE NUMBERS NOT ADDING UP'

PAGE 2

SPEEDING KOMBI CRASHES, BURNS



ON FIRE: A Quantum operating under the style 'Magnificent' crashed and burned at Soweto, Mbekelweni, around 9am yesterday.

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DOC:21111

CoLA STRIKE:

'TEACHERS NUMBERS NOT ADDING UP' -

....PSAs blames CMAC of trying to thwart planned action

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

LAST week's balloting figures indicate that only 2 384 of 12 222 Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) members voted for the proposed cost of living adjustment (CoLA) strike action.

This is according to balloting results released by the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) and confirmed by SNAT Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini yesterday.

Balloting for the strike action was done last Wednesday and Thursday and was overseen by CMAC.

Dlamini stated that according to the results, less than 50 per cent of SNAT members turned up for the voting.

Blame

He explained that this meant that they could not reach the required threshold to continue with the 2018/2019 strike over the 6.55 per cent CoLA.

As a result, the public sector association (PSAs) expressed their unhappiness, blaming CMAC for trying to prevent the proposed strike action.

Dlamini stated that CMAC has expressed reservations at the total percentage of those who voted (2 384) in favour of the strike against the total SNAT mem-

bership of 12 222.

This, according to the secretary general, is in utter conflict with Section 86 (6) of the Industrial Relations Act of 2000 (as amended) which makes the provision that, "Where a majority of employees voting in the ballot have voted in favour of the strike action, or where the Commission has failed to conduct or notify the result of a strike ballot under subsections (2) and (5) respectively, the strike shall be deemed to be in conformity with this Act and for the avoidance of doubt, in the event of a tie in votes, the majority shall not have been achieved."

Favour

Dlamini pointed out that an almost similar incident happened in July 2012 where only 3 521 (35.64%) voted in favour of the strike that commenced on July 25, 2012.

He said a meeting between the then SNAT NEC and the CMAC resolved the issue as the strike was then pronounced to be lawful and protected in terms of Section 86 (6) of the IRA of 2000 (as amended).

This is because according to PSAs, CMAC is using dubious tactics when it comes to counting the number of members who have voted for the strike action.

This was first expressed by the Swaziland

National Association of Government Accounting Personnel (SNAGAP) after conducting their ballot exercise.

Yesterday SNAT expressed their unhappiness with the decision taken by CMAC to use the number of people who voted against the total number of membership in determining the final vote for the 6.55 per cent CoLA strike.

Dlamini explained that SNAT NEC has written a letter to the CMAC to meet the director and senior management team in order to discuss the issue regarding the interpretation of Section 86 (2) and (6) of the IRA of 2000 (as amended).

Dlamini stated that the meeting might be held tomorrow.

Meanwhile, SNAGAP Secretary General Dumile Dlamini was also reported by this publication last week as having stated that they were not pleased with the numbers that were released by CMAC.

She said when counting CMAC applied the law which counts the number of voters against members. SNAGAP is also said to have written to CMAC stating their discontentment in the way the counting of voters was done.

PSAs were balloting with the objective to get their members endorse the proposed strike action over CoLA.

Elderly woman collapses after grandson was denied scholarship

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

A dejected grandmother collapsed after her grandson was denied government scholarship to further his studies in South Africa.

The incident, which allegedly caused a minor panic among the officials, happened place yesterday at the ministry of labour and social security scholarship department offices.

Information gathered from sources close to the matter suggests that the elderly woman, who accompanied her grandson to apply for the scholarship, was upset and ended up collapsing after she discovered that her grandson did not meet the cutting point to be eligible for a government scholarship.

The grandson's Form Five results indicated that he agot 27 points, which is three points less than the government cut off point of 30 to qualify for a scholarship. The woman's grandson is enrolled at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, where he did his first year in 2019.

The elderly woman declined to comment on the matter stating she was not ready to talk to the media as she was still upset. Worth noting is that the student was willing to talk about the matter and requested for permission from his grandmother who sternly opposed.

Information gathered was that the student's first year tuition fees were paid for by his grandmother, but could no longer afford to pay for the fees as she had recently retired from work. She then opted to apply for a government scholarship to cover her grandson's tuition.

It is alleged that following the incident, the elderly woman and her grandson requested to have an audience with the ministry's principal secretary to plead their case.

Ministry of Labour and Social Security acting Principal Secretary Norman Gamedze confirmed he had a meeting with the elderly woman and her grandson yesterday.

"They did come to my office to plead for reconsideration," he said.

Gamedze, however, said as a ministry their hands were tied and they could not be of any assistance to them as the student did not meet the required criteria for a government scholarship.

He mentioned that the qualifying point for a scholarship was 30 points, but unfortunately for the student, he only had 27 points. He stated that even if the student presented his case to the Scholarship Board, he would not be assisted. He revealed that exceptions were not made for individuals, but instead for a group of students with the closest points being 29 if funds were available after awarding scholarships to qualifying students.

He advised the student to upgrade his marks and then reapply for the scholarship.

"They did come to my office to plead for reconsideration"

KA-BOYCE HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL COMMITS SUICIDE

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

A Mtsetfwa family from Manyisa area near Nkoyoyo began their weekend on a sad note when they discovered the lifeless body of their daughter hanging on a tree.

The deceased (13) was a Form II pupil at Ka-Boyce High School.

Sources close to the matter revealed that the incident happened on Friday afternoon.

The source who opted for anonymity due to the sensitivity of the incident stated that on the fateful day, the

deceased attended school as usual. After school she went back home and there was no indication that she may take her own life.

The source revealed that the deceased disappeared from home at around 6pm. Her parents became worried and went to search for her.

Bush

"Following an extensive search, the lifeless body of the deceased was discovered by family members in a bush near the homestead the same evening," said the source.

The source added that the incident had shocked the family as there were no signs of distress from the deceased. When this publication visited the

Mtsetfwa homestead yesterday, the family members who were present declined to comment on the matter, saying the elders were not present.

"We only talk to mourners as the elders are not here now," said a family member.

Information gathered from some of her school mates was to the effect that on the last day they saw her, she was normal and showed no signs of any problems.

"She was fine and normal as we went on with our daily routine at school," said one of the pupils.

The pupil also mentioned that after school, they cleaned their classrooms and later went on to their respective

We pass our deepest condolences – Principal

FOLLOWING the tragic loss of the pupil, KaBoyce High School Principal Lungelo Nhlengetfwa passed his condolences to the Mtsetfwa family.

He said as a school they were saddened by the untimely passing of the pupil and encouraged the family to seek solace in God.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of the learner and encourage the family to put their faith in the

homes, not knowing it was the last day they would see their school mate.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the inci-

dent.

He also extended condolences to the deceased pupil's colleagues, teachers and friends for their loss as they were looking forward to continuing with their education together.

Nhlengetfwa added that the manner in which the pupil lost her life was tragic. He urged all those who were affected by her death to stay united and support one another during this difficult time.

She mentioned that a 13 year-old was discovered dead after she allegedly committed suicide on Friday.

HOW TO CONTACT US

MANAGING EDITOR

Mbongeni Mbingo
e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564 / 7904 8641

P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,
Mbabane, Lilunga House
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436,
2404 6600, 2404 9797, 2404 0706
Email: info@observer.org.sz
Website: www.observer.org.sz

EDITOR: Alec Lushaba - 7604 6271 / 7946 0334 editor@observer.org.sz
NEWS EDITOR: Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 / 7946 0330
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR: Sandile Nkambule - 7806 3496 newseditor@observer.org.sz
SPORTS EDITOR: Mphikeleli Mzibi - 7605 8044 / 7925 7918 sports@observer.org.sz
ENTERTAINMENT SENIOR REPORTER: Ayanda Dlamini - 7946 0384 entertainment@observer.org.sz
BUSINESS SNR REPORTER: Qondile Ntswane - 7946 0316 business@observer.org.sz
SNR SUB EDITOR: Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 / 7946 0328 subeditor@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICER

Mthokozisi Dlamini: 7687 6985 / 7946 0336
circulation@observer.org.sz

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Thabile Nxumalo: 7946 0347 / 7806 1485
2404 8671 / 2404 8699
sales@observer.org.sz

MANZINI

Makhaya Convenient Centre, Office No. 25
Bongile Dlamini CELL: 7612 4758 /
7946 0385 Tel: 2505 2320, Fax: 2505 7220

PIGG'S PEAK

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
Office No. 3 Tel: 2437 1083
Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7806 3590 / 7946 0377
Email: observersipiki@gmail.com

SITEKI

Siteki Market Office No. 15
Wonderboy Dlamini
CELL: 7643 6549 / 7946 0358

NHLANGANO

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PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS LET LOOSE

...staff fed-up as hospital inhabitable due to dysfunctional drainage systems, health hazard

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

THE National Psychiatric Referral Hospital patients were let loose due to a sewer flooding in the institution's wards.

The patients were 'released' by the referral hospital's employees yesterday morning after the workers felt it was the only option to prevent outbreaks of diseases among the patients.

According to sources, there has been a recurring challenge of dysfunctional drainage systems that resulted in the flooding of toilets. The floods of stench human excreta apparently spilled over into the floors at the wards where the patients are housed.

This, according to the source, was a cause for concern for the employees in that it was bound to cause diseases, as manifested by several reports of diarrhoea among the patients in the past few days.

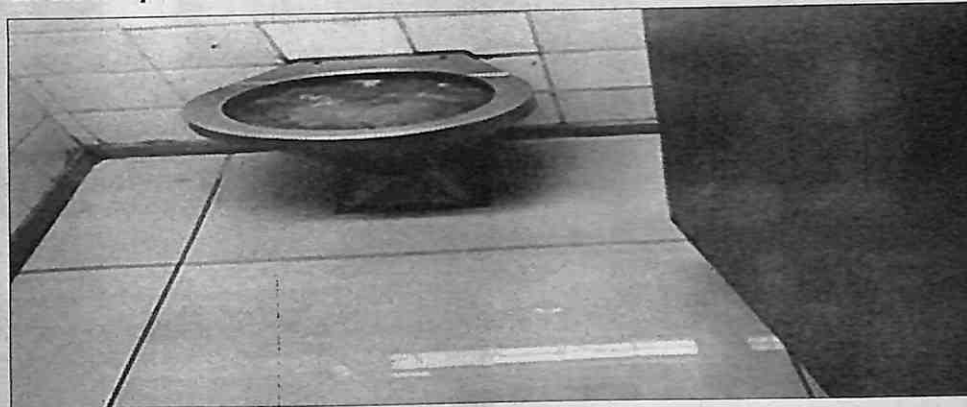
The drainage system had been problematic for a while now and each time a contractor is roped in to rectify the problem, all goes back to normal for a day or two before the headache returns again.

At some point, sources claimed that new toilet seats were installed in a bid to eradicate the problem but this was ineffective.

After reporting the situation to the hospital's management, and further continuously engaging them on what to do, the employees said there was no straightforward response on what lasting solution would be employed so they (employ-



THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL: Some of the placards that were displayed on the hospital notice board during the employees' picket.



SOS: This is the situation in the wards.

ees) decided to free the patients.

The initial agreement between the orderlies and the patients was that the latter would use a

nearby forest behind the institution's buildings to relieve themselves.

However, some of the patients were seen leav-

ing the premises with their luggage, and the security personnel did not try to stop them.

According to Secretary for NAPSAWU Shop Stewards Bongiwe Dlamini, the employees decided to release the patients and picket until the matter was resolved by the relevant parties because they felt it was the only way that the hospital's management and the ministry of health would hasten to address the matter.

Dlamini added that besides the sewer spillage, overcrowding was another factor that was most likely to contribute to diseases outbreak, especially in the conditions that the wards are in. She said although the capacity of each acute ward was 45 to 50, the institution's wards had over 105 patients.

When quizzed about the patients who had left the institution, Dlamini said the employees had no control over whether the patients returned to the hospital or not.

"For now, we are concerned about our safety as well as the patients' health. We are cognisant of the fact that with the patients roaming the streets, a lot could happen but we also have a pressing matter that needs urgent attention here," Dlamini said. This was echoed by a representative of the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) Unit Committee who said the resolve by the employees was reasonable considering the health risks faced by the patients and employees.

When sought for comment, Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula said he was aware of the matter but was yet to get more information from the hospital's management so he requested to be called later on during the day. However, when this publication reverted to him, Dr Magagula's phone rang unanswered several times.

He later answered and said he was in a meeting. The last call was made at 7pm.

When contacted earlier, Dr. Magagula expressed concern with the outcome of releasing the patients.

On the other hand, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the police's presence at the hospital was visible so as to monitor the situation.

RACING KOMBI BURNS, DRIVER FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE IN HOSPITAL

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A kombi driver and conductor are fighting for their lives in hospital after their racing kombi crashed and burned.

Members of the public watched in shock as one of two racing kombis overturned and caught fire in the middle of the road.

The incident happened at Soweto, Mbekeleweni, at around 9am yesterday.

Information gathered from eye-witnesses was that the Quantum operating under the name 'Magnificent', services the Manzini to Mbekeleweni route and was speeding towards Mbekeleweni alongside another Quantum kombi.

Tries

The witnesses said the two kombis were racing and shortly after they passed Soweto, the Magnificent kombi driven by one 'Gudaguda' Motsa, they had a disturbing screech made by the vehicle's tyres. Motsa was with his conductor Wandile Mphumelelo Dlodlu.

Witnesses added that the kombi struggled to stop when the driver applied breaks since it was speeding after it was disturbed by the other that got in the middle of the road, preventing it from passing through.

After the other kombi had sped past the Magnificent branded vehicle, the latter vehicle overturned several times before it landed upside down.

"My attention was drawn by the screeching sound and within a short space of time, the

kombi overturned," said an eye-witness.

He added that when the kombi overturned, the conductor Dlodlu was thrown out while it continued to roll over. Further, the witness said when he rushed to the scene he realised that the kombi was smoky so he was advised to stay away from it.

"While we were still shocked on how to assist the driver out of the vehicle, it went up in flames that quickly engulfed it. The driver was severely burnt while he struggled to free himself but fortunately, he managed to cheat death," stated the source.

Registration

The driver escaped out of the kombi blazing in fire though he managed to put out the flame by rolling on the ground.

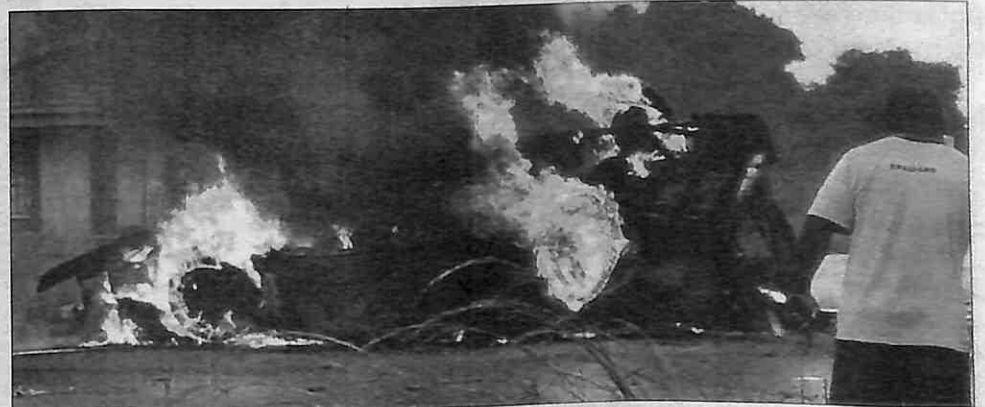
Even then, he was severely scalded all over his body, and the vehicle was burnt beyond recognition.

Another source opined that it was possible that the two kombis were racing towards Mbekeleweni where all kombis are expected to register.

The source said the registration of kombis was new. Explaining the registration process, the source said the first come first serve rule applied so the first kombi to register would also be the first to leave the park station to town.

Since the kombis are supposed to leave Mbekeleweni at five minutes intervals, being the first to leave has a high possibility for the operator to get more customers.

Therefore, in order to be the first to leave Mbekeleweni to town, kombi conductors should



UP IN SMOKE: The kombi which crashed and burned yesterday.

compete to be the first to arrive at the registration point. The wet weather conditions were suspected to have also contributed to the accident.

Injuries

Sought for comment, the Chief Police Information

and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the accident.

She said the driver and the conductor were rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital where they were admitted after sustaining severe injuries.

BUGANU FESTIVAL 2020



LOMANGCEVEZA: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi watching the performances by Lutsango. This was the last day of the Buganu Festival on Sunday at Buhleni Royal Residence. Emakhosikati and members of the Royal family leading in song and dance. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



IN NUMBERS: Emakhosikati leading Lutsango to the dancing arena.

(R) DANCING: Lutsango from the ministry health dancing up a storm.



IN SONG: Lutsango from the Fire and Emergency Services in full swing.



EMALANGENI: Emalangeni also came through to witness the last day of the festival.



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BISHOP MACULUVE FINALLY DIVORCES WIFE

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

GOSPEL artist Bishop Vusumuzi Maculuve has finally divorced his wife of 15 years.

The final decree of divorce between Maculuve and his ex-wife Nomvumelwano Lukhele was issued yesterday. It was issued by Magistrate Innocent Mahlalela at the Manzini Magistrate's Court, where Maculuve was accompanied by supporters including his new wife, Nombulelo Shongwe.

According to official records, the two singers' marriage annulment was instituted by Nomvumelwano following her ex-husband's infidelity.

Information gathered was to the effect that Maculuve committed adultery with two women and the results of his infidelity were two children; a boy and a girl, born out of wedlock.

Nomvumelwano said her former husband's extra-marital commitments affected her, though she forgave him after the children were introduced to her. To prove this, she said she raised the children like her own, and further took in the boy to live with her. Worth noting is that when the children were introduced to Nomvumelwano, she did not have one of her own. It was a few years later that she gave birth to a baby girl. Further

information was that the last straw was when Maculuve said he wanted to marry another wife.

At first, Nomvumelwano said she did not think much of this until she realised that her husband was determined to proceed with his plan, so she wanted to be out of the picture to let him to do as he pleased with his life. In her prayers, Nomvumelwano stated that she wanted Maculuve to maintain their daughter by contributing E750 per month. She also applied for sole custody of their daughter though Maculuve would be allowed to see her as per their agreement.

Property

Regarding property that the two had, Nomvumelwano suggested that each should keep whatever property they had in their possession since they no longer lived together.

The property includes a car that Nomvumelwano is currently in possession of. Further, regarding the church, God Cares Ministries situated at Mbikwakhe, which the two co-owned, Nomvumelwano said Maculuve should keep it provided it would continue operating as a church.

This is regardless of the fact that she had also contributed to the construction of the church.

However, should Bishop Maculuve decide to turn it into something else or sell it, Nomvumelwano said she would want a share of the proceeds of the sale.

In response to this, Bishop Maculuve said

the agreement made in the deed of settlement was that the church should remain with him until the board of the church decide otherwise. Other properties, according to Maculuve, were to be taken by Nomvumelwano.

In December last year, Bishop Maculuve married his second wife Nombulelo Shongwe (26) of Ludzeludze in Swazi Law and Custom (kuteka).

Claimed

Then, he claimed that he was already divorced with his wife Nomvumelwano.

Back in 2014, Maculuve who triples as a bishop, gospel artist and teacher, confessed to having impregnated two women, one from Nhlanguano and the other from Ntongozi.

According to a newspaper published on June 26, 2014, the bishop blamed the devil for causing him to be lustful and engage in adulterous relationships with the women he had children with. This happened after the gospel star was accused of allegedly fondling a woman in Manzini, though the charges against him were later withdrawn.

During an interview back then Maculuve, said he was trying by all means to maintain his children and was happy that his wife, Nomvumelwano, understood his predicament and was supportive.

"I no longer do the things I used to do; I'm a changed man. The devil has done a lot of things in my life and I regret everything that has happened," Maculuve was quoted as saying.



NEW LOVE: Bishop Vusumuzi Maculuve with his new-wife Nombulelo Shongwe. (R) Ex-wife Nomvumelwano Lukhele.

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RAINFALL DATA FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2020

STATION NAME	MM
MBABANE	44.4
KHUBUTA	20.8
NGWEMPISI	14.5
BIG BEND	42
MOTSHANE	7
SITHOBELA	22.5
MANANGA	95.5
NTFONJENI	98
SIPHOFANENI	11
MANDLANGEMPISI	144
MATSAPHA	10.6
NHLANGANO	27.6
SWAZILAND PLANTATIONS	93.5
VUVULANE	34.2
NSOKO	8
SITEKI	49.5
MAVULA	76.6
JERICO	16
NYONYANE	69
NDZEVANE	16.4
MOTI	10.8
MAHAMBA	31
MAHLANGATJA	30
PIGGS PEAK	0.4

MADLANGEMPISI RECEIVES HIGHEST RAINFALL

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE

Mbabane

CURRENT incessant rains experienced by the country resulted in Madlangempisi recording the highest rainfall.

According to statistics issued by the Eswatini National Meteorological Services Department, Madlangempisi under Hhohho region received 144mm rainfall as per the reading yesterday morning. It is also reflected in the statistics that the country received more rainfall between Saturday night and yesterday morning. Ntfontjeni notably received 98mm, which was the second highest rainfall. Ntfontjeni was closely followed by Mananga and Swaziland Plantations as they recorded 95.5 and 93.5mm, respectively. Other areas that received impressive rainfall are Mavula and Nyonyane. Mavula recorded 76.6mm and Nyonyane recorded 69mm. Mbabane, which normally leads the rainfall indices recorded, was amongst the areas that recorded close to average rainfall as it recorded 44.4mm.

Areas such as Vuvulane, Mahamba and Mahlangatja followed Mbabane at close range. There are areas that received the least rainfall such as Moti, Matsapha and Nsoko. Pigg's Peak recorded the least rainfall as it recorded 0.4mm. Notably, most areas in the Hhohho region received the highest rainfall while most areas located at Lubombo region received less rainfall.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **3 March 2020** starting at **09.30am**.

REGION MANZINI

1. 2 C INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD. P.O. Box 2375 MATSAPHA GRANT of a **WINE & MALT** Liquor Licence situated at **EMPHINI** known as **EDAMU WINE & MALT**.

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE

RN173756

DPMO NEEDS 70 SOCIAL WORKERS

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE office of the deputy prime minister's office (DPMO) needs 70 more social workers for effective service delivery.

The country's long standing fiscal crisis has resulted in government freezing all hiring and promotion of civil servants as a means to reduce the huge wage bill.

This has resulted in a number of vacant positions not being filled across all ministries and government departments.

The DPMO has not been spared as they have not been able to fill critical positions which, in turn,



CONFIRMED: Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku.

impacts negatively on service delivery. One of these critical service

deliveries is the provision of adequate social workers to deal with the many social challenges faced by Emaswati across the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku confirmed that his office was understaffed in the social work department as there were not enough social workers to service the populace.

He said the shortage of staff was not a new issue as the office has been strained and forced to stretch their resources. The shortage of staff has affected service delivery as there were more people to service than there were officers.

He acknowledges though that the current economic situation in the country was making things dif-

ficult. "We appreciate the dilemma we find ourselves in as a nation and acknowledge that we need to have enough resources to fill the vacancies," he said.

To illustrate his point, the DPM said the gender and family issues department was currently manned by three officials and they were tasked with servicing over one million people as more issues emanated from family settings.

He said in an ideal situation, there would be at least one social worker in each of the country's 59 Tinkhundla in order to decentralise the service delivery.

He added that currently there were 70 vacancies that needed to be filled. "Even if they are filled, they would not be enough but it would be a start," said Masuku.

He stated that as an office, they needed authority to fill the vacancies following which they would begin the necessary procedures for hiring.

No social workers at Kwaluseni Inkhundla

KWALUSENI Member of Parliament Sibusiso 'Mabhanisi' Dlamini has expressed concern with the shortage of social workers in his constituency.

He said as a constituency, there

were over 40 000 people who were permanent residents under the constituency and social issues were of great concern as there was no immediate support structure for the residents. "Without the pres-

ence of social workers at the inkhundla, many issues that could be avoided are currently engulfing the community," said Dlamini. He said in order to access social services, the community members

had to travel to Mbabane and Bhunya as Manzini was overwhelmed. He stated that ideally there was a need for more than one social worker per inkhundla to reduce the pressure on the DPMO. Dlamini also proposed for the relocation of funds for public assistance as the DPMO could not assist everyone that needs assistance.

Facebook scammer gets 4 years in prison

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

THE man who allegedly lured two female job-seekers through Facebook, has felt the retributive arm of the law after he was sentenced to four years in prison yesterday.

Wandile Zuma was arrested and charged with theft last week, after he reportedly lured Zanele Nxumalo and Mpho Hlatshwako, who fell prey to Zuma's antics when they both, separately, posted job advertisements on social media platform Facebook. Zuma stole over E12 000 worth of items belonging to both women, which he did under the false pretence of promising them employment.

Nxumalo stated that she posted that she was seeking a job as a nanny, adding her mobile number at the end of the post. She said in a matter of minutes, she received a WhatsApp message from a 'Mr Dladlu', who offered her a job in his place of residence in Lobamba.

"I resided at my parental home in Gilgal so when Dladlu showed interest in my post, I was excited to be offered the job on the spot.

He informed me that I would be taking care of his two-year old child and he needed me to travel from Gilgal to start work

the following day. I packed up all my belongings and informed my family of the good news," Nxumalo said.

Nxumalo explained that she left for Lobamba the following day but before she left she called Dladlu, who informed her that he wished to meet her first in Mbabane, before they both headed to his home.

Engaged

"When I arrived in Mbabane, Dladlu called me and asked me to meet him at the Hilton Garden Inn where he said he was engaged in a meeting. He then told me that he would send his employee to meet me so that he could bring me to him. I was not suspicious of anything at this point as I trusted that he had good intentions," she said.

When Dladlu's 'employee' arrived to pick Nxumalo up, she stated that he informed her that Dladlu had asked to meet with her at ECOT instead.

"When we arrived at ECOT, Dladlu's 'employee' told me that he had lost his phone and needed my phone to find it. He then instructed me to pack all my bags into the boot of his car and accompanied me to Dladlu's 'office'.

However, we never made it to the office before Dladlu's 'employee' disappeared with all my belongings, including my two cellphones," she con-

cluded.

Much like Nxumalo, Hlatshwako explained that she was left with only her cellphone, after the conman left with her belongings at Mbabane Government Hospital.

Hlatshwako filed a similar job posting where she was seeking a job as a cleaner. She claimed that she was messaged by a man claiming to have been a 'Mr Khumalo'.

"I waited for over three hours for him after he left me to look for the woman he told me was my new employer. He told me to change my dress code from wearing trousers to skirts and dresses, after he claimed that my new employer was a religious woman.

He told me that the woman had sent him on some errands and that was the last I saw of him. I had left all of my belongings in his car," Hlatshwako stated.

"When I arrived in Mbabane, Dladlu called me and asked me to meet him at the Hilton Garden Inn where he said he was engaged in a meeting"



Ex-PS Nomathemba Hlophe.

Ex-PS Nomathemba Hlophe alive, well - family

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

FORMER Ministry of Labour and Social Security Principal Secretary Nomathemba Hlophe's family is upset as she has been mistaken for the late former PS Nomathemba Dlamini, who passed away last week.

The late former PS was laid to rest on Saturday morning at Mangwaneni Cemetery after she succumbed to death on Tuesday morning after taking ill for some time. Concerned members of the public and relatives have been flooding the Hlophe family with messages of condolence which has caused unrest and panic as family members became increasingly concerned. Information gathered from reliable sources is that a number of people had contacted the Hlophe family after mistaking her for the late former PS to pass their condolences which has left the family upset as she is still alive and well. Worth noting was that both women were former PSs and Hlophe last held the position of principal secretary in the ministry of labour and social security. Following her retirement from the ministry, she was appointed Chairperson of the Swaziland Government Tender Board in late 2016.

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

ESWATINI has been hailed by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for setting up a Confiscated and Forfeited Funds Account.

The account is meant to enable victims of crime to be compensated, among other purposes. According to a report from the Conference of the States Parties, Eswatini signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption on September 15, 2005 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the secretary-general of the United Nations

Eswatini hailed for Confiscated, Forfeited Funds Account

on September 24, 2012. It is stated that the implementation by Eswatini of Chapters III and IV of the convention was reviewed in the fourth year of the first review cycle, and the executive summary of that review was issued on April 12, 2016, in addition to the full country report. The report states that key institutions involved in preventing and countering corruption include the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration (CHRP), Royal Eswatini Police Service, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), office of the auditor general (OAG), attorney general's

office (AGO), Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, Civil Service Commission (CSC), National Anti-Corruption Forum and the judiciary.

Eswatini was commended for the establishment of the Confiscated and Forfeited Funds Account and the CARF to enable victims of crime to be compensated, among other purposes. However, the report states that there was still room for improvement in the country when it comes to issues of battling corruption.

One of the recommendations contained in the report states that there was a need to review and update the country's national anti-corruption strategy, by providing time frames for implementation and identifying those responsible for its implementation.

Effective

"It is also recommended that Eswatini adopt its national anti-corruption policy, implement an effective oversight, coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanism and commit necessary resources for the full implementation of the strategy," part of the report reads.

Eswatini was also urged to enhance

collaboration with relevant international and regional organisations in the prevention of and fight against corruption.

The country was also urged to grant the ACC the necessary independence to carry out its functions effectively and free from any undue influence, and provide ACC with adequate financial, material and human resources and training.

"Establish publicity requirements, detailed selection procedures, a mechanism to address related grievances and clear criteria for the appointment and promotion of public officials that are based on principles of efficiency, transparency and objective criteria such as merit, equity and aptitude," the report reads.

'Zwemart' released for contempt of court

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

...his assault trial set for April 16, 2020

WITH a broad smile on his face, journalist Zweli Martin Dlamini faced his contempt of court charges headstrong yesterday morning.

Appearing before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati, Dlamini pleaded guilty to the after he was arrested last Friday for failing to make an appearance before acting Magistrate Simo Simelane on Thursday morning during the fresh matters session.

Dlamini, who sought the services of an attorney, stated that he had mixed up the dates for him to appear before the court.

Through his attorney, Dlamini added that he was under the impression that he was to appear before the court on Friday February 7, 2020.

"My client surrendered himself at the prosecuting counsel on Friday morning, as he understood that he was set to appear before the court on the principal charge of assault.

He did not attempt to evade justice by doing so, thus it will be the last time that this should happen. I plead with the court to consider these factors when dealing with the matter at hand," Dlamini's attorney stated.

Dlamini's attorney added that his client was ready to proceed with the matter,



OUT: Zweli Martin Dlamini.

and he had since served his time as he had been incarcerated since last Friday, meaning that he had spent three days in police custody.

After hearing his mitigation, Magistrate Vilakati warned Dlamini to abide by the bail conditions stipulated by the principal charge and should he fail to do so, his bail would be revoked.

He was further sentenced to serve five months in a correctional facility, with the option to pay a fine of E500. Magistrate Vilakati stated that the court considered the fact that Dlamini had spent three days in police custody, hence his sen-

tence was wholly suspended for a period of one year, on condition that he is not found to have committed a similar offence during that time. Dlamini was set to appear before the court on assault charges after he allegedly threatened to shoot and kill acting Indvuna Alfred Maseko.

According to court records, the 36-year-old Dlamini of LaMgabhi is alleged to have threatened to shoot and kill one Gedleza Alfred Maseko, thus committing the offense of assault common. The incident was said to have occurred at LaMgabhi community.

Embroided

Maseko is the acting Indvuna of LaMgabhi, Etiyeni.

Dlamini is embroiled in a land dispute with the LaMgabhi Royal Kraal, after it was discovered he allegedly appropriated himself and a relative land without the approval of umphakatsi.

Tensions are said to have arisen when Dlamini was confronted about his illicit land dealings, resulting in him threatening to shoot and kill Maseko.

To celebrate his release, some members of the public and Dlamini himself posted on social media platform Facebook informing his supporters of his release. "I'm now free, thanks for prayers and support, details will follow," Dlamini wrote in a Facebook post.

Five in court for killing Moza man

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

THE High Court yesterday heard how a man of Mozambican origin was allegedly killed by five men after being suspected of stealing a cock belonging to a princess.

The five are said to have heavily assaulted the Mozambican man with all sorts of weapons all over the body, leaving him for dead near a dam at Siteki. Patrick Mkhumbane, Ayanda Sikhondze, Mncedisi Mbukwane, Menzi Laphoko and Sicelo Shakes Gamedze stand accused of killing Musa Maziya, an incident that happened at Mahhodweni in Siteki. The deceased was suspected to have stolen the cock belonging to Princess Sitsini at Malayini near the police camp. Giving evidence under oath before Judge Muncy Dlamini yesterday was Siyabonga Dlamini, who has been made an accomplice witness by the state. The witness told the court that he was from town when he found the five at home assaulting the deceased person. He stated that

they later took the deceased to Mafemini in a car as the assault continue but the deceased managed to jump out while the car was in motion and bolted, towards a dam nearby. The five gave chase and caught up with him. "Minutes later, the five came back and I asked them where the deceased was, but I could not get a clear response before we drove back home," he said.

The deceased was later discovered dead near the dam and the five were subsequently arrested and charged with murder.

According to the indictment, the five approached one Bawinile Makhanya seething with anger as they bayed for the deceased's blood over the stolen cock which was later found to have been killed. Makhanya refused to tell them the deceased's whereabouts owing to their aggressive approach, but they later managed to locate him and dragged him to their car before he was eventually assaulted to death. The five are represented by Mbabane, based lawyer Sifiso Jele in the matter while the Crown is represented by Ayanda Matsenjwa.

Mystery as Mercedes Benz burnt in garage

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A 37-year-old man from Nkwilini was left distraught when a mysterious fire burnt his Mercedes Benz to ashes while in the garage.

The incident is reported to have happened at around 2am on Saturday. The owner of the car, Heyiso Mahlambe discovered that there was fire from his garage. Mahlambe said when he went to sleep on Friday night there was no fire around the garage. He said usually his family would make fire next to the garage, but during the day not in the evening. Mahlambe mentioned that he bought his car in 2017 for over E200

000. "I am so devastated by the damage to my car and to make matters worse, it was the only car that I was using on a daily basis," he said. He said he noticed that the garage was burning when he heard some crackling sound from outside. He said at first he was confused as to what was happening because when he went to sleep, it was raining and so there was no way there could be a fire. "As I was still confused by that, there was smoke coming from outside and when I peeped through the window, I saw some blazes of fire from the garage," he explained.

When he went outside, he found that his entire garage was in flames and the car had already started catching the fire.

The agitated Mahlambe tried to wake

his younger brother to come and help him put out the fire but it was too late as the inferno had already consumed the garage and its roof was falling on top of the car.

He stated that they tried to connect a water pipe from the tank with the intention to put out the fire, but that did not work. "We later called the fire and Emergency Services to come and help us, however, they came very late as we are situated in a remote area and it was muddy after the heavy rain the night before," he added. Mahlambe mentioned that the car was completely damaged by the time the fire emergency personnel arrived.

He said it was still a mystery where the fire came from.



Invitation Quotation for Conference package in Manzini region Taiwan Technical Mission

Taiwan Technical Mission would like to invite the following tenders

- Conference A (March-10 to March-12)**
 - Conference room for 3 days for 52 participants (March 10-12) including morning tea(3days), lunch(3days) and afternoon tea(2days), conference necessities (PA system, jar water, sweets, note pad, pen, flip charts, markers and free wi-fi etc.)
 - Accommodation for 7 single rooms, 23 share rooms (two beds) with free wi-fi and breakfast. (Note: check in on March 9th, check out on March 12th, No dinner included)
- Conference A (March 23 to March 26)**
 - Conference room for 4 days for 32 participants (23-26 to March, 2020) including morning tea (4 days), lunch (4 days) and afternoon tea (3 day), conference necessities (PA system, jar water, sweets, note pad, pen, flip charts, markers and free wi-fi etc.)
 - Accommodation 6 single rooms, 13 share rooms (two beds), with free wi-fi and breakfast. (Note: check in on 22 March, check out on check out 26 March, No dinner included)

Please note:

- The quotation should cover all above-mentioned conference and accommodation available, and provide in one quotation.
- Quotation should be delivered through email via ncelelicious@gmail.com to Ms. Nonhlanhla Nozipho Mavuso before 05:00 pm, 14th February, 2020.
- For more information please contact 7999 8556, Ms. Nonhlanhla Nozipho Mavuso.

Jan Sithole's wife relives terror at hands of armed robbers

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

MARILYN, wife to former Manzini North Member of Parliament Jan Sithole, yesterday relived moments of terror at the hands of armed robbers while giving evidence at the High Court.

She appeared as a witness before Judge Doris Tshabalala in the matter involving two suspects charged with the robbery that took place at her home in Madonsa.

Giving evidence while led by

crown counsel Nolwazi Mabila, Sithole's wife related how she together with her children and husband were terrorised by the robbers who were armed with a pistol inside the family house.

She told the court that she was enjoying the comfort of her home with her children when the thugs pounced in the evening and held them hostage before demanding access to her husband's safe which never existed.

With their faces covered with balaclavas, the two armed men according to her held her son and placed



The High Court where the matter was heard.

the firearm on his neck while the other demanded cellphones and car keys.

"At that point Sithole (Jan) arrived and was also held hostage. At first Sithole resisted to take instructions from the armed men, but I advised him against such as the men were armed and dangerous," she said.

She told the court that they were all ordered to lie down on the floor before the robbery was executed as the thugs robbed them of a computer, laptops, camera and cellphones, amongst other items.

One of the suspects then ordered her to call her sister-in-law and tell her (sister-in-law) to bring along with her money which they badly needed.

Seeing they could not get hold of the money, the armed thugs, according to

Sithole's wife, demanded keys to one of the family cars that was parked outside and asked for its driving instructions since it was an Audi make.

However, Sithole's wife said she told them it could be driven like any other vehicle and they took the keys before driving off, leaving them lying on the floor.

Since they were on the upper level of their double storey mansion, they had difficulty in exiting to the lower level since the armed men had locked them in.

It took one of her sons to jump through a window and got a ladder for them to get out and raise an alarm.

Neighbours assisted them as they called the police through their phones since the family had lost their cellphones dur-

ing the ordeal.

Police later arrived and statements were taken from all the family members who related what transpired.

It was after some time that police called the Sithole family for an identification parade as the suspects had been arrested with some of the stolen items already recovered.

However, they could not clearly identify them since they had covered their faces with face masks during commission of the offence.

Appearing for the accused persons in the matter was Mbabane based lawyer Noncedo Ndlangamandla of Mabila Attorneys in association with N Ndlangamandla law firm.

At that point Sithole (Jan) arrived and was also held hostage. At first Sithole resisted to take instructions from the armed men, but I advised him against such as the men were armed and dangerous

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Cultural beauty...



The packed arena as Lutsango showcased their love for their culture. This was the scene during the Baganu Festival at Buhleni Royal Residence over the weekend. The festival attended by throngs of Lutsango and spectators, started with the delivery of the buganu on Friday and ended on Sunday evening. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

Man who strangled, killed motorist denied bail

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
High Court

THE High Court has denied bail for a 33-year-old man who strangled to death a motorist and stole his car in broad daylight.

Lucas Sanele Mabila was arrested after he strangled another man to death during a hijacking incident. It is alleged that the accused was in the company of another male when they strangled the deceased and took his vehicle.

Mabila appeared before Judge Mumcy Dlamini, where he requested to be released on bail just like his co-accused.

Justice Dlamini denied the accused bail, stating that unlike his co-accused, there were no exceptional circumstances in his case. The judge informed the accused that he was facing a very serious charge where the deceased was strangled and had his motor vehicle



PRESIDING: Judge Mumcy Dlamini.

taken in broad daylight. She said at the time when the offence was committed, the applicant's co-accused was 22 years old and a school going pupil. She said school was very vital and it was something that could be considered as an exceptional circumstance. She said there were no exceptional circumstances for Mabila, as a result his application for bail was dismissed by the court.

Meanwhile, in a different matter, a man from Tshaneni area was granted bail of E50 000 after he was arrested for raping a 16-year-old girl.

Phiwokwakhe Gamedze appeared before Judge Qinisile Mabuza.

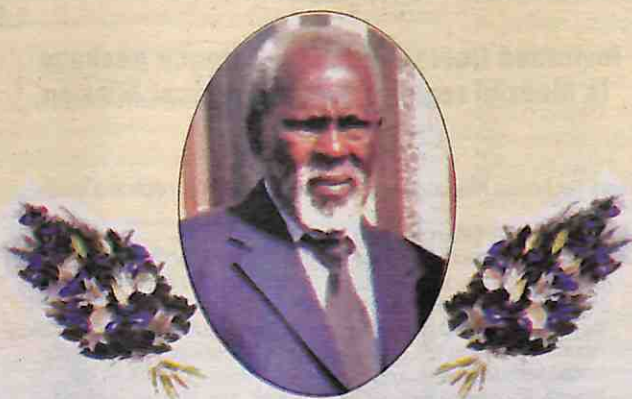
The accused was first arrested by Buhleni police on 3 February and charged with rape. In his affidavit, Gamedze stated that he made an appearance at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Courts, where he was denied bail.

He said he verily believed that he had a bonafide defence to the crime he was charged with.

He stated that his application for bail was urgent in that he is innocent of the charges. He said the current deprivation of liberty whilst guilt has not been established was wrongful.

The accused was eventually granted bail fixed at E50 000. He was ordered to pay E3 000 cash and provide surety in the sum of E47 000.

Funeral Notice



Chief Mlungeli Naphtal Mahlalela

In Our Hearts Forever and Always

25th December 1938 - 29th January 2020

Family, Relatives, BantwabeNkhosi, boBabe Tikhulu, friends and the whole of Tsambokhulu, Manjengeni and Lomahasha community are notified that Chief Mlungeli Naphtal Mahlalela has responded to the call to be with the Lord.

His funeral service will be in the early hours of **Saturday 15th February 2020**, after a night vigil at his home at Lomahasha on the **14th February 2020** starting at 8pm.

Rest In Peace
Maziya, Mcanco, Mlangeni.

CJ takes minister to see leaking High Court building

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

CHIEF Justice (CJ) Bheki Maphalala yesterday took Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Pholile Shakantu and the ministry's portfolio committee on a site seeing tour of a leaking High Court building.

The weather seemed to have come in handy as some of the roofs of the courtrooms were leaking, owing to the rains that have been pouring since the weekend.

The minister and her entourage arrived at the High Court just after noon and the CJ took them through all the courtrooms starting from Court A, which is normally reserved for the Supreme Court, through Court I. Most leaking are Courts I and H as buckets were placed on some of the seats in the public gallery while rain drops filled up.

The CJ was also in the company of Principal Magistrates David Khumalo of Manzini and Fikile Nhlabatsi of Mbabane, amongst others.

However, matters that were before court were not affected by the leaking roofs as a trial for suspects who allegedly attacked and robbed Jan Sithole and his family proceeded in Court H.

The High Court was constructed in 1993 and was officially opened by His Majesty King Mswati III on October 24, 1996.

Although there have been some renovations over the past 20 years, it appears the leaking

...she was accompanied by ministry's portfolio committee



Minister of Justice Pholile Shakantu and members of the justice ministry portfolio committee being shown the leaking courts by Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala.

roofs continue to be a problem.

Having had first hand experience on the leak-

ing structure, the portfolio committee promised to work on the issue.

Mbabane courts tackle 17 000 new cases each year

THE Judiciary has revealed that the Mbabane courts tackle at least 17 000 fresh cases each year, resulting in the shortage of courtrooms.

This was disclosed by the CJ, who stated that currently there are only nine courtrooms at the High Court, which encompasses the Supreme Court, five at the Industrial Court and four at the Magistrates Court premises.

They all have to tackle 17 000 new cases per year, both civil and criminal, thus contributing to the backlog.

Owing to the dilapidated condition of some of the courts, the CJ requested for assistance from the members of Parliament in ensuring that the Judiciary secures more courts in various parts of the country, including Buhleni and Mbabane.

These could be done through government funding of capital projects. This was also echoed by the minister as she who supported the CJ in the call for more courts and improving the dilapidated condition of some of them.

The shortage of courts has also seen a backlog of cases according to the CJ as magistrates and judges are forced to share courts.

Committee Chairperson Sibusiso 'Mabhanisi' Dlamini appreciated the tour and promised that they would be advocates of the Judiciary issues in Parliament.

This is because they had observed that the Judiciary works under challenging conditions and the ministry at large, given that HMCS were also congested as a result of the shortage of judicial officers and courtrooms.

Also forming part of the tour were the Principal Secretary Loraine Hlophe and Principal Magistrates David Khumalo and Fikile Nhlabatsi.

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CALL TERMINATION MARKET REVIEW DECISION
05 FEBRUARY 2020

ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DECISION NO. 01 / 2020

DECISION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 OF THE ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ACT, 2013: MARKET DEFINITION, ANALYSIS AND DETERMINATION OF DOMINANCE.

(1) DEFINITION OF CANDIDATE MARKET (CALL TERMINATION) (2) FINDING OF DOMINANCE IN THE CALL TERMINATION MARKET

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Commission acting in accordance with Section 23 of the Eswatini Electronic Communications Act, 2013 (ECA) has defined call termination as a market, conducted an analysis of the market and made a determination on dominance.
- 1.2 The Commission has noted that despite a positive growth in competition in the sector, there is still need to address pertinent elements of competition which may stifle effective competition.

2. PROCESS ADOPTED

Consultation and data collection

- 2.1 The Commission requested the operators to furnish the following information; subscriptions data, Interconnection revenue data, Total Revenue data, and Traffic data used for carrying out the call termination market analysis.

3. DEFINITION OF THE MARKET FOR WHOLESALE CALL TERMINATION

- 3.1 The key features of the call termination market are defined by the Commission as constituting the following elements:
 - 3.1.1 The call termination market is a wholesale market;
 - 3.1.2 The product is termination of a voice call or SMS on a fixed or mobile network that originates on another fixed or mobile operators' network;
 - 3.1.3 The voice calls and SMS are carried over the fixed or mobile network, as applicable;
 - 3.1.4 Call termination is not supplied to business or residential customers in the retail market; and
 - 3.1.5 The geographic scope of the market encompasses the whole geographic region of Eswatini and does not differentiate between different regions within Eswatini.

4. FINDINGS

- 4.1 Given the lack of effective competition in each operators' respective call termination market, each operator in Eswatini is dominant in the market for call termination on its own network.

5. DETERMINATION

Ineffective Competition

- 5.1 The Commission has determined that competition in the Voice Call Termination Market in Eswatini is currently not effectively competitive.
- 5.2 Call Termination is a natural monopoly in which all three licensees that provide wholesale call termination services are dominant on their respective networks.
- 5.3 While all licensees are dominant, the Commission has also determined that MTN Eswatini holds Significant Market Power (SMP) in the wholesale voice call termination market in Eswatini.

6. DECISION

- 6.1 According to Section 23(3) of the ECA the Commission shall identify the licensees with market dominance and impose the appropriate obligations. The Commission issues the following decision:

- 6.1.1 Competition in the wholesale Voice Call Termination Market is currently not effectively competitive.

- 6.1.2 MTN Eswatini is dominant in the provision of wholesale call termination on its own network and holds Significant Market Power (SMP) in the wholesale voice call termination market in Eswatini.

- 6.1.2.1 Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation is dominant in the provision of wholesale call termination on its own network.

- 6.1.2.2 Eswatini Mobile is dominant in the provision of wholesale call termination on its own network.

- 6.2 The Commission imposes the obligations under section 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the ECA 2013.

- 6.2.1 With regards to obligation under section 24, the Commission directs that Eswatini Mobile and MTN Eswatini to Interconnect as per The Electronic Communications (Interconnection) Regulations, 2016, on or before 1st April 2020.

- 6.3 With regards to obligation under section 28, the Commission directs EPTC, MTN Eswatini and Eswatini Mobile as follows:

- 6.3.1 To reduce overall Call Termination Rates for both Mobile and Fixed Networks over a period of three years beginning in April 2020 to March 2023.

- 6.3.2 To apply Asymmetric Call Termination Rates system determined by the Commission.

- 6.3.3 The Commission determines that the following Voice Call Termination Rates shall be applicable following a three (3) year glide path as shown in the table below:

Call Termination Rates

	MTN ESW	EPTC ESW	ESW MOBILE ESW	ESW MOBILE ESW	ESW MOBILE ESW	ESW MOBILE ESW
Current Rates	0.30	0.24	0.30	0.24	N/A	N/A
April 2020 to March 2021	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.19	0.20	0.25
April 2021 to March 2022	0.18	0.14	0.18	0.14	0.15	0.19
April 2022 to March 2023	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.13

- 1.1 This decision shall come into force on 2 March 2020.

The full decision is published on the Commission website www.esccom.org.sz titled "Eswatini Communications Commission Call Termination Market Decision 1/2020".

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DOC21116

Shaping Lives Foundation donates 100 pairs of school shoes

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Siphofaneni

SHAPING Lives Foundation (SLF) has donated 100 pairs of school shoes, socks and shoe polish to Siphofaneni Primary pupils.

Through a campaign called #BackToSchoolExperience this past weekend, the foundation hosted a charity event in which they presented 100 pupils with shoes, socks, reading books and other schooling accessories required by primary learners.

The foundation's Public Relations Officer Phila Mabuza said the initial target was 25 pupils, but the school provided a list of pupils with dire need for school shoes which was way above 60 pupils.

"Due to the high number of pupils who were in need of school shoes, we then decided to increase the numbers.

Since we are forever guided by faith in all that we do and we believe in the challenges set before us, we then provided 100 pairs of shoes accompanied by the socks, brushes and polish as a package," he said. Mabuza said it was motivating to see the smiles of the pupils that benefited from the initiative. However, the state of the school and academics was devastating. He said as a central school of the community, it gave them insight that they needed more than just materialistic things to uplift the academic status of the school.

Meanwhile, Principal Sibusiso Nkambule said even though he was new to the school, it gave him great joy to meet young souls who were willing to bring change to their communities.

"It is really a wonderful thing what you are doing and we are very grateful for it. I will encourage that you do not only just give out the shoes but also provide the children with motivational speeches and words



HAPPY PEOPLE: Some Siphofaneni Primary pupils with their new school shoes donated by Shaping Lives Foundation. (Pics: Nonduduzo Kunene)



HONoured: The Siphofaneni Primary School deputy principal Ntombi Dlamini making her remarks.



GRATEFUL: A section of the pupils listening to motivational speeches.



NEW ONE: Banele Shongwe being assisted by a Shaping Lives Foundation member to put on her new shoes.

of wisdom that may encourage them to look at life in a different manner and approach," he said. Siphofaneni Primary is one of the oldest schools faced by many challenges which include dilapidated structures which do not create a conducive learning environment.

Nkambule said most of the classrooms needed to be rehabilitated which included flooring, roofing and all other essentials for a school. He applauded the organisation for choosing his school as it had a lot of disadvantaged pupils.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Khosi Mthembu thanked the foundation for the generous donation.

Mthembu said some of them have been wearing the same pair of school shoes for the past three years which had feet exposed.

"Seeing such things happen to us which we did not expect really makes us so happy and we now know that even though it may be tough there will always be someone out there who cares so much to also notice and remember us," she said.

About Shaping Lives Foundation: • Shaping Lives Foundation (SLF) is an interdenominational youth initiated non-profit organisation from the Lubombo region, established in 2018.

• It is aimed at spreading the Gospel and love of Christ by uplifting underprivileged communities through various charity campaigns.

• It also forms alliances with various stakeholders to alleviate poverty stricken and socio-economically challenged communities.

• It consists of one chairman, one secretary, one legal and compliance officer, and one treasurer who also serves as the public relations officer (PRO). These executives range from the ages 23 to 35.

• The main objective is bringing hope to those feeling abandoned, whilst breaking the segregation barrier caused by class specification and poverty.

Kombi driver arrested, charged with raping teenager

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlengano

A kombi driver was charged with contravening Section 3 (1) of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 15/2018 after allegedly raping a teenager.

Last week Sunday, Mncedisi Dlamini from Mahlabatsini, aged 29, allegedly unlawfully engaged in a sexual act with a teenager, aged 16, thereby committing the offence of rape in a forest in Nhlengano. Dlamini, who drives a kombi servicing Nhlengano-Gege route, allegedly took advantage of the girl who slept while waiting for other passengers to board. Upon noticing that the girl was the only passenger, the driver left the bus rank for the forest after informing his colleagues that he was going to the filling station.

"The girl was surprised when she woke up only to find that she was the only passenger and got worried upon discovering that she was in an unfamiliar place. In fact, she thought she overslept and had long passed where she expected to be dropped," explained a source.

The girl enquired where they were headed to as she noticed that they had diverted from the Nhlengano-Mahamba main road, but she never got a response.

"The girl was confused and in the midst of all that Mncedisi jumped to the seat she was occupying, which left her even more worried as she started suspecting that he was up to some mischief.

The girl tried to call her parents using her cell-phone but the driver grabbed it from her and started touching her. He eventually forced himself on her.

He drove back to town and dropped her next to a hardware store where she devised a plan to report the matter," said a source. It was established that the girl was originally from Mankayane.

She approached a couple and disclosed everything. She asked the couple to accompany her to the police station to report what had befallen her and further called her father to tell him what happened. The police acted swiftly and went to look for the driver and he was arrested. Dlamini appeared before Shiselweni Principal Magistrate Florence Msibi and was remanded back into custody. Patty Hlophe stood in for the Crown.

PENSIONERS TELL OFF CHIEF GASA WANGWANE

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

PENSIONERS have urged Chief Gasa Wangwane to stop speaking out of turn.

Following a statement made by Chief Gasa Wangwane last week where he suggested that the deputy prime minister's office (DPMO) should reconsider having pensionable elderly benefiting from the social grant programme; pensioners urged the traditional leader to stay away from issues he does not understand.

President of Mbabane pensioners branch Dr. Osvart Sukati said the chief was indulging on issues he will not be able to answer to whenever he is asked to state full reasons. Sukati said PSPF pensioners

were the 'rightful owners' of the grant. The president supported his statement by stating that PSPF pensioners were the ones who pleaded with King Sobhuza II for the elderly grant.

"We deserve the grant, we own the grant and we worked for the grant," he said. Sukati added that King Sobhuza II after deliberating on what the pensioners were asking for, then suggested that every elderly should be included in the grant. "His Majesty said if life is difficult for the employed it is possible that it is worse for the unemployed so everyone should be entitled to the elderly grant," he said.

He further stated that they were the ones who were paying taxes when they were still employed, thus contributing to the grant. Sukati said there were people who worked in

high paying companies yet were receiving the grant. He pleaded for the chief to do his research the next time he makes sensitive statements.

"Kusuka bantfu labangati nge-grant bakhulume ngayo," he said.

Sukati said the elderly grant has nothing to do with an individual employment but anyone who has reached the age of 60.

This came after the chief said he thought it was unfair to have elderly entitled to pension also cashing from the social grants programme. The traditional leader was making submissions at a dialogue between the DPMO and Shiselweni chiefs on the reduction of teenage pregnancy and violence held at Nhlengano National Library last week. DPM Thamba Masuku was accompanied by other stakeholders working close-

ly with his office. The chiefs were given a chance to make submissions and they suggested how the DPMO should handle some of the issues. They made recommendations on how government, in particular the DPM's office, can tackle some of the issues and challenges, including improvement of the welfare of the senior citizens.

“

His Majesty said if life is difficult for the employed it is possible that it is worse for the unemployed so everyone should be entitled to the elderly grant

”

TWO CHILDREN

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

SINCE the beginning of this year, two children's lives were lost in four fatal accidents involving those aged between six to 20.

This was revealed by National Commissioner of Police William Dlamini through Senior Deputy National Commissioner Emmanuel Sula Dlamini.

The NatCom was speaking during the 10th year's back to school activation campaign held at Sidvokodvo Railways Station Ground on Thursday.

This campaign is hosted annually by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) in collaboration with Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund, the ministry of public works and transport, Eswatini Railways, the Road

FARMERS HEAVE SIGH OF RELIEF AFTER GOOD RAINS

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

THE rainfall experienced in many parts of the country over the past few days has brought a sigh of relief to farmers under the Lubombo region.

The region was on the verge of experiencing drought as a result of insufficient rainfall over

the past few months. Crops were reportedly drying up due to the scorching heat in many parts of the region. Places such as Lubulini, Sithobelweni, St Philips, Gamula and Malindza were reportedly the most affected.

Malindza Bucopho Seven Tsabedze said the situation was worse as hundreds of residents were already in need of food handouts. Tsabedze said the area had been experiencing a dry spell since November with some occasional rainfall.

"The amount of rainfall that we received from Thursday until Sunday has come as a relief to the residents of the area as many water sources were also drying up," said Tsabedze.

Mbongeni Matsenjwa of Gamula said the area had also received impressive rains in the past two days.

Gamula was already facing a water crisis after a number of water sources had dried up.

"We are usually the first to feel the effects of drought whenever there is scarcity of rainfall.

It already seems like we are in that situation. The rains gave us hope as farmers in the area," said Samson Matsenjwa, a known farmer at Lubulini.

Matsenjwa added that they had adopted the culture of farming crops which are resistant to high temperatures, although they also need rainfall at least once a month.

Other places that were reported to have received good rainfall on Sunday include Siteki, Maphungwane and Sitsatsaweni.

MAN COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER CRASHING BROTHER'S CAR

BY BONCIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A 23-year-old man has committed suicide after crashing his brother's car.

Mlungisi Mdluli of Mbelebeleni, under the Manzini region, was found dead at his home-stand at around midnight last Thursday after he is believed to have hung himself on a tree.

Information gathered from impeccable sources is that the brother had left the car under Mlungisi's care when he went to work in one of the schools in the Manzini region where he is a teacher.

Destination

It is said Mlungisi was to drive the car to his brother on an unspecified day.

However, before this day could come, Mlungisi reportedly drove the car to an unknown destination last Wednesday night.

Although the damage to the vehicle was not irreparable, Mlungisi is said to have panicked and decided to take his own life.

Sources said after the accident, he drove back home at Mbelebeleni.

When he got home, one of his brothers saw him and noticed that Mlungisi was not his usual self as he appeared jittery and unsettled.

News

The brother is said to have asked what was wrong, and when Mlungisi failed to respond right away, the sibling made nothing of it since it was late in the night.

Soon thereafter, the brother is said to have dozed off shortly before midnight, only for him to wake up to the news that Mlungisi had hung and killed himself on the tree within the home premises.

This incident was confirmed by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.



CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

E10 BUGANU SETS BACK MOTORIST BY E1 000

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A two-litre manual brew which costs merely E10 proved to be too expensive for a motorist who found himself having to pay a sum of E1 000 after he was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Mxolisi Maseko (38) appeared before the magistrate's court where he faced a charge of contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

He wrongfully and unlawfully drove a vehi-

cle while the content of alcohol in his body was above the legal limit which stands at 0.38 mg/l. A breathalyser test indicated that the accused person had 0.76 mg/l in his system.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty to the charge while conducting his own defence.

His plea was accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence.

In mitigation, Maseko asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence as he was a first

time offender.

He told the court that he bought a two-litre full of buganu from a vendor E10. He said his initial plan was to have the traditional beer at his home, but was tempted to drink it along the way.

Just after he had finished the brew, he found a roadblock mounted by traffic officers, resulting to his arrest.

The accused person was accordingly found guilty as charged. He was sentenced to three months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

HAVE DIED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS THIS YEAR

Safety Council and the Fire and Emergency Services.

The campaign's theme is, 'Phephisa Umntfwana, Kuphile Live.' As per the theme, the aim of the campaign is to ensure the safety of the public, more especially the school-going population in the country's roads.

Trauma

When making his speech, through his deputy, the NatCom said it was a cause for concern that barely five weeks into the New Year, a total of 78 children have been involved in either fatal, serious or minor accidents, with devastating socio-economic and trauma-inducing consequences.

Dlamini said these statistics illustrated the propensity that they could escalate further if the necessary remedial measures and sensitisation of all concerned role players on child road safety in particular are not taken.

Comparing last year's statistics to those recorded in 2018, the NatCom said there was a 2.6

per cent increase in the number of fatalities of children as 39 were recorded while there were only 28 in 2018. From 71 serious accidents that were recorded in 2018 to 96 in 2019, the national commissioner said there was an increase of 35 per cent of such accidents involving children in 2019.

When speaking on road safety education, Dlamini was quick to mention that focus was not solely centred on the children, but on all road users, particularly 'bomalume' who transport children to school on a daily basis, public transport operators, drivers and pedestrians alike.

Departure

Dlamini implored school bus drivers to ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy before departure.

He said loud music and overloading of school buses also contributed to the road accidents involving children.

The NatCom added that it was the responsi-

bility of parents, teachers and drivers alike to teach children how to cross the road safely.

He said elderly supervision at pick-up and drop-off points for children must be done by parents, drivers and other road users.

Campaign

Dlamini highlighted that road safety was no longer a duty for the police alone hence the partnership with other entities with the same goal of keeping the public using the country's roads safe. He said it was for this reason that the Road Safety Stakeholder Alliance had contributed immensely towards the success of this campaign. He then commended the entity for their continued support.

"Our collective engagement in an event of such importance and magnitude portrays our willingness and determination to ensure a safe and smooth transition from the leisurely holidays break to the back-to-school hustle and bustle for our school-going children and general workforce similarly," Dlamini said.

Mystery surrounds textile worker's death

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlngano

MYSTERY surrounds the death of a textile employee as there are several versions given with some saying she collapsed, while others claim she was struck by lightning.

The death of Fikile Kunene, who was employed by FTM Garments in Nhlngano on Wednesday, has sparked a debate among her fellow workers and community.

The management stated that they were informed that Kunene collapsed and died in a toilet, adding that they were not aware of other reports apart from the one from supervisors.

The incident occurred at FTM Garments situated at the Nhlngano Industrial Site. The factory has three sections in Nhlngano with two sections at the Industrial Site and the other one, which was the first to operate, near Zheng Yong on the way to Jabulani.

Death

The death of Kunene left her colleagues shocked.

While no clear explanation was given as to what exactly led to Kunene's death, some believe she suffered from hypertension (BP) and that could be the contributing factor that led to her collapsing and dying inside a toilet.

"The real cause of her death is not known but what the management believes is that she died after collapsing in the toilet.

Trouble

Sam Mdluli, one of the senior managers at FTM Garments, said from the report he got from one of the supervisors, Kunene collapsed inside the toilet.

He said he was not informed of anything else other than that she collapsed. "That is what I got from the supervisor of the deceased and nothing else. Let's leave it to the pathologists.

"The results of the postmortem will tell us the cause of death. That it could be lightning; I have not been informed about that. Let's just leave it to the experts who will tell us what happened," said Mdluli.

On the other hand, Police mouthpiece Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said reports she got were that Kunene collapsed and died.



Markets play important role - Eswatini Stock Exchange

STORIES BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

IN adopting the World Federation of Exchanges Sustainability Principles, the Eswatini Stock Exchange acknowledges the important role markets play in enabling the transition to an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

This was said by Global Reporting Initiative Director Douglas Kativu during a workshop held at Hilton Garden Inn last Friday.

He said the exchanges, given their central role in financial markets, could shape the understanding, appreciation and integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues in capital markets pursuant to long term health and resilience of the markets as well as sustained returns and growth.

Sustainability principles identified the need to educate and build the capacity of investors, issuers and market participants on ESG risks and opportunities. Kativu said enhanced accountability and transparency by listed companies would engender trust and con-



POSE: GRI's Africa Director Douglas Kativu with Eswatini Stock Exchange and the Financial Services Regulatory Authority staff during the workshop which was held at Hilton Garden Inn Hotel. (Pic: Bongumusa Simelane)

fidence of investors critical for resilient capital markets, and sustained returns and growth. "Listed companies will enhance their competitiveness with regards to improved operational efficiencies, risk management, innovation and market access. Collaborating with GRI will provide opportunities for ASEA and member exchanges to

enhance their knowledge and capacity on GRI sustainability," he added.

Meanwhile, Financial Services Regulatory Authority Acting Chief Executive Officer Gugu Makhanya stated that the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) which was a leading organisation in

sustainability reporting, were collaborating to enhance the integration of ESG issues and disclosure within African Capital Markets.

She said the partnership would support the development of ESG Disclosure Guidance by ASEA exchanges, which would apply to listed companies in their markets. Not only that but they

Partnership benefits

FINANCIAL Services Regulatory Authority Acting Chief Executive Officer Gugu Makhanya said the benefits of the partnership include increased awareness and capacity of member exchanges and listed companies on sustainability reporting.

She said global policy trends and best reporting practices were among the many benefits of the partnership. She highlighted that GRI has secured funding from governmental partners to support programme implementation up to December 2020 and GRI is open to co-funding from ASEA funding partners.

She said the parties would also jointly approach funding partners to secure resources to support long-term collaboration and implementation.

will also facilitate training and capacity building of listed companies on sustainability reporting. "The collaboration supports and gives effect to ASEA's Sustainability Roadmap and the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) sustainability principles," she said.

Eswatini benefits from Rotary Clubs medical projects

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Manzini

GOVERNMENT is benefitting a lot from the medical projects carried out by the Rotary Clubs in the country.

This was the view of the Manzini Rotary Club Secretary Zelda Nhlabatsi. She said there was a lot the country's health sector was benefitting from the projects.

She said the medical projects usu-

ally saw a large number of people from all walks of life being attended to by specialist doctors for free every year. At least 800 patients were attended to in a space of a weekend.

Nhlabatsi stated that there were people who found it hard to go to clinics or hospitals because of the distance they had to cover. Sometimes they didn't have the money so with the medical projects, they get the chance to be treated for free.

"We have seen a lot of people benefitting from the medical projects and

we believe that there is a lot needs to be done in the health sector to assist government because we all know that a lot of money is spent by government in purchasing medication for its people," Nhlabatsi said.

She said the Rotary Club of Manzini usually obtained assistance from the Rotary Club of Phalaborwa. They in turn chose any community which will be a catchment for the nearby communities. She said that was done with help from the ministry of health.

"We then get the specialists doctors from Parabola and locally we look for donations for the medication which will be used during the project," she added.

Nhlabatsi stated that they had realised that the health outreach projects were very effective because many Emaswati were treated with a few referred to hospitals.

She said from the turnout, it was clear that government needed a lot of partners in the health sector.

Meanwhile, Kobla Quashie, who is in charge of the Manzini Rotary Club Book Centre, said they were also passionate about the education sector as they recently received two containers of books from Canada.

He said the books and furniture would be distributed to schools around the country. Quashie said there were a lot of schools in need of books and furniture so they would make sure these were assisted. He said the schools that needed the materials normally wrote proposals to them. They visited the selected school to assess the situation. Adding, he stated that they then invite the schools to come and take the books. "We need help in these projects and we urge other local com-



ROTARIANS: Manzini Rotary Club's Kobla Quashie and Secretary Zelda Nhlabatsi pose during the sorting of the materials from Canada on Saturday. (Pics: Bongumusa Simelane)



SORTING: Rotarians from Manzini and Mbuluzi-Mbabane Rotary Clubs hard at work.

panies to contribute to such initiatives because a lot of individuals benefit from them and more communities are uplifted through them," Quashie added.

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VACANCIES

Ubombo Sugar Limited part of the Illovo Sugar Africa Group, is a leading producer of sugar and downstream products. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for appointment to the following vacancies that have arisen in the Company.

VACANCY: CO-GENERATION MANAGER

THE JOB:
Reporting to the Factory Head, the purpose of the job is to optimise power generation performance by leading and managing teams to achieve the highest standards of efficiencies and generation period, maximizing power generated at lowest cost as well as provide operational and maintenance support to factory management.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Oversee operations and power production planning to ensure efficiency, quality control, budgetary control, service, and cost-effective management of resources.
- Together with the teams, achieve shift, daily, weekly, monthly performance targets against business/operational goals and objectives by ensuring that tasks are prioritised and planned in a logical, systematic and cost effective way to optimise profitability.
- Develop capital plans and front end packages for additional power generation and export in the own power generation, biomass and solar power areas of opportunity.
- Manage the power purchase agreement requirements and amendments for the Ubombo business, with the mindset to maximize the value from this revenue stream. Timely submission of annual contractual increments.
- Drive operational excellence by making informed trade-offs and driving initiatives that will deliver greatest possible output and quality levels.
- Contribute to the development of manufacturing plans, goals and KPI's where required.
- Drive rigorous performance management, biased towards rewarding strong performance and compliance with critical behaviours including managing consequences where required.
- Report on performance in line with key performance areas as well as key adverse or positive developments to Factory Head.
- Conduct regular inspections of factory and equipment in line with company, legislative, quality best practice and food safety requirements.
- Ensure Steam and Power generation activities operate in accordance to defined best practices to maintain effective process quality assurance.
- Adopt and embed agreed best practices, frameworks and minimum standards for all aspects of electrical maintenance and cogeneration power production.
- Provide front end, steam and power generation plant maintenance and operational support to the factory management teams to ensure optimal plant availability.
- Identify areas where power production and electrical maintenance standards can be improved and lead the implementation of processes and activities to make improvements.
- Establish and lead a problem solving approach across the cogeneration and electrical sections to identify and address problems and improvement opportunities.
- Provide input into business cases for key capital projects and support delivery, ensuring required economic and desired outcomes are delivered on.
- Promote and adhere to Illovo procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC).

THE APPLICANT:

- B Tech / BSc in Electrical Engineering, GCC electrical advantageous.
- Experience in medium to large power and steam generation associated electrical engineering, experience with overhead power reticulation, distribution and protection systems.
- Experience in the maintenance and operation of heavy plant within the sugar industry (Large turbo alternators, water tube boilers, extraction equipment and steam/power ancillary equipment).
- 5 to 10 years experience in the sugar industry with at least 3 years at a senior management level.
- Financial and business acumen for a large estate, including capex management on cogeneration, energy and electrical projects.

VACANCY: ELECTRICAL ENGINEER - OUTSIDE SERVICES

THE JOB:
Reporting to the Co Generation Manager, the purpose of the job is to provide specialised electrical engineering support to estate maintenance teams so they can achieve their targets (Irrigation plant availability and Hydro Plant performance).

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Ensure electricity is generated and reticulated safely on site and throughout the sugar estate.
- Ensure electrical standards are implemented and the site is legally compliant.
- Responsible for Statutory Requirements as may be delegated

by Co-Generation Manager.

- Collaborate with optimisation engineers to keep up to date with latest technologies; including identifying and evaluating value add opportunities in terms of co-generation / electrical efficiency improvements.
- Provide Electrical Engineering support to the Co-generation Manager and maintenance teams, regarding repairs to critical equipment.
- Provide Electrical Engineering support to the Project Engineer / Optimisation Head / Projects Co-ordinator including management /overseeing of on site projects.
- Manage and provide leadership to the electrical services maintenance teams.
- Manage / oversee all electrical work on Estate including domestic and Irrigation Projects.
- Address production losses (cane yield) caused by inefficient engineering systems by critically analysing and maximising the systems performance
- Provide engineering support for specifications and plant modifications
- Drive synergies with the Group, effectively partnering with Group counterparts to identify, share and embed opportunities for engineering optimisation / best practice.
- Set direction, implement and monitor continuous improvement by driving work practices, and ensuring that tools and techniques are being applied to deliver high quality products made in a safe and sustainable manner
- Conduct regular internal and external benchmarking exercises to identify and develop Engineering best practices and improvement opportunities.
- Maintain effective engagement with key maintenance & engineering service level providers.
- Management of technical standards, specifications and Group risk mitigation policies and the governance thereof.
- Identify and monitor KPIs to track performance and flag any issues.
- Promote and adhere to Illovo's procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC).

THE APPLICANT:

- Degree in Electrical Engineering
- 3+ years experience in a heavy manufacturing environment - electrical generating experience would be an advantage.
- GCC Electrical would be an advantage.
- Continuous improvement knowledge and experience.
- Familiarity with Illovo systems would be an advantage (Maximo).

VACANCY: LABORATORY TEAM LEAD

THE JOB:
Reporting to the Factory Head, the purpose of the job is to provide direction, technical guidance and leadership in the Factory Laboratory to ensure the highest quality products and services.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Provides leadership and manage the factory laboratories and analytical services by embedding Group policy and procedure and ensuring best in class performance.
- Develops, prepares, revises and controls operational budgets for the laboratory, cane weighbridge, effluent plant and manage costs effectively.
- Compiles reviews and updates the work instructions used in the Factory laboratory, cane weighbridges, effluent plant and design of systems for continuous improvement of the facilities.
- Programs, troubleshoots and maintains the cane lab and Excel Software and database for analytical data capturing, manipulation, storage and reporting as well as the Infowave / Scaleability weighbridge system for capturing and reporting of cane deliveries.
- Achieves shift, daily, weekly, monthly performance targets for respective area by ensuring that tasks are prioritised and planned in a logical, systematic and cost effective way to optimise profitability.
- Develops standards setting for operating equipment and setting of equipment to correct specifications.
- Ensures the Cane Lab software data and system is true and correct and that the system is updated with correct vessel stocks for Factory pol and brix mass balances, providing information and reports for: stoppage reports for the Factory time accounting, massecuite volumes from pan strike report, special sugar production and the sugar packing, cane haulage data, cane crush, cane sweepings, mixed juice, fitter cake, final molasses, steam and sugar production and analytical results for various Factory products.
- Produces daily, weekly and monthly factory performance reports, diffuser brix curves and B&C pan brix profiles for process, management, technical services department and sugar Milling Research Institute among other clients.
- Provides high quality services to other departments such as slurry preparation for sugar graining at the pan floor, granulated activated carbon, refinery liquor colour analysis for determining payments.

- Produces analysis for all final product in conjunction with the Quality department for Certificate of Analysis (CoA).
- Ensures that all weighbridges and scales are assized, checked and calibrated, yearly, weekly and daily.
- Maintains high level of competency of the Factory laboratory through inter-laboratory sample analysis checks with the Sugar Milling Research Institute (SMRI) in RSA.
- Coordinates all analytical testing services by liaising with other laboratories within and outside the Estate.
- Develops capability on the job and hold teams accountable for performance.
- Promotes and adhere to Illovo procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC).

THE APPLICANT:

- BSc Degree (Analytical Chemistry or Chemical Engineering)
- 5 year laboratory experience
- 3 years Cane lab experience
- Proficient with Microsoft Excel
- Team and process leadership experience

VACANCY: ESTATE MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

THE JOB:

Reporting to the Estate Support Head, the purpose of the job is to effectively manage technical services and processes that support the core business such as provision of employee housing and maintenance, water, electricity, parks & gardens, and waste water.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Adopt and embed agreed best practices, frameworks and minimum standards for all aspects of estate maintenance.
- Coordinate different utilities and Divisions to ensure continuous and optimum operations (including water and waste water treatment where relevant).
- Develop, implement and update standards operating procedures to economize operations in the repair and maintenance of facilities while increasing productivity, in line with standards and processes.
- Prepare annual operating budget including special projects and specified requisites.
- Prepare estimates and assist in budgeting for proposed construction and maintenance works.
- Control & monitor quality of outsourced maintenance works.
- Set work standards with Contractors to ensure compliance with Illovo standard procedures and legal requirements.
- Manage utilities personnel to ensure that all utilities are operated, repaired and maintained effectively and efficiently and in compliance with the set standards, permit conditions, rules and regulations.
- Ensure that major upgrades, routine planned maintenance & emergency repairs are executed in accordance with policy and required standards and satisfy customer needs
- Create and implement communication plans with employees regarding scheduled and unscheduled utilities outages.
- Review relevant estate project documentation from consultants, contractors for compliance with relevant regulation, guidelines and policies and ensure alignment with required standards, processes and legislation.
- Monitor and control materials issued to the contractors to prevent wastage, abuse, and theft.
- Maintain maintenance management documentation on equipment, drawings and reference manuals.
- Ensure customer complaints and inquiries are resolved quickly and effectively.
- Conduct studies on, provide recommendations on and monitor the implementation of mandated environmental reports such as water audits, water quality report, and energy reports.
- Identify and implement 'fit for purpose' technology to enable effective for estate maintenance.
- Oversee the entrenchment of enablers to promote success (e.g. systems and processes) Promote and adhere to Illovo's procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption

THE APPLICANT:

- Degree or equivalent qualification in Civil Engineering; relevant country professional registration.
- 5+ years management experience (min 5 years business optimisation / capital exposure and facilities experience).
- Impressive, demonstrable track record and skills/experience gained within a similar position(s), at a similar level.

VACANCY: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

THE JOB:

Reporting to the Human Resources Head, the purpose of the job is to ensure internal communications messages are consistent across all levels in the organisation, and manage the consistency of in country key messages on all media platforms.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Provide support to HR Head in the development of internal integrated stakeholder management and communication strategies through stakeholder identification, analysis and recommendations.
- Collaborate with the HR Head in the development and implementation of an internal communications plan to ensure that employees understand the company's values, strategy, goals, and direction.
- Continuously monitor, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of communications initiatives to make appropriate improvements and recommendations.
- Manage the Employee Engagement On-line platform through collation and loading of information, registration of users and monitoring of operation.
- Manage communication via the website, social media, print, and other communication platforms.
- Track the company's media and social media exposure, market news, or any potential issues.
- Interact with internal teams to identify and understand external stakeholder management needs and issues, and support the HR Head in developing appropriate guidance and responses.
- Build brand presence of Ubombo at events, conferences, and speaking engagements and ensure that this is communicated back into the organisation.
- Promote and adhere to Illovo's procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC).

THE APPLICANT:

- Degree in Communications or equivalent qualification.
- 3-5 years experience in corporate communications, with knowledge of different communication media and processes and tools to evaluate communication effectiveness.
- Understanding of stakeholder management strategies and brand development and standards.
- Skills in using communication platforms and technology; ability to work independently; creativity and sound writing skills; ability to plan, prioritise and co-ordinate resources and material.

VACANCY: TENDERS AND CONTRACTS SPECIALIST

THE JOB:

Reporting to the Procurement and Inventory Manager, the purpose of the job is to manage purchases and the application of contracts and ensure adherence to Group contracts and effectively manage day to day management of key accounts.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Support embedding of best practices, minimum standards, policies, processes, tools, technology and enablers through the Illovo Procurement Way and capability development strategy.
- Build an efficient Buying network, dynamically aligned with respective category management.
- Prepare local bid documents, manage RFQ and tender process & analyse results.
- Review spend and vendor performance of local contracts ensuring appropriate contracts are in place.
- Work with Procurement & Inventory Manager to prioritise and plan Mill and Supplier visits to understand and align on future category strategies to facilitate increased compliance.
- Negotiate contracts and approve prices, delivery and payment terms, quality requirements to meet standards and supply objectives.
- Interface with business and other stakeholders to actively manage demand forecasting, production planning & ensure compliance to contracts and price agreements.
- Execute and apply all relevant contracts negotiated at Group and local level (compliance).
- Manage supplier accounts with a focus on total cost of ownership.
- Ensure buying process is procedurally compliant and documentation for audit and SHERQ purposes are available.
- Drive utilisation of e-Procurement tools.
- Implement and monitor continuous improvement practices in Procurement and Supply Chain.
- Support implementation of 'fit for purpose' technology to enable effective Procurement systems.
- Promote and adhere to Illovo's procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC).

THE APPLICANT:

- Relevant 3 year degree/diploma (B Com, Engineering, BSc)
- 5 years Procurement / Purchasing / Supply chain management experience
- Strong technical knowledge and understanding of Procurement processes and Supply Chain management

THE REWARDS:

The positions offer a competitive package commensurate with qualifications, experience and value add.

Applications with detailed C.V., copies of qualifications, and names of two referees, must be emailed to the Human Resources Head, stating clearly the position applied for to: Recruitment@illovo.co.za on or before 13th February, 2020.

Note: If you do not receive any correspondence within 21 days after the closing date, please consider your application to have been unsuccessful.

LUBOMBO NEWS

Siteki Office

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

...With

Wonderboy Dlamini



RAINS RELIEF TO FARMERS

WITH the good rains experienced in many parts of the Lubombo region having come as sweet melody to farmers, motorists who often use gravel roads are singing a different tune following the damage to the dirt roads caused by the downpour.

Many gravel roads in the region are reportedly in a bad state.

A 30km stretch from Sithobelweni to Siphofaneni is one of the roads that have become a nightmare to motorists. Speaking during an interview, Sithobelweni constituency headman Fanyana Mamba first acknowledged the significant rains the area received over the past two days.

Mamba said the area was on the verge of experiencing a drought situation as crops in the fields were drying up. He said the rains, therefore, came as a relief to farmers.

However, Mamba said the rains worsened a situation that was already bad on the roads connecting the area to Siphofaneni. He said the Sithobelweni-Siphofaneni road had been in a bad state for the past few years, characterised by protruding stones and developing trenches. He said the situation affected trans-

...but motorists complain about state of the roads



portation means in the area as public transport operators were shunning the road. "The rain has made the roads worse now," said Mamba.

The headman disclosed that the ministry of public works and transport recently provided a TLB grader in a bid to improve the road. This, however, had little impact as the road actually requires major regravelling. The condition of the

road has become a menace to motorists as they always experience break-downs.

"If you take a trip to Siphofaneni, you would be very lucky to return home without having a break-down or a puncture," said one Siphofaneni resident, Matsenjwa. Meanwhile, the constituency headman said they were hoping to have the road regravelled when government's fiscal sit-

uation improves. Another gravel road said to be in a bad state by yesterday was the Siteki-Mambane road.

The road was reportedly slippery, rendering some places inaccessible. Some public transport vehicles were stuck at a hill near Palata River. Two other hilling Bhamubhamu and Logweleja, are also slippery due to the rains.

'We are completing old projects in absence of govt's funding'

IN the absence of funds from government, some constituencies are reportedly utilising the little available funds to complete projects that were left hanging by the previous Parliament.

Sithobelweni is one of constituencies that have directed allocated funds for completing ongoing projects.

Constituency headman Fanyana Mamba said they were currently working on a number of projects that were left hanging in 2018. He said the constituency was working on the rural electrification project, which is slightly above 70 per cent complete.

He stated that some areas had applied through their various schemes in 2018, but have still not been connected. He said there was also an ongoing water project that will see homesteads accessing clean water.

"Residents made contributions towards both projects. In some of these projects, we are currently using the money that was contributed by the residents since government has not allocated any funds," said Mamba.

Meanwhile, Mamba said some communities have reported serious needs for establishment of new schools. One of these communities is Mamisa, where a primary school is urgently needed. Mamba disclosed that a primary school was built at Malayinini, under Mamisa umphakatsi.

The constituency headman revealed that there were a number of communities that needed new primary and high schools.

"We are hoping that as soon as government avails funds, we will kick-start a number of the development projects that have been marked as a priority," he added.

Malindza community police report 'all systems go for Baganu Festival'

WHILE the nation prepares to descend to Hlane Royal Residence for the second round of the Baganu Festival community police under Malindza have assured members of the public of safety.

During the Baganu Festival at Hlane, surrounding communities which includes Malindza become the busiest. It is also during such busy times that criminals take advantage and pounce on unsuspecting residents.

Speaking during an interview, Malindza community leader Seven Tsabedze said they were ready for the festival. He said community police would ensure that criminal activities are minimal in the communities.

Furthermore, Tsabedze said they would also be patrolling the roads to ensure that livestock were kept away.

Tsabedze noted that straying livestock was usually the cause of accidents along the Mpaka-Sikhuphe road during the Baganu festival as a number of accidents were reported last year. "Our target is to have no accident caused by straying livestock during this year's Baganu Festival," said Tsabedze.

The community leader urged livestock farmers to cooperate with the community police in making sure that the cattle is kept away from the road.

Members of the public in the surrounding communities are also urged to report suspicious individuals to the local community police.

Tsabedze also urged goat farmers to be vigilant during the marula season.

He noted that the theft of goats usually escalated during this season.

MAN FINED E1 000 FOR ASSAULT

A fight during drinking spree resulted to a man forking out a sum of E1 000 to regain his freedom after he was arrested.

Thuba Dlamini (48) of Ngcina was charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

This was after he assaulted Langelihle Matsenjwa (43) by hitting him with a stone several times in the head. The matter was before the Eswatini National Court.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused person pleaded guilty to the charge. The incident happened at a local homestead at Ngcina where the two men were enjoying the marula brew.

The complainant told the court that the accused person attacked him after they exchanged heated words.

"We had a minor misunderstanding



ing which I cannot even clearly recall, but the accused resorted to assaulting me with a stone," said the complainant. The accused person repeatedly hit the complainant with the stone in the head. As a result, the complainant sustained injuries in the head. He was taken to hospital where

he was treated and discharged.

A medical report was presented as evidence before the court. The accused person was eventually found guilty by the court.

He was sentenced to 10 months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlanguano

Nhlanguano businesspeople appeal to govt on CoLA

THE proposed protest action planned by the public sector associations (PSAs) to push government to pay the cost of living adjustment (CoLA) has resulted in Nhlanguano business people panicking.

The need for CoLA adjustments dates back three years. The business people are also unsettled.

Some of the business operators appealed to government to do something as this unrest might chase

investors away.

The operators said civil servants were now struggling in meeting their needs because costs of basic commodities were shooting up.

They suggested that government resolves the issue.

"The people who are mostly affected whenever there are protests are the businesspeople.

The protests are weapons used by the employees to fight government; it is unfortunate that we also end up

suffering.

Let it be known that when things like this continue happening, it means the future of the country is doomed," one of the operators noted.

Another businessman said investing in a country where protests were the order of the day was not safe and advisable for businesses.

"Even some investors who were keen to settle in the country will revert once they learn that strikes have become the order of the day. Even

those that are here could consider relocating to other countries.

Our appeal to the two parties is that they come to a round table and sort out whatever problem they have. No investor could risk investing in an unstable country," another one said.

Some of the businesspeople said strikes were not solutions as that could result in job losses, affecting even innocent people.

"If companies close down, many end up suffering yet they had noth-

ing to do with the issue involving government and the civil servants," said another business person.

Even some investors who were keen to settle in the country will revert once they learn that strikes have become the order of the day

ACC applauds Speech from the Throne

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE
Mbabane

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has applauded His Majesty King Mswati III following his Speech from the Throne during the opening of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament held last week Friday at Lobamba.

ACC, speaking through its spokesperson Jabu Phakathi said; "As an institution, we are pleased to get an opportunity to say Bayethe! Wena Waphakathi! for the exceptional Speech from the Throne.

The speech covered all the facets of economic, social and nation building initiatives and directives. It was clear that there is a dire necessity to create a conducive environment for sustained economic development and for attracting foreign direct investment."

Phakathi said the King's view that corruption continues to be an impediment towards sustained economic development was perfectly accurate. She asserted that the Prevention of Organised Crime Act 2018 provided the much needed effort to forfeit to the state the ill-begotten assets or wealth.

She said notably, the law introduced a civil forfeiture concept which was much quicker than the criminal forfeiture. Adding, she said there was now no need to wait till the obtaining of con-



BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III.

viction which under the current challenges of delays in the criminal justice such would be years and years after commission of the offence.

"Having said that, the Ingwenyama has directed the Judiciary to quickly enroll and expedite the trial of corruption cases. This is very key for both the criminal justice system and the public at large.

Potential investors will be glad to witness a fast turn-around for corruption cases in our court system and would be assured of a conducive environment to invest," stated Phakathi.

She opined that accused individuals will not have to perpetually have an axe

forever hanging above their heads.

Phakathi said this would also reduce the risk of accused persons dying before they have their day in court. She added that this would also reduce the backlog of corruption cases pending in the court system. "Of course this warrants that bottlenecks faced by the Judiciary and all partners in the justice value chain be quickly removed.

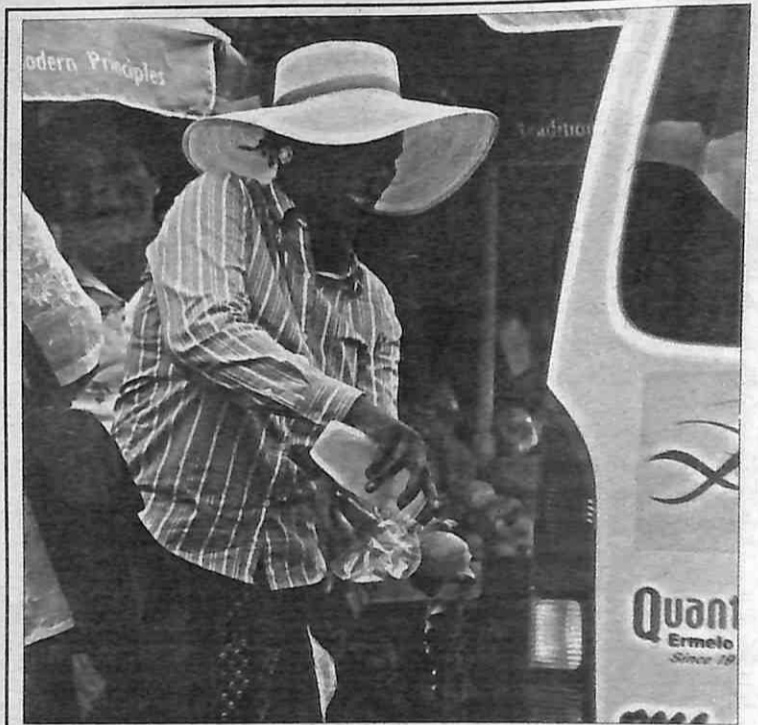
We are happy that government is currently looking into removing the bottlenecks. Our impression is that the King recognises that the country's vision of firstworld status would be hampered if corruption is not dealt with decisively," stated Phakathi.

In his address, the King described corruption as the major impediment towards sustained economic development.

He said corruption impedes the ability of a country to attract foreign investment, hindering the growth of democratic institutions and concentrates power in the hands of a few.

The King further acknowledged the passing into law of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act 2018 and the establishment of the asset forfeiture unit. He described this as another milestone in asset tracing and lifestyle audits to ensure proceeds of crime are returned to the public purse.

"We urge the Judiciary to expedite corruption cases so that perpetrators get to see that the country means serious business," said the King.



HYGIENIC: A street vendor making sure her wares are thoroughly clean before selling them to customers next to the Mbabane Bus Rank yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

655 people not paid TV licences in January

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

IN January alone, the TV Licence Project found that 655 people have outstanding TV licence fees, without paying for a television set(s), decoder, set top-box and VCR/DVD/VCD machines.

This was revealed by the TV Licence Project Coordinator Phumelele Dlamini who said out of the 655 defaulters, 330 were unpaid TV sets and 325 unpaid decoders.

"A remainder of these were found to be using *sigujana* or an outside ariel. All these were people found only in around Nkhanini, Buka and Nkomane," she said.

Dlamini said there were more inspections to be conducted this month at retail shops and at TV shops around Mbabane.

She said these were mostly people who use their TV sets to advertise their products or as CCTV for security purposes.

"February 4, 11 businesses were found to have paid but one. As inspections continued, on the 5th

of February 25 businesses and retail shops were inspected and of these, eight had not paid, two businesses promised to pay and the remainder had all paid," she said.

Dlamini reminded customers that they were conditioned to pay for their TV licenses when buying the device.

"No gadget is supposed to leave the shop without a payment as this is a crime.

The TV license inspectors will be hard on the retailers this year if they are found to have sold devices without the customer having to collect a TV license," said Dlamini.

Lastly, Dlamini said they were focusing on compliance as they were checking if people have adhered to the clauses of the act.

"We understand that the beginning of the year is not easy on most people financially, so they will not face prosecution as yet.

But this is not to say the late payment of these gadgets won't attract a 50 per cent penalty.

We will give them up until March but people are still advised to come pay for their penalties," advised Dlamini.

WOMAN STEALS PETTY CASH FROM WORK

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A woman with a mild case of kleptomania learnt a hard lesson about pinching monies from her employer, resulting in her arrest.

Celiwe Gama explained that her job as a receptionist required her to be responsible for the safekeeping of the company's petty cash, until she started taking some monies to use for transport.

"I started taking the monies when I was short of transport money, however, I would always make sure that I replaced it when I got paid. I never intended for there to be a shortage of

money as it would have been obvious that I stole it," Gama explained.

Gama added that she did not understand why she had been arrested for the offence, as she maintained that she replaced the monies whenever she took it from the petty cash stash.

"Right now, my former employer is looking for a 'fall guy' to blame all of this on because there must have been someone else who stole the money.

I was fired as soon as they discovered that some of the money they use to buy lunch for the company's employees had gone missing, and I was blamed.

However, there is another hand at work here as I maintain that I always replaced the money I took," she added.

Gama was arrested and charged with

theft after she allegedly stole petty cash of E600 from her employer.

She explained that she did not have any money to even pay the fine that would be meted by the court, adding she had not been working since she was fired by her former employer.

"I have children that are dependent on me for their well-being, and as it stands I am unemployed and do not know where our next meal will be coming from.

Please be lenient and consider these factors that I have stated before the court," Gama pleaded.

After hearing her mitigation, Gama was sentenced to pay a fine of E500 and in default of payment, serve four months in a correctional facility.

BUGANU FESTIVAL 2020



ALL SMILES: Some members of the Lutsango relax before joining their colleagues at the arena during the Buganu Festival held at Buhleni Royal Residence over the weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu).



CHEESE: Nonceba flanked by her friends Gugu and Zanele upon arrival for the ceremony.



READY: Ministry of Defence Legal Advisor Vusi Kunene (2nd from l) with some of his friends.



LACWEBETELAKO: Some of the warriors who also attended the event pose for the lenses.



CHEFS: Chefs from the Royal Villas pose with their Manager Michael Mhlanga. (R) **SISTERS:** Siphesihle and Tshengisile could not miss out on the big day.



BUSTLING: The royal residence was a hipe of activity throughout the week-end.



BUDDIES: Police officers Simon Simelane and Boniface Gama chat as they enjoy the fruit.



SAFE: Police officers were also there to provide security during the ceremony.



info@observer.org.sz

What's in Your Mind

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER

... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

WHY LEADERSHIP MATTERS

LEADERSHIP is a function that is very essential for the existence of people. Generally, people look to leaders to guide them in their actions.

Day-to-day people look up to leaders that are role models to lead them. Leaders that understand the function of leadership motivate the people they lead, they support and facilitate communications in the group.

In defining leadership, Tracey B (2017) cites that it is the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal. This leadership definition captures the essentials of the person at the front to being able to inspire others and being prepared to do so at all times.

Many people presume that leadership is just authority, yet the essence of true leadership is much more than authority. Instead, leadership is all about developing people and helping others reach their full potential. Many people tend to not consider the full spectrum of leadership. Leadership is wide, and good leaders know that leadership is about creating value for the institution as well as all the stakeholder of the organisation.

THE NATURE OF LEADERSHIP

The nature of leadership demands that those appointed to leadership positions understand the underlying factors of leadership. There are many leadership qualities needed to perform the leadership function. However, there are those that are fundamentals and listed, are some views on the function of leadership from respected global leaders

● Vision

Jack Welch cites that "Good business leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion". Great leaders have a vision, they can see into the future. They have a clear, exciting idea of where they are going and what they are trying to accomplish and are excellent at strategic planning. This quality separates them from managers. Having a clear vision turns the individual into a special type of a leader while a manager gets the job done, great leaders tap into the emotions of their team members.

● Courage

Winston Churchill cites that "Courage is rightly

considered the foremost of the virtues, for upon it, all others depend. He cites that of the more important qualities of a good leadership, courage is paramount. Having the quality of courage means that you are willing to take risks in the achievement of your goals with no assurance of success. Because there is no certainty in life or business, every commitment you make and every action you take entails a risk of some kind.

● Integrity

Zig Ziglar cites that "With integrity, you have nothing to fear, since you have nothing to hide. With integrity, a leader does the right thing, so he will have no guilt." He cites that, the core of integrity is truthfulness. Integrity, requires that you always tell the truth, to all people, in every situation. Truthfulness is the foundational quality of the trust that is necessary for the success of any leader.

● Humility

Larry Bossidy says that leadership characteristics, such as humility, make you a more effective leader: he asserts that great leaders are those who are strong and decisive but also humble.

Humility does not mean that you are weak or

unsure of yourself. It means that you have the self-confidence and self-awareness to recognise the value of others without feeling threatened. This is one of the rarer attributes of good leaders because it requires containment of one's ego. It means that you are willing to admit you could be wrong, that you recognise you may not have all the answers. And it means that you give credit where credit is due, which many people struggle to do.

● Strategic Planning

Henry Mintzberg cites that "Strategy is not the consequence of planning, but the opposite: it is the starting point." He cites that great leaders are those outstanding at strategic planning. Strategic planning is one of the more important leadership strengths, such people have the ability to look ahead, to anticipate with some accuracy where the industry and the markets are going.

● Focus

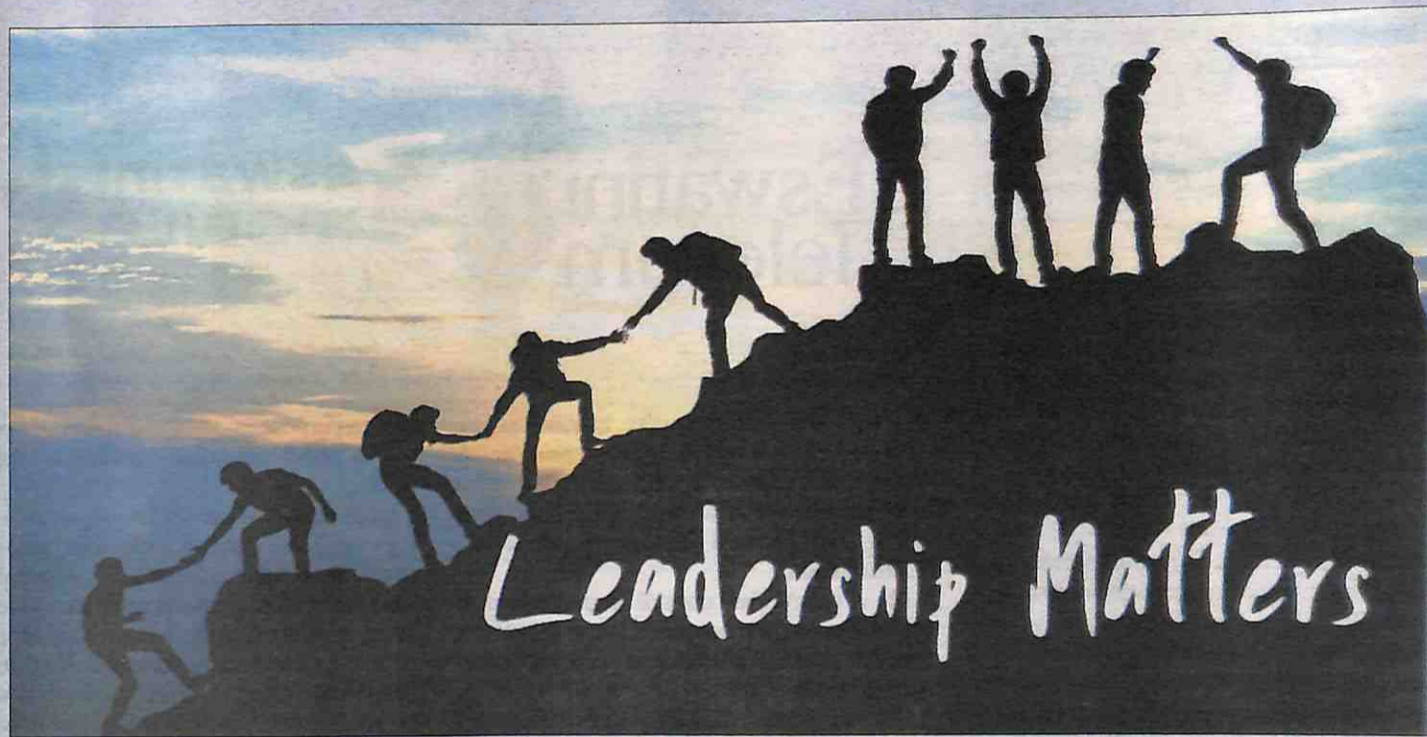
Jack Canfield cites that; "successful leaders maintain a positive focus in life no matter what is going on around them. They stay focused on their past successes rather than their past failures,

and on the next action steps they need to take to get them closer to the fulfillment of their goals rather than all the other distractions that life presents to them. Good leaders always focus on the needs of the institution and the situation. Leaders focus on results, on what must be achieved by themselves, by others, and by the company. They focus on the strengths of the organisation, on the things that the company does best in satisfying demanding customers in a competitive marketplace.

● Cooperation

Napoleon Hill cites that "If your imagination leads you to understand how quickly people grant your requests when those requests appeal to their self-interest, you can have practically anything you go after." He cites that, your ability to get everyone working and pulling together is essential to your success. Leadership is the ability to get people to work for you because they want to. Hill further says that every leader ought to work on the 80/20 principle which cites that, 20 per cent of the people contribute 80 per cent of your results.

A good leader has the ability to select these people and then to work well with them on a daily basis is essential to the smooth functioning of the organisation.



PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa may well surprise the nation, as De Klerk did in 1990, in his upcoming State of the Nation Address and announce some truly radical changes to the South African economy.

Brexit is hardly mentioned in the media these days. Probably because it is done.

On 31 January, this year, the UK left the European Union and while the divorce settlement is still being negotiated, the UK no longer has to participate in EU activities or send members to the European Parliament in Brussels.

It is unbelievable that the hurly burly that characterised British politics in the past four years has suddenly all but quietened down.

As the UK stood at the fork-road of history,

it had to undergo some pretty nasty processes to have arrived at the sigh it can now breathe. The referendum on leaving the EU saw two prime ministers losing their premiership, two general elections and countless bills being rejected in the British Parliament.

Yet it took Boris Johnson, like him or loathe him, to present to the British people an option and it is his option they chose.

Labour, under Jeremy Corbyn, was far less clear on their option and so it could well be

understood why the British people trusted Johnson, as rough as he is, over Corbyn.

To this day, it is hard to know whether Corbyn supports Brexit or not.

Thirty years ago, FW de Klerk had a choice. He could either continue on the path of his people, the one of division and destruction that apartheid brought about, or he could shed everything he had ever learned and lived and step into the unknown.

The destiny of his people, their history and their God-anointed right to rule South Africa,

as they believed, was at stake.

As the only white African tribe, the Afrikaner believed, like the Israelites of the Bible, that they were God's chosen people and as a result were the stewards of everyone else in South Africa.

De Klerk having been groomed, educated and cultured into this basic belief turned his back on this decades of dogma and entered into the negotiations with the black opposition as equal partners.

New24

SONA 2020: An opportunity to be decisive

ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 11

1960 - Jack Paar walked off while live on the air on the 'Tonight Show' with four minutes left. He did this in response to censors cutting out a joke from the show the night before.

1968 - The new 20 000 seat Madison Square Garden officially opened in New York. This was the fourth Garden.

1972 - McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine canceled plans to publish an autobiography of Howard Hughes. The work turned out to be fake.

1975 - Margaret Thatcher became the first woman to head a major party in Britain when she was elected leader of the Conservative Party!

1979 - Nine days after the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned to Iran (after 15 years in exile) power was seized by his followers.

1982 - ABC-TV's presentation of 'The Winds of War' concluded. The 18-hour miniseries cost \$40 million to produce and was the most-watched television program in history at the time.

1982 - France nationalized five groups of major industries and 39 banks.

1984 - The tenth Space Shuttle mission returned to Earth safely.

1989 - Rev. Barbara C. Harris became the first woman to be consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

1990 - Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

1990 - In Tokyo, Japan, James "Buster" Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson in the tenth round to win the heavyweight championship.

1993 - Janet Reno was appointed to the position of attorney general by U.S. President Clinton. She was the first female to hold the position.

2000 - The space shuttle Endeavor took off. The mission was to gather information for the most detailed map of the earth ever made.

2000 - Great Britain suspended self-rule in Northern Ireland after the Irish Republican Army (IRA) failed to begin decommissioning (disarming) by a February deadline.

2002 - The six stars on NBC's 'Friends' signed a deal for \$24 million each for the ninth and final season of the series.

2006 - In Texas, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and wounded a companion during a quail hunt.

2016 - It was reported that scientists had detected gravitational waves. The waves had been detected on September 14, 2015 by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors in Livingston, LA, and Hanford, WA.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jennifer Aniston
1969 - Actress



Kelendria Kelly
Rowland 1981

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

REGULATION OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT



(1) A person shall not make, buy, sell or control any equipment for radio communications, or an apparatus intended to be used as a component part of that equipment, without a licence issued for that purpose by the Commission.

(2) A person shall not sell or give an apparatus referred to in subsection (1) to a person who has not obtained a licence as required by subsection (1).

(3) The Commission may recommend regulations to the Minister exempting the operation or provision of certain public electronic communications networks or services from the requirement of holding a licence referred to in subsection (1).

(4) A licence granted under this section may be issued subject to such terms, conditions and limitations as the Commission may consider appropriate, including in particular limitations as to the equipment which may be installed or used under that licence and the places where, the purposes for which, the circumstances in which and the persons by whom the equipment may be used.

(5) A licence granted under this section may be revoked, or the terms, conditions or limitations in that licence varied by notice in writing by the Commission served on the holder of the licence or by a general notice, applicable to licences of the class to which the licence in question belongs, published in the Gazette.

(6) The Commission may prescribe the fees to be paid for a licence issued under this section, which fees shall be included in the licence and published in the Gazette.

(7) The Commission shall investigate a suspected breach of subsections (1) and (2), or a breach of a condition in a licence issued under this section, in accordance with section 36 of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act, 2010, and may subsequently take such action as the Commission considers appropriate in accordance with section 42 of that Act.

42. Enforcement of regulations on use of apparatus.

(1) Subject to subsection (2), if the Commission is of the opinion that an apparatus does not comply with the requirements applicable to that apparatus under regulations made for the purpose specified in section 90(1)(a) of the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Act, 1983, and that —

(a) The use of the apparatus is likely to cause undue interference with a radio communication used for the purpose of a safety of life service

or for a purpose on which the safety of a person or of a vessel, aircraft or vehicle may depend; or

(c) The use of apparatus has caused or is causing undue interference with other radio communication under circumstances where all reasonable steps to minimise interference have been taken in relation to the situation or apparatus receiving such radio communication, the Commission may serve on the person in whose possession the apparatus is a notice in writing requiring that, after a date fixed by the notice, not being less than twenty-eight days from the date of the service of the notice, the apparatus shall not be used, whether by the person to whom that notice is given or otherwise, or shall only be used in such manner, at such times and in such circumstances as may be specified in the notice.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1)

(a) If, before the date fixed by the notice, a notice is given under subsection (5) requiring the Commission to refer the matter to the Appeals Board, the notice of the Commission shall not operate until the termination of the proceedings before the Appeals Board, and a notice given under this subsection by the Commission, other than a notice to which paragraph (b) applies, shall be framed accordingly; and

(b) If the Commission is satisfied that the use of the apparatus in question is likely to cause undue interference with a radio communication used for the purpose of a safety of life service or for a purpose on which the safety of a person or of a vessel, aircraft or vehicle may depend the date to be fixed by the notice may be the date of the service of the notice and paragraph (a) shall not apply.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), a notice under subsection (1) may be revoked or varied by a subsequent notice in writing by the Commission served on the person in whose possession the apparatus then is.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), where a notice under this section has the effect of imposing additional restrictions on the use of the apparatus, the provisions of subsection (2) relating to the coming into force of a notice shall apply in relation to the notice as if it had been a notice served under that subsection.

(5) Where notice has been given under subsection (1), a person having possession of or an interest in the apparatus to which the notice relates may, at any time, whether before or after the date fixed by that notice, by notice in writing served on the Commission, require the Commission to refer the matter to the Appeals

Board, and the Commission, unless the Commission revokes the notice given under subsection (1) or modifies the notice to the satisfaction of that person, shall refer the matter to the Appeals Board.

(6) Where, under subsection (5), the Commission is required to refer the matter referred to in that subsection to the Appeals Board, subsection (5) shall apply in relation to a notice under subsection (2)(a) which has been varied by a subsequent notice as that notice applies in relation to a notice which has not been varied.

(7) Subject to subsection (8), where a matter is referred to the Appeals Board in terms of subsection (6), the Appeals Board shall hear the Commission and the person at whose instance the reference was made and any other person appearing to be interested who desires to be heard and has, in accordance with rules regulating the procedure of the Appeals Board, been accepted as a party to the reference and if the Appeals Board is satisfied that the —

(a) Apparatus in question complies with the requirements applicable to that apparatus under the regulations, the Appeals Board shall direct the Commission to revoke the notice; or

(b) Requirements referred to in paragraph (a) ought properly to be relaxed in relation to the apparatus, may direct the Commission to revoke the notice or to vary the notice in such manner as may be specified in the direction, and the Commission shall revoke or vary the notice accordingly.

(8) Notwithstanding subsection (7), the making by the Appeals Board of a direction under that subsection, or the refusal by the Board to make that direction, shall not, where there has been a material change of circumstances, prevent a person mentioned in subsection (5) from giving a further notice under that subsection and shall not in a like case prevent the Commission from giving a further notice under subsection (1) or (3).

(9) A direction given under subsection (7) may be absolute or may be conditional on such steps being taken in relation to the apparatus being made to comply with such requirements as may be specified in the direction.

(10) A question as to whether or not the steps referred to in subsection (9) have been taken or whether or not the apparatus referred to in that subsection has been made to comply with the requirements referred to in that subsection shall, on the application of the Commission or of a person having possession of or an interest in the apparatus, be determined by the Appeals Board.

REFLECTIONS

WITH MIKE DREW
GUEST WRITER

CPI by Transparency International ranks the country 113th out of 180 countries

ESWATINI PERCEIVED AS
CORRUPT*...let us hope that His Majesty does not find it necessary to again repeat the message at the next opening of Parliament*STOP
CORRUPTION

ONE of the key messages from His Majesty the King's address to the nation during the State opening of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament, was his very clear re-affirmation that the pandemic that is corruption negates the ability of the country to attract foreign investment.

Investment is absolutely essential if Vision 2022 is to become a reality.

As His Majesty pointed out, corruption remains a key impediment towards sustained economic development and "what we see today is terrifying, the appetite or love of money which has bred greedy individuals amongst us".

The writer's deliberate use of the word re-affirmation is because the message from the Head of State is not new.

In his speech during the official opening of the Fifth Session of the 10th Parliament, His Majesty highlighted that the nation should note the need to upscale the fight against corruption, with the judiciary having a very important role to play.

A point re-affirmed during the opening of the second session of this Parliament, when His Majesty again urged the judiciary "to expedite corruption cases so that the perpetrators get to see that the country means serious business".

When the nation gathered at the cattle byre at the Ludzidzini Royal Residence for the three-day Sibaya in October 2018, the newly elected Prime Minister, Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, was tasked by His Majesty with stimulating economic growth.

What is sometimes forgotten is that the prime minister was also tasked by His Majesty with eradicating corruption in public office because the two go together.

Corruption may be defined as "the dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in a position of power".

The Prime Minister called for 'zero tolerance' on corruption at all levels in Swazi society, a point he re-emphasised at the Eswatini Procurement Indaba last year.

The question that now needs to be asked is whether, after over a year in government, there is any tangible evidence to indicate that the pandemic is being addressed or is it actually escalating?

Because according to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) recently released by Transparency International, the Kingdom of Eswatini ranks 113th out of 180 countries, scoring just 34 points out of a possible 100.

The score of 34 points puts Eswatini in the category of 'corrupt to highly corrupt' according to the CPI scale, where countries are ranked by their perceived level of corruption in the

public sector.

Interestingly, in 2018 Eswatini scored 38 points so the kingdom is actually going backwards under this government.

Transparency and trust are everything in international business and it is respectfully suggested that, the government can either continue in denial or now do something about it, to support His Majesty's vision.

Perception and confidence in your international trading partners is absolutely essential and unless something is done soon to eradicate this scourge, Vision 2022 will remain just an aspiration.

In his press briefing following the US-Africa Business Roundtable, which took place during the 74th UN General Assembly in New York late last year, the United States Assistant Secretary of State Tibor Nagy Jr. indicated that the perceived level of corruption is a serious barrier to the ease of doing business.

Clearly perception is everything as evidenced by the fact that, on his recent visit to the African continent, the assistant secretary did not include Eswatini on his travel itinerary.

A perception which is shared by other first world countries too (if not quite as publicly as the outspoken US assistant secretary) because it is also borne out by the tangible evidence.

Making life even more challenging for the committed Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade, Manqoba Khumalo, in his desire to seek more foreign investment partners.

The first evidence of the continuing corruption in public office was quite early in the stewardship of the new government, when a senator hopeful was put under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission for allegedly seeking to buy votes to secure a seat on the Senate.

Three people have been accused of allegedly defrauding the EEC over E8 million in a quite sophisticated fraud.

The ministry of public works and transport has had to investigate about seven of its own officers for allegedly taking bribes by fraudulently issuing certificates of fitness for panel vans converted into public service vehicles (PSVs).

The mysterious disappearance of E100 000 of stokvel monies left at the Mbabane Police Station before the festive season for supposed safekeeping has never been addressed by the NatCom.

A Mankayane police officer recently arrested for alleged corruption.

Fraud

The acknowledged employee fraud within the SRA, a Category A parastatal, which made front page news and which is conservatively estimated to have cost in excess of E2 million.

If those charged with fighting corruption are themselves corrupt, what hope is there in aspiring to His Majesty's vision?

The examples of corruption seem endless and must be of real concern to His Majesty, because they tarnish the image of the kingdom on the world stage. As the prime minister has acknowledged, one of the major challenges for government procurement is its unhealthy ability to inadvertently invite corruption.

So, the result of the independent forensic audit requested for the Nhlanguano/Sicunusa road project, has been eagerly awaited, because it may have supported the Auditor General, Timothy Matsebula's conclusions that before the contract was terminated, there were a number of 'irregularities' noted and by implication, the possibility of corruption in the public procurement process.

The objective of the requested independent forensic audit was not just to

ensure fiscal efficiency and proper audit controls had been put in place within the procurement process on a very costly and now delayed capital project, but to also establish whether there was any evidence of corruption in public office and if so, whether it had reached the highest levels within government.

Hardly two weeks into the Second Session of the 11th Parliament the nation is now being advised that the forensic audit into the construction of the unfinished capital project has not even been started.

Even though Parliament adopted the PAC recommendations in September 2019 with the independent audit report proposed by the prime minister expected to have been issued within the requested six month timescale.

A forensic audit triggered by the uncooperative Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini and the very elusive Director of Kukhanya Civil Engineering, Peter Nqwenya, both deciding not to appear before the Public Accounts Committee to answer a few searching questions about the possible 'irregularities'.

Such as the main contractor being recommended for tendering despite failing to meet the pre-qualification requirements (twice) and being appointed without being approved by the funding agencies which was part of the loan agreement.

Another example of a clear commitment given but not kept by this government, which may cause further frustration to some in very high office.

Together with a lot of finger pointing and delegation of blame between three government departments, which might suggest the honeymoon period is now over.

And the writer would respectfully suggest, not for the first time, the Minister of Public Works and Transport, Chief Ndalahlaza Ndawandwe, show-

ing a reluctance to take accountability and to take ownership for the delay, but rather seeking to delegate responsibility to others.

Emaswati must be beginning to wonder whether there are some in the darker corridors of power, who really do not want this audit to take place.

A forensic audit which in many ways is a test case for the direction of travel in addressing the evil that is corruption.

Often those who engage in corruption are those that need the money the least.

As His Majesty has indicated, they seem to be motivated by pure financial greed and like an addictive drug, they can never quite get enough.

Despite the best intentions of an honest and committed prime minister to comply with His Majesty's clearly stated wish, the writer cannot see the situation changing, until those in a position of power who have transgressed, feel the full force of the law, irrespective of their high profile public or political status.

The only conclusion that the writer can come to at this moment in time is that there is little hope of any real sustained economic development for the kingdom and much needed foreign investment, until the governance controls to manage corruption have been significantly strengthened, the proper robust checks and balances have been put in place, the anti-corruption unit is properly resourced, justice is seen to be done under the Prevention of Corruption Act 2006 and this government finally gets the message that His Majesty views the eradication of corruption as now being of the highest priority in 2020.

Let us hope that His Majesty does not find it necessary to again repeat the message at the next opening of Parliament - *Bayethe!*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

Qondile Ntiwane
(7806 3568 / 7946 0316)
Bahle Gama
(7806 3351 / 7946 0318)
business@observer.org.sz
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503 / 2404 6463

VITALS

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 10 FEB 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	15.0026	14.0526
British Pound/SZL	19.3594	19.4239
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.2977	7.3201
Swiss France/SZL	15.3517	15.3991
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3571	1.3713
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.0592	10.0958
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.2878	11.3246
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	4.3309	7.3279
Euro/SZL	16.4346	16.4894
Gold	1,569.8710	
Oil	55.12	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +268 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

MK Public Affairs for ESCCOM stakeholder engagement strategy

...South African based company wins E440 000 tender for project to run until April

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) has unveiled MK Public Affairs as consultants for their stakeholder engagement development strategy, a project worth about E440 000.

MK Public Affairs is a South African based company owned by Eswatini born Mphilo Dlamini.

ESCCOM Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mvilawemphi Dlamini said during a press briefing held at the commission's office at Sibekelo Building in Mbabane yesterday that part of the scope of the assignment was to carry out a situational analysis to determine awareness levels and an understanding of the work of ESCCOM amongst key stakeholders.

He said the consultants were expected to carry out a review of existing practises and tools used for stakeholders engagement and assess effectiveness as well as proposing key elements and considerations that would form the basis for the stakeholder management strategy.

"The assignment will also identify and hold consultations with a cross-section of stakeholders, including employees and further determine the communication plans, and activities suitable for engaging with relevant stakeholders."

The CEO further stated that they were expecting proposals for establishing stakeholder management in a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that considers all the relevant audiences and the relationships between them.

"Other deliverables of this project include identifying key risks associated with the recommended strategic approaches, their likelihood



DONE DEAL: ESCCOM CEO Mvilawemphi Dlamini shakes hands with MK Consultants MD Mphilo Dlamini during the press briefing held at the ESCCOM offices yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

of occurrence and potential impact and top-line mitigation plans.

They will also be expected to prepare a complete implementation plan for the strategy with a clear delivery timeline and also propose suitable monitoring indicators to evaluate and measure success against the strategy."

On the other hand, ESCCOM Director Strategy and Economic Regulation Lindiwe Dlamini added that the project was projected to run until April.

"We are anticipating that all processes would be complete and expecting the consultants to

present to us the finalised document on April 7," she said. She also explained that the company won the tender following a process conducted in line with regulations of the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ESP-PRA).

"MK Public Affairs' cost for this tender was in line with what the Commission was offering. But this is not to say that they were awarded the tender because they were cheaper as their total evaluation score was the same as with the other tenderers, whose bid prices were just slightly higher," she said.



FOCUSED: ESCCOM CEO Mvilawemphi Dlamini seated with Directors Strategy and Economic Regulation Lindiwe Dlamini, Support Service Lindiwe Malaza and Technical Services Thulani Fakudze.

'Stakeholder engagement essential for company sustainability, growth'

STAKEHOLDER engagement is one of the key elements in the sustainability and growth of a company.

This was the observation of MK Public Affairs Managing Director Mphilo Dlamini during the press briefing.

MK Public Affairs won the tender from ESCCOM to develop a stakeholder engagement strategy.

Dlamini stated that the lack of stakeholder management was the downfall of many companies world-wide.

"I would like to congratulate the Commission

for coming up with this idea. Stakeholder management is very essential for any business, especially with the right systematic and structured way to deal with it."

Capital

He added that reputational capital was another important factor to be considered by companies.

"One would ask themselves what it is that causes companies worth billions to collapse. This, most of the time, is due to lack of a good reputation because without that, you are zero.

Also, customer satisfaction is key because

companies want happy customers at all times," he said.

The MD further assured the Commission that they will not disappoint but deliver.

"We are very excited with this project and will do all in our powers to deliver not only a robust and progressive report but one that will be first class and competitive internationally," he added.

He explained that his team would this week have consultative engagements with the Commission's stakeholders with the hope of getting insights and ways in which the ESCCOM could improve.

Could Eswatini be affected by struggling Edcon Group?

BY BUSINESS REPORTER

RENOWNED retailer Edcon Group, which owns amongst others department chain stores, Edgars and Jet Stores, has been hogging headlines this past few months.

This follows reports that the retailer was struggling, something that had led to closing some of their retailers in neighbouring South Africa.

Some of Eswatini's leading clothing retailers fall under the Edcon banner and these include Edgars, Edgars Active, Jet, Jet Mart, and Legit.

The Group also announced last Tuesday that it was selling its stationery business CNA to a consortium majority owned by Astoria Investments.

Information sourced from Sowetan Live was that Edcon is in the middle of a turnaround plan, having secured 2.7 billion rand (\$183 million) in cash and rent deductions as part of a plan to recapitalise the group. The turnaround plan also entails closing non-performing stores, reducing store space, rebranding Edgars' beauty stores and merging its home stores with Edgars.

"The on-going process of consolidating, merging and rebranding of the businesses will ensure an offering of a selected set of private and some international brands, while also being a fashion and beauty retailer that provides credit," Edcon CEO Grant Pattison said.

Responding to the sale of CAN which was founded in 1896 to sell newspapers in Johannesburg, to sell books, stationery, magazines and gift wrapping products, the

CEO was quoted saying:

"As I have always said, CNA is an important but not a strategic part of the Edcon business as it is not focused on clothing, beauty and home categories and we would only sell if it's good for CNA."

"The new owners have the muscle and extensive management focus and leadership expertise to invest in the business," he said.

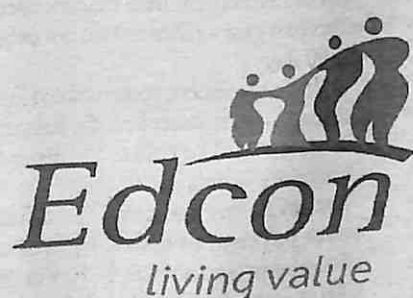
Astoria operates from Mauritius and has small stakes in firms, including Admiral Group Alphabet Inc., Johnson & Johnson and Home Depot.

Additional information sourced from South African media is that the Group shut the doors of one its underperforming Edgars Stores in Rosebank Mall as a cost cutting measure.

The closure of the Rosebank Edgars outlet – a store almost as big as a rugby field – follows last year's closure of 150 other underperforming stores under the group, including various Jet, Edgars and CNA outlets. Sought for comment on this matter, local employees of the group were reluctant to comment stating that the matter was being handled by management and they had been barred from disclosing any information.

However, one of the employees, who preferred anonymity, said they were not sure as what would happen to them as they have been made aware of the Edcon Group situation.

"The issue is not much talked about but we are really stressed as to what will happen to the local outlets. It would be really sad to see the shops closing, hence are working hard to ensure they don't become an option for closure," he said.



Eswatini craft vendors generate huge interest in India

STORIES BY BAHLE GAMA

ESWATINI handicraft has generated huge interest at the Surajkund International Craft Mela, one of the world's largest craft fairs with over one million visitors.

Eswatini, with the support of the India government, sent five craft producers to the fair, who represent at least 20 other crafters from across the kingdom. This follows a meeting between the India High Commissioner to Eswatini Radha Venkataraman and ministry of commerce, industry and trade officials in December 2019 where she offered to expose Eswatini's craft to India. The Surajkund Mela is held every year in Faribad, in the State of Haryana, next to India's capital of New Delhi. This year, the fair began on February 1 and ends on Sunday.

According to MCIT Communications Officer Thabile Mdluli, the craft vendors, who travelled in two groups, were in the company of Principal Handicraft Officer Zodwa Vilakati and Small Enterprises Development Company (SEDCO) Head of Strategy Themba Dlamini.

On display at the colourful Eswatini stand were beadwork, leather products, traditional garments, traditional regalia, sculptures and fine art, amongst others.

From Africa, Eswatini joined 27 other nations, including Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Sudan and Uganda,



HOIST: Eswatini craft vendors posing for a photo with Indian vendors at the Surajkund International Craft Mela. (Courtesy pic)

to name a few. Participants from other continents include Canada, Britain, Russia and other Asian countries from Bhutan to Vietnam while all 28 states from India are represented.

Mdluli disclosed that crafters expressed their delight to being invited to partake at the international craft in India.

"I am grateful to the Government of India who facilitated our visit through the High Commission in Eswatini. We also appreciate the ministry of com-

merce, industry and trade together with SEDCO who worked tirelessly to prepare us and our products for this great fair," said one of the crafters.

Another crafter said participating in the fair has been an eye-opener to them.

"We have sold a lot of our stuff, even though this is the first time to attend the show. We have also been telling visitors about our country as a lot of them didn't seem to know much about it," she said.

Country's participation allowed benchmarking with other nations

THE Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) believes that the country's participation at the fair has allowed for benchmarking with other nations and afforded a chance to network with industry players from outside the country.

SEDCO Head of Strategy Themba

Dlamini said handicraft had a potential to grow.

Potential

"Handicraft has a potential to grow and significantly contribute to the well-being of the women and youth who are without formal employment."

"There are areas we have identified

which we need to strengthen so that our products can appeal to buyers from other countries," Dlamini said.

Fair

On the other hand, this was probably the best ever fair to be attended by Eswatini craft producers, he noted.

Fresh produce farmers urged to register on AMIS

BY BAHLE GAMA

FRESH produce farmers have been invited to register on the Eswatini Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

AMIS contains information on national agricultural business as well as trends on national and international markets.

The web portal aims to provide information relevant to all agricultural stakeholders, allowing them to take informed decisions by analysing statistics on the business intelligence module or by reading important information and knowledge shared by users on the collaboration platform.

NAMBoard AgriBusiness Manager Tammy Dlamini said farmers could provide information about their produce and challenges.

"Farmers have a special section whereby upon registering they can provide information regarding their planting and forecast harvesting dates and yields."

Farmers will also be entitled to receive relevant information by SMS if they provide their national ID numbers along with cellphone numbers," he said.

Dlamini said they were also in discussions with the livestock department in the ministry of agriculture with intent to incorporate them and further provide information on auctions to farmers and all other inter-

ested stakeholders.

"We are also hoping to have a dairy sector incorporated as well as this system is meant for agricultural purposes," he said.

He added that farmers could now make informed decisions on what to put or advertise and also learn which crops are planted and harvested in the different seasons.

"This will help farmers to know which crops are most available during a certain season and find crops that are less available at the time and plant it for the market," he said.

He added that the system had blog spots which the farmers could use a platform to write testimonials or experiences during productions and share ideas with others.

Dlamini said people were registering but the numbers had not reached the set target that would enable AMIS to make usership live.

He said they were targeting 2 000 users to register on the platform.

"We are also hoping to develop an application in the near future because currently the users can access the site through a portal and we wish for them to have easy access and navigation," he added.

AMIS was launched in November 2017 to provide market intelligence on different value chain to farmers and ends in October.

The system was funded by the European Union under the high value crop ad horticulture project managed by Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development



NAMBoard AgriBusiness Manager Tammy Dlamini.

Enterprise (ESWADE).

It is hosted and managed by NAMBoard on behalf of the ministry of agriculture in collaboration with other stakeholders.



THE FSRA ON TUESDAY

Get in touch with fsra email: stakeholder@fsra.co.sz

A STAKEHOLDER
EDUCATION
FORUM

STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISPOSAL OF RETIREMENT FUND BENEFITS

IN today's article we will discuss retirement benefits in particular the payment of death benefits to beneficiaries.

This is an excerpt of Section 31, 32 and 33 of the Retirement Funds Act of 2005.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS NOT REDUCIBLE, TRANSFERABLE OR EXECUTABLE

31. (1) Save to the extent permitted by this Act and the Income Tax Order, 1975, no benefit or right thereto which arose in respect of contributions made by or on behalf of a member of a retirement fund, shall be capable of being reduced, transferred, ceded, pledged or hypothecated or be liable to attachment or subject to any form of execution under a judgement or order of court or be capable of being taken into account in the determination of a judgement debtor's financial position.

(2) If a person attempts to transfer, cede, pledge or hypothecate a benefit or right thereto, the benefit shall, as the management board may direct, be withheld thereto or suspended:

Provided that the management board may direct that the benefit or part thereof be paid to one or more of the members dependants or to a guardian or trustee for the benefit of such dependants during such period as they may determine.

(3) A person who contravenes the provision of this section commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to the general penalty in terms of Section 68 of this Act.



Allowable deductions from retirement benefits

32. (1) A retirement fund may deduct an amount from the member's benefit in respect of a debt arising from a housing loan or guarantee granted to or in respect of a member in terms of section 19.

(2) A retirement fund may deduct an amount from the member's benefit in respect of:

(a) an amount representing the loss suffered by the employer due to any unlawful activity of the member and for which judgement has been obtained against the member in a court or a written acknowledgement of culpability has been signed by the member and provided that the aforementioned written acknowledgement is witnessed by a person selected by the member and who has had not less than eight years of formal education;

(b) an amount for which the employee is liable under a guarantee issued by the employer for purposes of obtaining a housing loan:

Provided that an original notarised document exists which confirms that the guarantee was made.

(3) If for any reason, except death, a member is unable or unwilling to acknowledge any debt contemplated in subsection (2) (a), then the employer shall apply to the court for an order authorising him to make a deduction from the member's benefit up to an amount equal to the debt.

Death of a retirement fund member

33. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any law or in the rules of a registered fund, any benefit payable by such a fund in respect of a deceased member, shall, subject to any guar-

antee issued or loan made in terms of Section 19 of this Act, not form part of the assets in the estate of such a member, but shall be dealt with as in this section.

(2) If, within twelve months from the death of the member, the fund becomes aware of a dependant or dependants of the member, the benefit shall be paid to such dependant or dependants in a manner that is deemed equitable by the management board.

(3) If the fund does not become aware of or cannot trace any dependant of the member within twelve months from the death of the member, and the member has designated in writing to the fund a nominee who is not a dependant of the member, to receive the benefit or a specified portion of the benefit, the benefit or such portion of the benefit shall be paid to such nominee - provided that where the aggregate amount of the debts in the estate of the member exceeds the aggregate amount of the assets in his estate, an amount of the benefit equal to the difference between the aggregate amount of debt and the aggregate amount of assets shall be paid into the estate of the member and the balance of the benefit or the balance of such portion of the benefit as specified by the member in writing to the fund shall be paid to the nominee.

(4) If a member has a dependant and the member has also designated in writing to the fund a nominee to receive the benefit or a specified portion of the benefit, the fund shall within twelve months from the death of such member pay the

benefit or such portion thereof to such dependant or nominee in such proportions as the board may deem equitable.

(5) If the fund does not become aware of or cannot trace any dependant of the member within twelve months from the death of the member, and if the member has either not designated in writing to the fund a nominee or if the member has designated a nominee to receive a portion of the benefit, the benefit or the remaining only portion of the benefit after payment to the designated nominee, shall be paid into the estate of the member, or, if no inventory in respect of the member has been received by the court, the fund shall pay the monies into the insurance and retirement benefit trust account.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a payment by a registered fund to a dependant shall be deemed to include a payment made by the fund to a trustee for the benefit of a dependant contemplated in this section.

(7) Any benefit dealt with in terms of this section, payable to a minor dependant or minor nominee, may be paid in more than one payment in such amounts as the management board may from time to time consider appropriate and in the best interest of such dependant or nominee - provided that interest at a reasonable rate, having regard to the investment return earned by the fund, shall be added to the outstanding balance at such times as the management board may determine - provided further that any balance owing to such a dependant or nominee at the date on which he or she attains majority or dies, whichever occurs first, shall be paid in full.

(8) A benefit dealt with in terms of this section, payable to a major dependant or major nominee, may be paid in more than one payment if the dependant or nominee has consented thereto in writing:

Provided that:

(a) the amount of the payments, intervals of payment, interest to be added and other terms and conditions are disclosed in a written agreement; and

(b) the agreement may be cancelled by either party on written notice not exceeding 90 days.

(9) If the agreement contemplated in subsection (8) (a) is cancelled, the balance of the benefit shall be paid to the dependant or nominee in full.

For any further information enquiries on the payment of distribution of benefits, please contact the FSRA at 2406 8000 or email us at stakeholder@fsra.co.sz

DURBAN - Netflix's autoplay feature has made it easier for users to binge watch their favourite series or film without having to select the next episode.

Now the streaming service is giving users the option to switch autoplay on or off and is offering two autoplay options are available on all devices. Users can change the settings from the Netflix site. Here is a closer look at the two options. Autoplay next episode in a series on all devices. When you watch TV shows with multiple episodes, you can automatically play the next episode using autoplay without needing to manually select it.

To turn autoplay on or off:

1. Sign In to Netflix from a web browser.
2. Select Manage Profiles from the menu.
3. Select the profile you'd like to update.
4. Check or uncheck the option to Autoplay next episode in a series on all devices.

Autoplay previews while browsing on all devices. When you browse Netflix, you can

Netflix's new feature allows users to turn autoplay on or off



automatically play trailers using autoplay to get a preview of a TV show or movie.

1. To turn autoplay on or off:
2. Sign In to Netflix from a web

browser.

3. Select Manage Profiles from the menu.
4. Select the profile you'd like to update.

5. Check or uncheck the option to Autoplay previews while browsing on all devices.

According to Netflix, there may be a delay before the setting takes

effect. Netflix users can force an update by switching to another profile, then switching back in order to reload their profile with the updated setting. *Business Report Online*



Focus on World News

Global News

'PRESS MISREPRESENTED MY DEPARTURE FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY'

TORONTO - The Duke and Duchess of Sussex dined with Jennifer Lopez and her fiancé Alex Rodriguez at a billionaires' summit in the US, it has been claimed.

An employee told the Daily Mail that Harry spoke about "how the Press have misrepresented his departure from the Royal Family".

Harry gave a speech on Thursday night, watched by his wife, to an audience packed with US billionaires and celebrities, including former basketball star Magic Johnson. The prince talked about how he had been 'in therapy' for the last three years over the death of his mother, Diana.

The couple are then said to have dined with singer and actress Miss Lopez and baseball star Rodriguez.

Harry and Meghan rubbed shoulders with Hollywood's elite during their first private engagement since stepping down from royal duties.

One witness told the New York Post: "Harry and Meghan got on really well with Jennifer and Alex, and spent some time chatting with them over dinner."

"J-Lo was overheard inviting the couple and their baby Archie to her and Alex's house in Miami to spend time with them and their kids."

But questions were raised over who funded the couple's security at the invitation-only JP Morgan summit in Miami,



MISREPRESENTED: Prince Harry and wife Meghan.

Florida - where they are said to have earned up to £775 000 (about R15 million).

The couple reportedly flew in on JP Morgan's private jet from Vancouver, despite previously calling for the world to embrace more eco-friendly ways to travel.

A security guard at the five-star 1 Hotel South Beach - which hosted the three-day wealth conference - told the Mail: "We have our own security but then there are at least 20 or 30 people

that come in with their own teams. You could just see a bunch of people walking around in suits with ear pieces."

"I didn't know Prince Harry was coming, but then just by chance I saw him surrounded by his guys. His security looked the most prepared, there were four of them and they were armed."

The family are, controversially, being guarded by at least four taxpayer-funded Metropolitan Police bodyguards while they are living in Canada.

Daily Mail

Switzerland votes to criminalise gay hate

DAVOS - Switzerland has voted to criminalise gay hate after a campaign to bring the country in line with much of the rest of Europe.

A referendum on Sunday evening backed extending legislation protecting people from racist abuse to cover lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people who face prejudice.

Conservative Switzerland does not yet have laws that specifically protect lesbians, gays and

bisexuals from discrimination. Parliament passed a law in 2018 to widen the application of anti-racism statutes, so that offenders would face jail for up to three years.

But opponents secured the 50,000 signatures necessary under the system of direct democracy to put the matter to a vote on Sunday.

Early projections suggest that roughly 62 per cent of voters backed the change, with pollster gfs.bern calling the result.

Daily Mail

Latest developments in the new coronavirus outbreak

WUHAN - Here are the latest developments in the new coronavirus outbreak:

- China raised the death toll to 811 on Sunday night, passing the number killed globally by the SARS epidemic, as authorities made plans for millions of people to return to work on Monday after an extended Lunar New Year break.

- The cabinet said workers in key industries such as food and medical supplies must be helped to return to work as soon as possible. Many workplaces and schools will remain closed.

- Chinese railways, airlines and other public transport were ordered to take a coordinated approach and minimise the risk of transmitting disease. Workers should return in "batches".

- A British man who contracted the new coronavirus while attending a conference in Singapore may have infected seven other people when he stopped off at a chalet in a French mountain village for a few days on his way home.

- The man was Britain's third case and health experts said he appeared to be linked to a fourth announced on Sunday.

- The second case of the fast-spreading new virus to be confirmed in Spain was a British man also thought to be connected with the chalet group.

- Local Chinese authorities said they had not blocked Apple AAPLO supplier Foxconn 2317.TW from resuming production amid the coronavirus outbreak, denying an earlier report in the Nikkei Business Daily. The company would restart production once inspections were completed, they said.

- China said a total of 71.85 billion yuan (\$10.26 billion) had been allocated as of Saturday afternoon to fight the virus.

- An American hospitalised in the provincial capital Wuhan, where the outbreak began, became the first confirmed non-Chinese victim. A Japanese patient there also died.

Reuters

Michelle opens up about her marriage counselling with Barack

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK - Michelle Obama revealed that she and husband Barack Obama attended marriage counselling to work through 'tough times' soon after their two daughters were born and admitted raising a family can be difficult.

On Saturday, the former First Lady had an honest conversation with Oprah Winfrey as part of the 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus Tour with WW at the Barclays Centre in Brooklyn, New York.

In front of an crowd of 15 000 people, 56-year-old Obama opened up about the ups and downs of her marriage to America's 44th president.

"Sometimes you need an objective person to just hear you out," Obama began. "It taught me that I was responsible for my own happiness. I didn't marry Barack for him to make me happy. No one can make me happy."

"If I'm going to show up equal in this partnership, I have to be able to make

myself happy and so I had to stop focusing on what he wasn't doing and start thinking about how to carve out the life that I wanted for myself, with or without Barack. "The more I succeeded in defining myself for myself, the better I was in my partnership."

Oprah asked: "And you call [Barack] your soul affirming partner?"

"Is it more so now in 28 years than earlier. Does it keep getting better? Or it's more seasoned?" *Daily Mail*

BRIEFS

Man is arrested outside the White House

NEW YORK - A man carrying a knife was arrested outside the White House after he told a US Secret Service officer that he was there to kill President Donald Trump, police said. Roger Hedgpeth, 25, was arrested Saturday afternoon on a charge of making threats to do bodily harm, the Metropolitan Police Department said.

Hedgpeth approached a Secret Service officer who was patrolling outside the White House and said he was there to 'assassinate' Trump. "I have a knife to do it with," Hedgpeth allegedly said, according to a police report. Police found a 3 1/2-inch knife in a sheath on his left hip.

Daily Mail

Church kept their \$100b investment a secret

NEW YORK - Officials of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints kept the amount of their \$100 billion investment reserves a secret in case public knowledge of their massive wealth might discourage members from tithing. The Wall Street Journal reports that word of the Mormon Church's stockpile came after a whistleblower complained to the Internal Revenue Service that the fund, named Ensign Peak Advisors, had collected billions. "Paying tithing is more of a sense of commitment than it is the church needing the money," Roger Clarke, the head of Ensign Peak said.

The Mirror

Iran unveils new ballistic missile

TEHRAN - Iran yesterday unveiled a short-range ballistic missile it said can be powered by a 'new generation' of engines designed to put satellites into orbit. The Revolutionary Guards said the Raad-500 missile was equipped with new Zoheir engines made of composite materials lighter than on earlier steel models. It also unveiled Salman engines made of the same materials but with a 'movable nozzle' for the delivery of satellites into space. The Raad was 'a new generation missile that has half the weight of a Fateh-110 missile but with 200 kilometres more range', the Guards Sepahnews website said. US officials raised concerns in the past about Iran's satellite programme, describing the launch of a carrier rocket in January 2019 as a 'provocation'. *The Sun*

'This is not about him being a Republican'

NEW YORK - Former Vice President Joe Biden turned his attention back to President Trump at a campaign stop in New Hampshire Sunday, going after his 'absolute lack of any integrity'. "He pumped the brakes on attacking his Democratic rivals, instead saying any of them running could 'restore America's character.' "After four days of going after Sen. Bernie Sanders and former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg by name, the Biden that showed up to the Ashworth by the Sea hotel in the ocean-front town of Hampton was the folksy version, telling stories instead of reciting attack lines.

Daily Mail

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

EFF VOWS TO PROTECT BUSISIWE MKHWEBANE

JOHANNESBURG - The EFF has vowed it will ensure that Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane will remain in office until her seven-year tenure comes to an end.

This was the warning made by EFF President Julius Malema when he addressed the media in Erasmia, outside Pretoria.

Malema's announcement comes after National Assembly Speaker Thandi Modise called on political parties to nominate eminent persons to sit on the panel which would look into the fitness of Mkhwebane to hold office.

Last week, Mkhwebane filed an urgent application in the Western Cape High Court for an interdict. The interdict seeks to halt the parliamentary process underway to remove her from office.

But Modise indicated that she would oppose the application in defence of "Parliament powers" as enshrined in the Constitution.

And it is set to be a bigger fight as Malema warned: "We are aware that Parliament has entertained



PROTECTED: The EFF has vowed to protect Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane.

the frivolous and disingenuous motion of the DA to remove Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane as the public protector.

Action

"We will oppose this move, which is a united action by the DA and a Ramaphosa faction in the ANC, to the end. We have no doubt that this motion will be defeated."

He also said that his party would

oppose the nomination of retired Judge Robert Nugent, who recently chaired the Nugent Commission tasked with investigating maladministration at the SA Revenue Service (SARS) while Tom Moyane was the commissioner.

The EFF has also vowed to challenge the decision of the National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Shamila Batohi, to withdraw criminal charges against

SARS officials Ivan Pillay, Andries Janse van Rensburg and Johan van Loggerenberg.

Giving reasons for the decision, Batohi said this followed a "careful assessment of the evidence and other relevant material."

"The unanimous conclusion of the panel in respect of all counts is that there are no reasonable prospects of a successful prosecution."

But Malema said: "We have taken the resolution to review the irrational and factional decision by the NDPP to withdraw the criminal case against culprits of the Rogue Unit."

"A rational and fair NDPP would have allowed the matter to conclude in court and not short-cut it when it is already on trial."

Meanwhile, the party has also vowed to defy Modise and disrupt President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation address (SONA) if Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan remains in office on Thursday.

Political Bureau

NPA's R38 million state capture boost

JOHANNESBURG - Prosecutions boss Batohi, in an update, confirms a R38 million cash injection, hiring of staff as investigative unit as operations gather steam.

After delays caused by bureaucratic wrangling and staff shortages, the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA's) Investigative Directorate's work is now gathering momentum.

The unit, meant to deal with high profile corruption prosecutions and other cases, was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his state of the nation address last year.

At the time it was hailed as the replacement of the Scorpions, which was disbanded in 2007 following resolutions at the ANC elective conference in Polokwane, Limpopo.

The new unit was to tackle "serious, high-profile or complex corruption cases including, but not limited to, offences or criminal or unlawful activities arising from the following commissions and inquiries".

However, uncertainty regarding policy guidelines, working models, budgetary constraints and a lack of clarity around secondments of staffers hampered the unit's operations.

However, in a January 31 progress report, the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP's) Shamila Batohi says the unit's work is gathering pace.

It received a R38 million boost from the department of justice and the recruitment process is now underway to employ permanent investigators as well as lawyers for legal support.

The recruits will add to the unit's 16 prosecutors and 22 investigators who were seconded from the SA Police Service, the Hawks, the police watchdog Independent Police Investigating Directorate and the Special Investigating Unit.

"The unit has been struggling to attract talent from other departments due to lack of understanding of the secondment process. Some were worried after the secondment process, their career progression would be affected," said a senior official privy to the issue.

City Press understands that at a meeting on Friday, directors-general from several departments discussed solutions to deal with the red tape affecting the unit's full operation.

Advocate Hermione Cronje was appointed last May to prioritise cases emanating from various state enquiries and commissions such as the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture.

Batohi's report also outlines efforts put in place to reinvigorate the NPA which she found in a dire state with issues of low staff morale, lack of leadership and political interference.

News24

Home affairs 'not coping' with immigration

JOHANNESBURG - The department of home affairs' processes for undocumented immigrants are inadequate, leaving it unable to determine the number and status of undocumented people in the country.

This is according to a follow-up performance audit conducted by the office of the auditor-general, which presented its findings before Parliament's portfolio committee on home affairs last week.

The 60-page report lays bare a growing crisis of undocumented people which has been exacerbated by budget cuts, shoddy systems and overburdened state machinery.



ery.

Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said that the department had accepted the 65 recommendations made in the report.

He insisted that the department was working overtime to arrest the problem, but was at times hamstrung by a lack of synergy in gov-

ernment departments.

He argued that a cut in budgets across government had left the department severely constrained.

The report notes that:

- The deportation budget allocation was not sufficient to deport undocumented immigrants back

to their countries of origin. The budget declined by 56 per cent from 2015/16 to 2017/18. The number of deportees decreased 55 per cent.

- Home affairs did not know how many of the 946 314 inactive section 22 (asylum seeker permit) applicants (as at 31 December 2017) were still in the country as the various systems were not integrated.

- The independent bodies established in terms of the Refugees Act, namely the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs and the Refugee Appeals Board, experienced backlogs of 40 326 and 147 794 cases, respectively. *City Press*

Thieves strike again at State Security Agency

JOHANNESBURG - The Hawks are investigating a second theft of money out of the State Security Agency's (SSA) offices in Pretoria - this time two weeks ago, a spokesperson confirmed.

"We can confirm it's a theft, not a robbery. The matter was referred to us for further investigation," said Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi following a report on IOL.

He added that the theft had occurred at the agency's Lyttelton offices two weeks ago, and while the Hawks are

holding their cards close to their chest on the finer details, he would only say that money was stolen.

However, Mulaudzi would not say how much. According to the report, the perpetrators walked into a safe at the office in Lyttelton, Gauteng, two weeks ago and left with classified documents, an undisclosed amount of money in local and foreign currency and this time they also took the CCTV cameras.

They did not break a door or a window.

Mulaudzi said the investigation would include whether the security guards were at their posts at the time.

Reportedly, they were not, and the safe door was open, and had been demagnetised when the theft was discovered.

In 2015, between Christmas Day and Boxing Day, thieves struck at the SSA and made off with millions.

The opposition DA was livid over the news with its MP Dianne Kohler-Barnard saying: "And these are the people we entrust with the security



AT RISK: State Security Minister Ayanda Dlodlo.

of our country."

She will request an urgent safety and security portfolio commit-

tee meeting with State Security Minister Ayanda Dlodlo and the SSA. *News24*

Focus on SA Scene

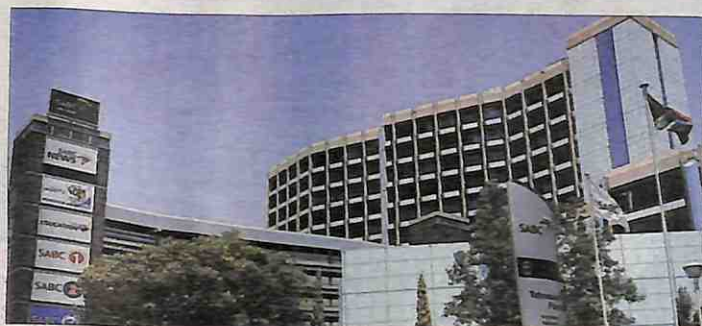
Your Daily Mzansi News

SABC DENIES SALE OF SABC 3, METRO FM, 5FM, AND GOOD HOPE FM

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has made it clear that it does not intend to privatise SABC3, Metro FM, 5FM and Good Hope FM.

The broadcaster released a statement yesterday morning after it was reportedly made aware of an article by Inside Politics published on 4 February 2020, "claiming to have exclusive access to a document titled 'Repurposing the State Owned Enterprises as Instruments for Economic Growth'".

The document reportedly proposes, among other things, that government should privatise SABC3, Metro FM, 5FM and Good Hope FM.



Inside Politics, which has 1 310 Twitter followers and 1 166 Facebook likes, describes itself as a publication that "brings you the original and unbiased African narrative".

Acting SABC spokesperson, Mmoni Seapolelo, said in a gen-

eral press statement sent out to all media: "Because of the potential uncertainty this information can cause, the SABC believes it is necessary to clarify that it is not intending to sell the assets mentioned in the article and has had no discussions with government

in this regard."

Mmoni added: "As requested by National Treasury and the ministry of communications and digital technologies, the SABC is conducting a thorough process of assessing all its assets, determining which are core and non-core, taking into account a range of factors, including public mandate, licence conditions and financial contribution.

"The potential disposal of any of the SABC's media assets involves a much more complex decision matrix, with factors such as the public interest, the public mandate and the future financial sustainability of the SABC being central to any decision." *News24*

'Bankers, auditors also need to account for role in state capture'

PRETORIA - It's not only Jacob Zuma who needs to account for his alleged role in state capture, but also the bankers and auditors who made the shenanigans possible.

This is according to Andre Feinstein and Hennie van Vuuren, whose organisations Open Secrets and Shadow World Investigation last week released a comprehensive research report about the "enablers" of state capture.

A copy of the report was handed to Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, the Chairperson of the state capture inquiry.

It reads like an international political thriller, and asks tough questions about various prominent companies, including HSBC, Europe's largest bank, Nedbank, Standard Bank, the Bank of Baroda and First National Bank (FNB), as well as consulting group McKinsey and auditing firm KPMG. *City Press*

State Capture Inquiry: Cyril Ramaphosa expands Raymond Zondo's powers

JOHANNESBURG - The refusal to answer questions fully or satisfactorily at the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture could land witnesses in hot water - they could be fined or face jail time of up to a year.

This also applies to persons who obstruct the commission's Chairperson, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, and his personnel while conducting investigations or demanding documents be made available to them.

These are some of the conditions carried in the amended regulations of the commission contained in the government gazette published on February 4.

The regulations, signed by President Cyril Ramaphosa on January 30, provide for 12 months imprisonment or a fine for witnesses who refuse to answer fully and satisfactorily questions lawfully put to them.

The regulations, which became effective last Tuesday, impose the same sanctions on those who refuse or fail to submit an affidavit within a period fixed on directives issued by Zondo.

The commission's staff will also not go unpunished should they, too, not comply with the regulations.

According to the law, staff are obliged to "preserve secrecy concerning any matter or information that may come to his or her knowledge in the performance of his or her duties".

Those who fall foul of this regulation will also be fined or face imprisonment.

The regulations also make it an offence to disregard a ruling by Zondo that no person shall disclose the names and addresses of witnesses, as well as any information that may reveal the identity of the witnesses.

Political Bureau

Mantashe to SAA: Make profit or close

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Chairperson and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Gwede Mantashe, has called for beleaguered carrier SAA to be shut down if it cannot sustain itself.

Speaking at the governing party's 108th birthday celebrations in Komga, Eastern Cape, Mantashe said there was no reason for the state-owned airline to keep receiving bailouts if it was unable to func-

tion on its own.

"As government, we have a duty to ensure that state-owned enterprises (SOEs) deliver on both the developmental and financial mandate," he said. "SOEs cannot expect to be bailed out over and over again. All the time they run to Tito [Mboweni, the finance minister] to give them money. They must generate a developmental mandate and sustain themselves."

He said the national carrier, which

was not even servicing the working class, was being subsidised by the state to transport "the elite".

"The working class use buses and taxis. If the money we are using to subsidise SAA was used for the buses, taxis and trains, we would have a case. This thing of continuously pumping money into SAA - which services the elite, middle class and higher class - is a problem," he added.

Mantashe said if SAA wanted to

survive, it should start to make a profit and stand on its own. Otherwise, it should be closed down or taken over by a more capable entity.

"Anyone who can manage to run it should take over. Do you know that we even pay cheaper rates at FlySafair? That airline is much cheaper than SAA and it takes us to our destination on time. And FlySafair is always early. It is never late, while SA Express cancels flights every day." *News24*

'If it means we have to die, that is fine'

DURBAN - Infuriated by the Judiciary's issuing of an arrest warrant for the former president, pro-Zuma forces lay the groundwork for a fightback campaign

In a situation reminiscent of the 2005 revolt against the ANC leadership, supporters of former president Jacob Zuma are mobilising to stage a coordinated defence of him.

Whereas in 2005 it was prompted by his dismissal from then president Thabo Mbeki's Cabinet, and his subsequent resignation from ANC positions, this time the rebellion has been sparked by the warrant of arrest issued by the Pietermaritzburg High Court in KwaZulu-Natal after Zuma failed to show up for his fraud and corruption trial last Tuesday.

The ANC's national general council (NGC) reinstated Zuma to all his ANC positions in June 2005, paving the way for his triumph at the party's national elective conference, held in Polokwane, Limpopo, in 2007.

Now loyalists comprising sections of the ANC women and youth leagues, the Umkhonto weSizwe Military Veterans' Association (MKMVA) and

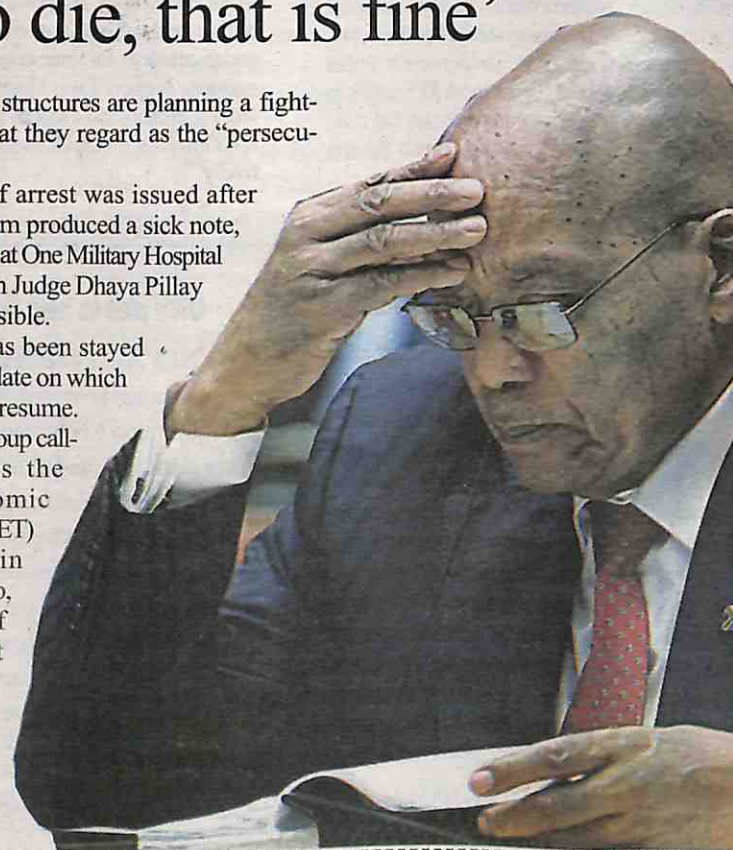
some provincial structures are planning a fightback against what they regard as the "persecution" of Zuma.

The warrant of arrest was issued after Zuma's legal team produced a sick note, issued by a doctor at One Military Hospital in Pretoria, which Judge Dhaya Pillay deemed inadmissible.

The warrant has been stayed until May 6, the date on which the case is set to resume.

In Gauteng, a group calling themselves the Radical Economic Transformation (RET) forces met in Kliptown, Soweto, to draft a plan of action to support the former president.

News24



Focus on Africa News

Continental News

African free trade area must benefit continent - Ramaphosa

ADDIS ABABA - President Cyril Ramaphosa has assured African countries that free trade will not marginalise local producers and that a minimum standard of origin will be set for goods to be branded as 'Proudly African'.

Ramaphosa was speaking at the African Union summit in Ethiopia where he was officially announced as the new chair of the AU.

He said that the colonial era of Africa being a pit stop for assembly was over.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area promises a market worth \$3 trillion dollars for goods produced on the continent.

But some countries have raised concerns about enforcing the rules of origin.

AU Chair Cyril Ramaphosa said the free trade area would require minimum local production for goods to qualify.

"We must all ensure that the AFCTA does not become a conduit for products with minimal African value addition to enter and penetrate our local markets under the guise of continental integration."

Ramaphosa said that the trade area must benefit the continent. *The Guardian*

'Countries shouldn't bar their citizens from returning from china'

ADDIS ABABA - The African Union's (AU) Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has appealed to countries on the continent to stop preventing their citizens from returning home from China.

The centre said it had trained 15 African countries that were most at risk and they were ready to screen for the coronavirus from yesterday.

However, the Africa CDC said some governments were making it hard for citizens to return home amid fears around the outbreak. The centre said South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana, and Nigeria were already equipped with accurate testing systems for the coronavirus. Africa CDC director Dr John Nkengasong said it received \$15 million to equip 15 countries that were most at risk, including countries that had direct flights to China. *EWN*

MORE THAN HALF OF WOMEN IN ZIM HAVE FACED SEXTORTION

HARARE - Zimbabwe has recorded an unprecedented number of women reporting being forced to exchange sex for employment or business favours.

More than 57 per cent of women surveyed by Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) said they had been forced to offer sexual favours in exchange for jobs, medical care and even when seeking placements at schools for their children.

The report, seen by the Guardian, found women in the informal sector experienced sextortion as the main form of non-monetary bribes by various officials.

About 45 per cent of women said they had received requests for sexual favours to access a service and 15 per cent had used sex to get employment. The report, entitled Gender and Corruption, found



women were increasingly vulnerable to sexual abuse amid the deteriorating Zimbabwean economy. "57.5 per cent of these respondents noted that sexual favours are the form of non-monetary bribe they had experienced. Sextortion is thus a part of the bribery cul-

ture in Zimbabwe. Women who do not have money to pay for bribes are thus forced to use sex as a form of payment. 15 per cent used employment favours as a form of bribery," reads the report.

Women in business were also found to have faced sexual harass-

ment when seeking government tenders. "At times you get asked for sexual favours in return for tenders or business. What makes the situation difficult, especially for state contracts, is how women in business are perceived by men in control of these processes. *AFP*

Lesotho cancels 'irregular' guarantees for AU games stadium

MASERU - The ministry of finance has cancelled government guarantees securing R2.45bn in loans from a little-known South African company, Property 2000.

The loans were to be issued for the construction of a stadium, an indoor sports arena and athletes village as Lesotho prepares to host the African Union Sports Council Games in December this year.

The cancellation follows widespread Lesotho media coverage of a finance ministry document from August 2019 recommending that the deal should not be signed because of 'irregularities'. Despite this, Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro supported the initiative and cabinet approved loans and guarantees for three construction groups, Nepco Two Consortium, MFT Lesotho and Design Edge, for R760m, R785m and R898m respectively.



CANCELLED: Lesotho Deputy Prime Minister Monyane Moleleki and Minister of Sports Mahali Phamotse at the Lepereng Indoor Arena sod turning. (Lesotho Ministry of Sports)

The controversial development was to be funded by a small South African developer, Property 2000, based on

Lesotho government loan guarantees valued at R2.45bn. The guarantees were indeed issued to Property 2000

on October 11, 2019.

Now, in the wake of questions from MNN about Property 2000 and about the political connections of some of the construction consortia, the finance ministry has revealed that it cancelled the guarantees. This came after Property 2000 missed a key deadline by failing to provide funds within 21 days as agreed. MNN has learnt the guarantees were already cancelled when Property 2000 director Napo Modise told us in an earlier interview that he was still expecting government to issue the guarantees for him to start releasing funds to the contractors.

But Lesotho Director of Public Debt Management Khotso Moleleki told MNN in an exclusive interview there was no chance of this.

"Mr Modise is still holding on to the cancelled guarantees notwithstanding our request that he should return them to the ministry. *News24*

BRIEFS

New killings blamed on ADF militia

BENI - Fighters from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) militia killed seven civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, just days after another massacre, local officials and police said.

About 60 ADF fighters carried out the attack at Makeke, killing five men and two women, local official Mapengo Shabani told AFP. Makeke lies 32km north of Beni, in Ituri province, near the border with Uganda. "The attack happened in broad daylight," he added. "These terrorists also pillaged five shops. So far, we have not recorded any missing persons."

AFP

UN's plea to help fight locust plague

GENEVA - UN Secretary-General António Guterres has bemoaned developed countries' contribution to climate change, commending Africa for its political and moral leadership on the climate emergency.

Speaking at the ordinary session of the African Union at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Guterres said more ambition on mitigation, financing and adaptation to build the resilience of African countries was needed to allow for effective recovery and reconstruction.

News24

Thousands rally against Trump

RABAT - Thousands of demonstrators flooded the streets of the Moroccan capital to protest against a new US Middle East peace plan which the Palestinians says favours Israel. Carrying Palestinian flags, the demonstrators, including local politicians, Islamist sympathisers and trade unionists, marched in Rabat chanting 'Long Live Palestine'. They called for a boycott of American products, denouncing the United States as 'enemies of peace' and chanted 'Palestine is not for sale'.

EWN

Mali vows to obtain 'Reparation'

BAMAKO - Mali has called for reparation and condemned 'immense cultural damage' after a Malian musician said United States customs agents broke his traditional instrument, sparking outrage online. Renowned kora player Ballake Sissoko landed in Paris on February 4 after touring the US, to find that his instrument had been 'completely destroyed' by customs agents in New York. The traditional West African 21-string lute had been dismantled, with a note left by the agents, in Spanish, reading 'intelligent security saves time,' according to a post on Sissoko's Facebook page. "Would US customs have dared to dismantle a Stradivarius?" Sissoko said, referring to a class of fabled violins.

DPA

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ENTERTAINMENT

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ILLA PENBOY TO MEET THE FERGUSONS

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

ONLY the sky is the limit for Illa Penboy!

Exactly a month award-winning artist Illa dropped his single, 'Connie and Shona', a song that praises South African Connie and Shona Ferguson, the rapper will be meeting the Fergusons in no time.

This was revealed by Illa Penboy yesterday following an Instagram repost by Connie Ferguson after reading an article published by sister; Sunday Observer about Illa's song.

Connie simply stated "This is so sweet! Thank you very much" alongside a picture of the article which has Illa and his girlfriend.

Illa stated that he was happy with Connie's gesture.

"I am now looking forward to meeting the Fergusons. They inspire more young couples including my girlfriend and I. And for that I decided to compose an appreciation song. I'm happy, things seem to be going my way about the song and my love story. I am spreading nothing else but love through the song; from the fear of expecting to be sued by your role model and seeing a repost with a lovely caption," he said.

Furthermore, Illa advised fellow artists to follow their guts and keep their minds focused on whatever they would want to achieve.

"As long as you believe in yourself and put the work in, your dreams will be a reality," he said.

Illa's song reached 5000 views in four days of release.

It is an open secret that Illa has been criticised on social media about his music, hairstyles, dress code and relationship, that can be daunting but not for Illa as he says he does not have room for negativity in his life.

"The conversations are endless when my name is involved and for me that's influence. I didn't come this far to be liked, I just want to be successful, and no amount of hate can stop me from believing in myself, I don't have a special address for haters. For me, this year is about positivity and

• Connie Ferguson responds to Illa's 'Connie and Shona' song



Naturally, life has continuously presented them with various challenges, but through it all, these two lovebirds have stuck it out together - with love and grace.

Late last year the much-loved couple celebrated an impressive 18 years of marital bliss.

Their marriage is often regarded as one for the books.

The year 2019 could be described as very challenging for the Fergusons.

Many read reports of how certain players in the industry accused them of mistreatment and underpaying them for their work as actors and crew members.

Connie and Shona have built such an inspiring life together.

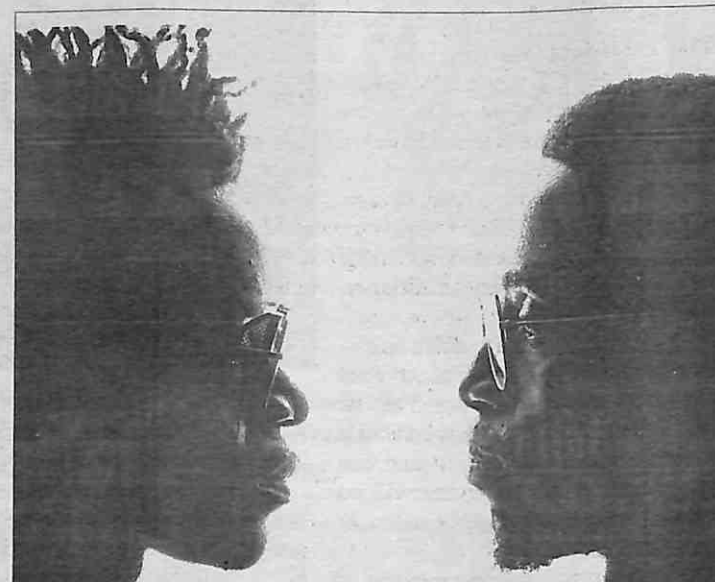
Their thriving television and film production business, two daughters and a grandson are a big part of this formidable pair!

reaching more milestones," Illa added.

"If you know Connie and Shona, you know very well that they have achieved a lot together as a couple. They have been married for a long time but still stand strong together. They are more than just an inspiration. So why not put that in a song to be part of anything we can celebrate about them? I took that initiative," said the award-winning artist.

Shona and Connie Ferguson have crafted such an inspiring love story!

Connie.



NKO joins Claiming Grounds

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

PRODUCER NKO has joined Claiming Grounds Records.

This was confirmed by founder of the stable Muzi 'Mozaik' Ngwenya yesterday.

Ngwenya said NKO's transition into Claiming Ground Records is anticipated to be one that would help accelerate his natural talent while refining the label's sound and expanding the brand's reach.

When Mozaik the Producer established Claiming Ground Records in 2007, no one ever fully grasped the impact it would have in not just Eswatini, but internationally as well.

Over the years, the pioneering producer has helped elevate the local music scene to new heights, cultivating fresh talent while disrupting the corporate world all at the same time.

Now, in Claiming Ground Records' 13th year, the label is ready to step the game up a notch.

"We are happy to announce the signing of NKO as the first ever producer under the mentorship of Mozaik The Producer.

"At only 21, NKO's career is growing, and fast.

His debut was back in 2016 with the production of Flame Boy Universe's album, progressively landing him a jam member spot on everyone's favourite band, S-Cubed by 2018 and then going on to make waves by bagging his first ever SWAMA nomination last year.

"His genius skills have allowed

him to work with the best of the best.

From South African soul artist Brian Themba to Eswatini's Qhobo Intalektual, King Terry, Denzel, Lyrikal Busta, Star on the Rise SAR Nilo and even MTN spotlight runner-ups, Oxygen and Aliah, to name a few," said Mozaik.

Under Mozaik's guidance, the young producer's career has only one direction - to go all the way up.

"We welcome him to the CG family and excitedly embrace the label's evolution.

"Over the years we have signed a few artists, Nomalungelo, Psycho-Lution, KrTC, to name a few. All of whom have grown to be significantly powerful brands in the industry and currently, in our 13th year of growth, NKO is our latest signee, as a producer," he added.

Filled

Furthermore, Ngwenya mentioned that their future plans includes releasing Mandisa Mamba's album, producing and recording MTN Spotlight runner-ups Madoda (stage name Oxygen) and Nompandulo (stage name Aliah) albums.

Ngwenya said their journey in the industry had been filled with a lot of heartaches and disappointments, but all of these come with a lot of growth.

"The wins are great.

"We welcome everything we've achieved, but it's what we've lost that has built the company's resilience and strong character.

We are ready to do more and be more," he said.

DR Ndu drops new album

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

DR Ndu and Bahlatiyi Benkhohlo have done it again.

Following the success of their debut album last year, Dr Ndu and Bahlatiyi Benkhohlo gospel group have released their second offering titled Lutsandvo.

The album, to hit music stores month end, has six tracks.

The tracks are presented innovatively via a dialogue form rather than the usual way which the listener has become accustomed to.

"Dr Ndu and Bahlatiyi Benkhohlo present their songs in a unique way that leaves every listener intrigued,"

said Ndumiso 'Dr Ndu' Mangwe, who conceived the concept of Bahlatiyi Benkhohlo wherein religious leaders engage listeners via conferences.

The conferences are held either monthly or once in two months, hence Mangwe decided to compile an album with the sole intent of reaching a wider audience. "Now on our second release, we extended our reach to include Mpumalanga Province in SA as we normally get invites from there as well.

Our album is coming out month end and is not only emotional but touches the inner man. "As Dr Ndumi and Bahlatiyi Benkhohlo, we endeavoured to compose poetic songs as well so we take Christians down memory lane and into core Christianity," Mangwe said. He added that this album would aid them in their mission of spreading the true Gospel in song and conferences/dialogues on issues of topical interest. They are hoping to use

the album to convey the message of unity among Christians quicker and effectively. It is envisaged that the album will be available in bookshops and music stores countrywide as well as in Mpumalanga. Tracks are; Likuphi Liciniso, Kukholwa, Your Name, Lutsandvo, Umshado and an instrumental piece. The CD was produced by Mancoba 'Silzo' Msibi with Sakhile Mndzebele being the executive producer.

MEN'S CONFERENCE VENUE REVEALED

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THE cat is out of the bag.

Chi Executive Lounge in Mbabane has been revealed as the venue for the first ever Men's Conference: Eswatini Edition on Friday.

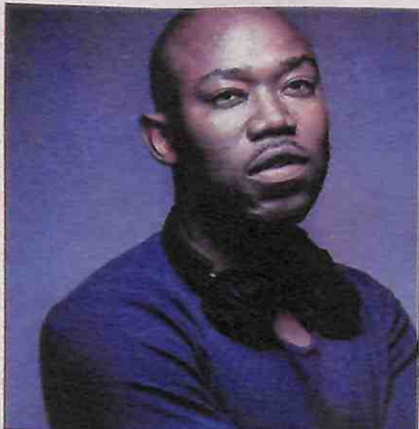
This was confirmed by Mloni Mpanza, on behalf of the organising committee who stated that they had identified the newly-established lounge as their perfect venue.

"We wanted a venue that will be easily accessible to everyone as we want to have as many men as possible," he said. Mpanza added that they had made a few changes from the initial plan, one of which was that the event will no longer be weekend long but will only be held on Saturday.

He stated that they were mindful of the fact that such a weekend was meant to be spent with loved ones, hence the decision to cut the programme to a day.

"We would also like to appreciate the love and wonderful response we have been receiving, not only from men but also from women who are giving this whole concept a thumbs up," he said.

They had partnered with a couple of organisations such as the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) who will assist with discussions about the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violent (SODV) Act, as



FRIDAY IT IS: Slota and Mloni Mpanza.

well as the Women and Children Hospital, amongst others.

Some of the speakers that have been previously confirmed for the conference include comedian Mfundo 'Ndosh' Simelane, Dr. Mbongiseni Msibi, Dumisani Njobo Mamba, Sakhile Mack Shabangu, Mandla 'Cheeks' Nxumalo and poet Majaha Nkonyane.

In between the sessions, according to Mpanza, there would also be entertainment provided by MegaSound spinners, Slotta, Mdura and Dr Shakes. "We would also like to appreciate and recognise our partners and sponsors namely, Young Inc, Strydom Mpanza Foundation, Eswatini Daily News and MegaSound," Mpanza stated. Eswatini Men's Conference is a concept adopted from the neigh-

bouring South Africa where a fictional men's conference was made up by men as an escape plan for Valentine's Day last year. This imaginary conference blew up to neighbouring countries such as Eswatini as men went to the extent of creating speakers, subjects of discussions and activities for the event that was not to be.

Through observing the extent to which this blew up and noting the ever growing cases of men found to have been abusing women sexually, physically and otherwise throughout the world, with no exception to Eswatini, it was decided by the organisers to host the, 'Real Men's Conference,' to address some of the societal issues touching on men.

'Hade Mabebeza' hit maker to headline at House Fest

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THE second phase of House Fest line-up is finally out.

'Hade Mabebeza' hit maker Earl W Green has been added to the line-up for the second edition of the festival. This was confirmed by Swazi Boy Entertainment PRO Ur Gal Zee yesterday.

Also added to the line-up are DJ Slotta, Trend Twins, DJ Wicked, Mseto, Fantasy, !Sooks and Ipeleng.

The second edition of the annual house festival has already left house fans in an exciting mood for the festival since phase one line-up was released two weeks ago.

This festival is one that brings

house music lovers together for a chilled relaxed mood.

House music will be celebrated at the event. This will include house genres such as deep, commercial, ggom and amapiano.

Earl W Green will join other international acts such as Oscar Mbo and Christos. Earl W Green is known for his vocals on VaalSow's hit track 'Hade Mabebeza.' He is no stranger to the house music scene. He has released an album where he exposed numerous sub-genres of deep house.

The festival's aim is to educate about the roots of house music, hence bringing international artists as deejays to grow the local house scene.



K.I.M opens hands for young boys to join ballet

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

KIDS In Motion Dance School is opening doors for young aspiring boys to join ballet.

They would be partaking in K.I.M Boys Division.

This was revealed by Communications Manager and Director of the boys division Nothando Mkhonta yesterday.

Mkhonta stated that her team noticed how girls were well taken care of in terms of empowerment and rights at a very young age, therefore, they decided to form a boys division.

Opportunities

She said this initiative was meant to give the young boys the same opportunities as the girls.

Mkhonta said K.I.M boys division was meant to fulfil the dance school's goal of building a future generation that's free from self-image issues, embraces and promotes good human relations.

"The boys division was inspired by the rise of suicide stats amongst young men. It is sad how these empowered girls share the world with males who haven't been groomed on how to handle the new age

woman.

"Changing the mindset of a grown man is very difficult. It is for that reason that we chose to start them young. The boys programme is not only about teaching them dance, it's about empowering them. Saying to these young boys 'you matter, we see you, we are here for you dear boy child,'" she said.

Intrest

Mkhonta invited interested parents to sign up their children by contacting her.

She said they took in children ranging from ages three to 12.

"After having conversations with some grown men in social settings, it was noted that they too suffer from the same problems women face.

"They lack confidence, struggle to deal with emotions, get confused on which path to choose, to get to where they dream to be in life, etc. It is arguable that males are already at a better advantage than females in society," she said.

"Our classes are in Manzini on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we're still trying to work out suitable days for Mbabane. Classes cost E450 a month. They start at 2pm and finish at 4pm."

FLOEWE'S 'NGIBAMBE' VIDEO REACHES 700 VIEWS

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

LOEWE'S 'Ngibambe' video has reached 700 views within a week of its release date.

The video was officially released last week Monday and debuted on Music TV channels which included Mzansi Magic and Channel O.

Floewe stated that she was overwhelmed by the support she was receiving from her fans, family and friends.

"I couldn't have done it without the hard working team behind it. Everyone outdid themselves and the results are showing. This can only mean that from here, it can only get better. To have Mzansi Magic and Channel O play listing it already is amazing," she said.

Floewe first shared scenes of the video in October whilst she worked with HBImaging from South Africa.

"My appreciation goes to Molly's Restaurant, Bkay Lodge, Khosi for the

lovely face-beat. Zama, my stylist, my fellow actors and actresses, PSImaging for the great behind the scenes photography, New Life Entertainment and my management Mosoul Media," said the singer. Floewe is well-known for being one of Eswatini's most gifted female vocalists and songwriters.

She is the Kingdom of Eswatini's musical gem. A real beauty blessed with phenomenal talent, she dropped her 12-track debut album titled, 'Mayibuye', a body defining her musical journey five years ago.

Her tracks titled 'Lomatsemba' and 'Moya' topped the local charts and received airplay at South African radio stations such as Khaya FM and Rise FM.

With a music career that spans over a decade, she has used the spotlight to address societal issues such as gender based-violence and women empowerment



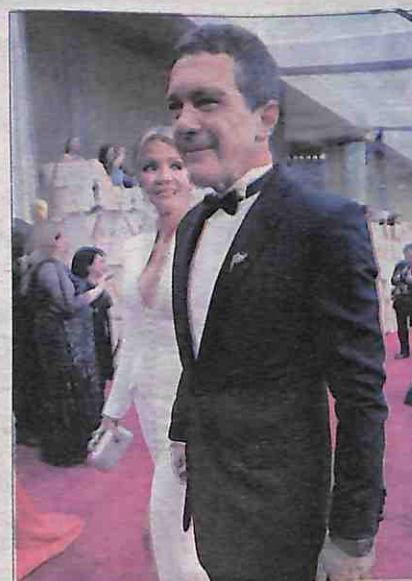
DIVINE: Billie Eilish walks the red carpet in a white-on-white houndstooth set, with a jacket featuring the Chanel's interlocking C logo.



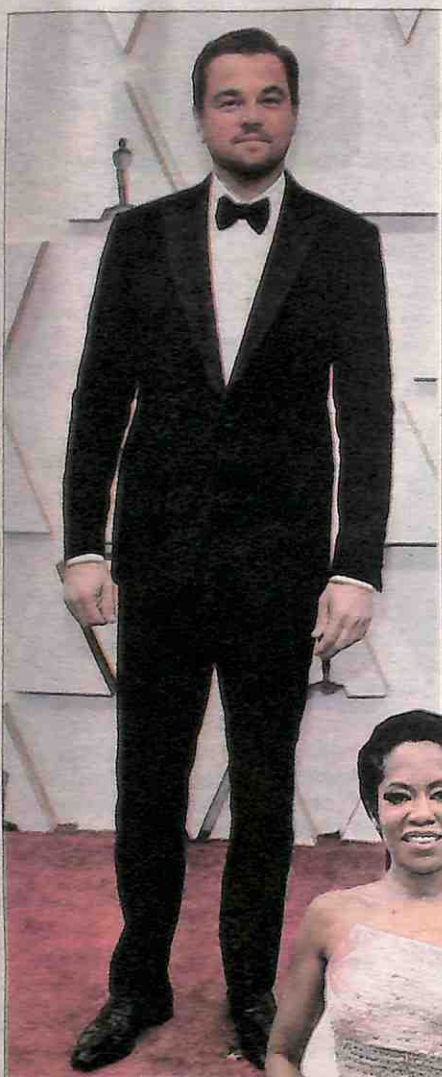
CHIC: Cynthia Erivo wears a Versace white ballgown with one diagonal strap and a thigh-high slit.



FASHIONABLE: Billy Porter looks like royalty in a glistening gold gown featuring a sleeveless bodice with gold feathers and a floor-length skirt in a rich baroque-style print.



LEGEND: Antonio Banderas and Nicole Kimpel upon their arrival.



CHARMING: Leonardo DiCaprio in Christian Louboutin and David Yurman jewelry.

92ND OSCARS RED CARPET

OSCAR 2020 WINNERS

- **Best Picture**
Parasite
- **Best Director**
Bong Joon Ho, Parasite
- **Best Actor**
Joaquin Phoenix, Joker
- **Best Actress**
Renee Zellweger, Judy
- **Supporting Actor**
Brad Pitt, Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood
- **Supporting Actress**
Laura Dern, Marriage Story
- **Adapted Screenplay**
Taika Waititi, Jojo Rabbit

- **Best Original Screenplay**
Bong Joon Ho and Han Jin Won, Parasite
- **Animated Feature**
Toy Story 4
- **International Feature Film**
Parasite
- **Best Documentary**
American Factory
- **Best Cinematography**
1917
- **Best Costume Design**
Little Women
- **Film Editing**
Ford vs. Ferrari
- **Makeup and Hairstyling**
Bombshell
- **Original Score**
Joker

- **Original Song**
I'm Gonna Love Me Again, Rocketman
- **Production Design**
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
- **Sound Editing**
Ford v Ferrari
- **Sound Mixing**
1917
- **Visual Effects**
1917
- **Documentary Short Subject**
Learning to Skateboard in a War Zone If You're a Girl
- **Short Film Animated**
Hair Love
- **Short Film Live Action**
The Neighbor's Window

STYLISH: Kristen Wiig opted for a stylish red gown.



SOPHISTICATED: Sunrise Coigney and Mark Ruffalo in Christian Louboutin. (R) **LOVELY:** Scarlett Johansson in Oscar de la Renta at the 2020 Oscars.



STUNNING: Charlize Theron looked stunning.



ELEGANT: Molly Sims.

(R) **GRACEFUL:** Regina King was perfection in her pink.





Celebville

International Celebrity News



HELPING HAND: Afro-soul singer Zonke Dikana.

Zonke applauded for paying student's debt

PRETORIA - Zonke helped a student pay outstanding fees so she could continue with her studies.

When a student shared her financial struggles on social media, little did she know Afro-soul singer Zonke Dikana would show up to settle her R30 000 debt.

Bubu Sithole, who is a student, took to Twitter to share her pain after she was denied registration because she owed R29 000 in unpaid fees.

In a detailed tweet, Bubu said she had been rejected by NSFAS twice, even though she provided proof that her mother had died and her father was living with a disability.

"I'm currently packing my bags and going back home because I have outstanding fees and can't register. I owe R29k and they want R17k for me to register provisionally. I was rejected by NSFAS twice in a row, even after I sent them my mother's death certificate and my dad's disability papers.

"I applied for a fundi eduloan but it was declined. I'm gonna send through an appeal for NSFAS again this year. My heart aches so much, I just wanted to go to school. That's all." While it looked like there was no hope for the student, Zonke acted and said she would like to help pay her outstanding fees. Bubu thanked people for their retweets, which she believed helped grab the attention of Zonke, who advised her to study hard and be the best version of herself. *Times Live*

Zozibini elected ambassador for fight against GBV

CAPE TOWN - President Cyril Ramaphosa has praised Zozibini Tunzi for her work in battling the scourge of femicide and gender-based violence (GBV) on the African continent, electing her an ambassador in the fight.

The announcement was made as Ramaphosa took his place as AU chair at the weekend. He will share the position with arts and culture deputy minister Ncwane Mafu.

Speaking at a homecoming celebration for Zozibini in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, Mafu said the president had been asked to address the issue of violence against women on the continent.

He said: "I can do it because already I have an ambassador in SA. Her name is Zozibini Tunzi. She has already committed to this challenge, so I can take it, as president and as the government of South Africa, that she will be championing it on behalf of the government," Mafu said. The government would fight GBV and femicide on the continent "using the face of a woman from Esidwadweni in Tsolo", she said.

Hundreds of well-wishers greeted Zozibini as she arrived at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg on Saturday and, in the afternoon, at Mthatha airport. Screams and tears flowed as fans welcomed the beauty queen home. This is the first time she has set foot in SA since winning the hotly contested Miss Universe title on December 8 in Atlanta, US, making millions proud. *Times Live*



ELECTED: Miss Universe Zozibini Tunzi.

SK Khoza gushes over his bae

MIDRAND - Actor Sthembiso Khoza is head over heels in love with his bae, actress Pabee Moganedi.

SK shared a heartfelt Instagram post to his bae expressing how he loved that he could be himself with her.

"The way you look at me, makes me feel like I'm the only person in the world. With you, I can be myself."

SK explained how he loved that their love for each other also had an element of friendship and how everything seemed perfect when he was with her.

"I love that we are also friends at the same time. When we're together, all my problems disappear. You make my heart smile."

After being together for more than a year, SK shared how they were each other's support systems and how they could be themselves with each other. "You know me better than I know myself. You're always there for me, no matter what. You let me be myself and you encourage

me to find more of myself. You are truthful and vulnerable to me."

The former The Queen actor said Pabee encouraged him when he failed in his endeavours and he appreciated the sacrifices she made for him.

"You encourage me after I feel like I've failed. You make me feel like I can get through anything, as long as I have you. You sacrifice and work so hard, without even realising that you are." *Times Live*



Brad Pitt wins first acting Oscar

HOLLYWOOD - Brad Pitt just won his first acting Oscar ever, and his acceptance speech not to mention the trajectory of his life has truly proven good guys win in the end.

BP was named Sunday as the Best Supporting Actor for his role in 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood'. When he took the mic ... he touched on politics, his kids and Hollywood in general, making sure to acknowledge the little people -- like stunt men and women.

BTW, Brad plays a stuntman in Quentin Tarantino's flick. So good on him for the shout-out.

When it comes to politics, Brad cracked that he only had 45 seconds up there, which is 45 seconds more than the US Senate gave to John Bolton to testify in Trump's impeachment trial. Of course, DT was acquitted of wrongdoing last week. No

witnesses testified.

He also made sure to mention his costar,

Leonardo DiCaprio, in his speech, saying he'd be happy to ride his coattails to success anytime. Brad also dedicated the win to his kids, something he didn't do during his big Globes win, but for good reason.

All in all though, the speech and the win is emblematic of the idea that, really, you can't put a label on someone over a moment in time. Brad's been through a lot over the past several years -- including a divorce, getting sober and reclaiming his clout professionally.

With this, he's managed to conquer all three, and couldn't look better doing it. Congrats, bud. You've come a long way! *TMZ*

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Zekhetelo on Uzalo tonight.



Jonas is captured when he goes to hire an inkabi. Fenyang offers to help Phumelele find a divorce lawyer. Ntwenhle is blackmailed by Busi.



There's a development in the search for Lincoln. Nina's attempts to ruin Cebisa's business is met with unexpected opposition. Lalage tries to make sense of Marius' revelation.



Azwindini is uneasy with how the royal family is taking Mulalo's threat. Kutlwano is hit hard by the fact that KK slept with Matshidiso. Warona just made a grave mistake but she is not at the point of admitting it.



Palesa gets an alarming phone call from her sister. Zitha is forced to play the only card she has left. Lesedi does something drastic to avoid losing her child.



Sonnyboy's plans to take Tshepo back gain momentum. Harriet devises a plan to help Welma.



Nkunzi shares his plans with the enemy, Gabisile finds help from an unlikely source, and Fikile gets the job, against Sbu's wishes.



Public humiliation leads to a deal being struck with the devil.

Do you have a Valentine's date or uhamba no-Maphorisa?

Picture: Liza @ No Chill in Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Romantic novels and movies might have caused you to feel especially passionate and sensual. Today you long to schedule a romantic evening alone with a love partner, Capricorn. Other social obligations could get in your way, however.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Although you may have been feeling somewhat out of sorts for the past few days, Aquarius, today you could feel as if you just got a new lease on life. You're in excellent physical, mental, and emotional shape, so you should be raring to go. Both immediate and long-term goals should be easy to achieve while your energy is strong today.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Today you're likely to be longing for a little break from your daily routine, Pisces, and for an evening alone with a love partner. You're feeling sensual and passionate, but you also have much to report concerning new opportunities that have recently come up. Some of these, if implemented, could well change your life in a profound way. You'll want your partner's opinion, since it concerns him or her as well. Choose your words carefully and get the enthusiasm going!



Aries March 21 – April 19

Some welcome visitors from far away could come to see you today and cause temporary chaos in your home. You'll be glad to see them, however, Aries, as they'll have some great news and fascinating information to pass on to you and your family. You'll want to introduce them to other friends who share your interests. This could give rise to a horrendously messy house, but you'll have fun anyway. Prepare for a highly social evening!



Taurus April 20 – May 20

News could come your way, perhaps through local magazines or newspapers, about possible renovations occurring in your community. These changes could be rather controversial, Taurus, so don't be surprised if you hear a lot of gossip and a number of opinions, both pro and con, on the matter.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

If you've been striving for success in the field of writing, speaking, or publishing, Gemini, you have the chance for a real breakthrough today. A large sum of money or an opportunity to earn it in one of these fields might come your way, and you'll definitely want to take advantage of it. It may involve legal



papers, such as contracts.

Cancer June 22 – July 22

Success and good fortune might be in the wind for you today, Cancer. Whatever it is will probably have you feeling especially elated and satisfied with your accomplishments. You'll want to tell everyone, but this could prove frustrating since some of the people you want to tell might not be reachable today. Hold off on spreading the word until you can inform those closest to you. You'll need and want their support.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Successes have been coming your way continually for a while, Leo. The downside is that excessive celebrating and overindulging in food and drink could have you feeling physically out of sorts today.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Upheavals within a group with which you're affiliated, perhaps professionally, might cause you to alter your goals slightly, Virgo. In the long run, this could well prove to be a positive development, although the conditions leading to it could be a bit disconcerting.



Libra September 23 – October 23

A number of people in interesting fields, such as law, education, or writing and publishing, could cross your path today, Libra. This could involve your job, or perhaps these people attend a social event that you host in your home. Either way, some fascinating and useful information could come your way that alters your thinking and nudges it subtly in a new direction. You'll want to make the most of it. Have fun!



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

A chance to take a long journey, perhaps to a distant state or foreign country, could suddenly present itself to you today, Scorpio. This trip is apt to be far more significant than a simple vacation. It may be career related or involve an opportunity to expand your education. It could also concern a relationship. Whichever it is, you're likely to make the trip and it will probably change your life in subtle ways.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Some traumas, phobias, or hang-ups from the past that have been limiting you in some way could suddenly come to the surface today, Sagittarius. You might get the most insight by analyzing your dreams. The release could be so profound that you have to spend some time alone today.



BABY BLUES



BLONDIE

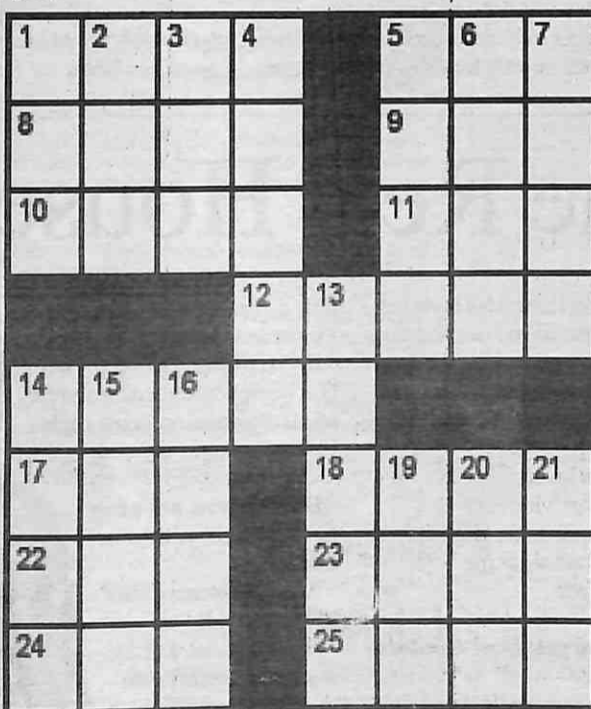


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Octo-Cross 01

Can you fit the words from the list correctly into the grid?



Down

1. Biblical boat
2. Neckwear
3. Lyric poem
4. Noisy fight
5. Bound
6. Exclude
7. Entomb
13. Fruit
14. In addition
15. Cogwheel
16. Ill-mannered
19. Simian
20. Irritate
21. Insect

Across

1. Particle
5. Tennis stroke
8. Travel by horse
9. Large flightless bird
10. Part of a hull
11. Atmosphere
12. Vacant
14. Concur
17. Romanian currency
18. Molten rock
22. Lamentable
23. Overt
24. Metal-bearing mineral
25. Adjacent

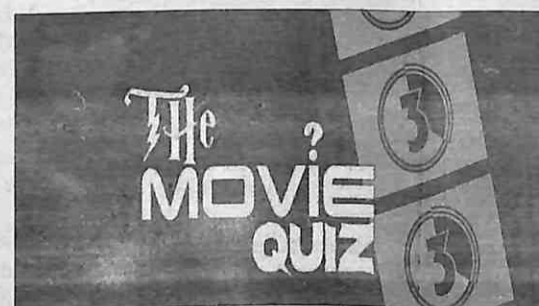


Principal's Daughter

Boy: The principal is so dumb!
 Girl: Do you know who I am?
 Boy: No...
 Girl: I am the principal's daughter!
 Boy: Do you know who I am?
 Girl: No...
 Boy: Good! *Walks away*

Did You Know

1. Dolphins are known widely as adorable, intelligent animals.
2. The most popular instrument in North Korea is the accordion, so much so that all teachers used to be required to play to get their teaching certifications.
3. If you were a baby in the middle of the 1800s and you cried while teething, your parents might have given you Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.
4. Water makes different pouring sounds depending on its temperature.

MOVIE QUIZ
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's Quiz

1. Who is Iron Man's alter ego? Answer: B. Tony Stark

Today's Movie Quiz

Which former Miss Israel plays Gisele in the Fast and Furious series of films?

Answers:
 A. Gal Gadot
 B. Jennifer Aniston



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NEWS



DAKORE, OLUWASEUN ARE YOUR HOSTS FOR THE ULTIMATE LOVE REALITY TV SHOW

NOLLYWOOD actress, Dakore Akande and radio OAP and compere, Oluwaseun have been announced as co-hosts of the maiden edition of MultiChoice's latest reality show, Ultimate Love, which pre-

miered on Sunday at 20:30 CAT on DStv and GOtv.

The duo is poised to bring their diverse experiences and exciting personalities to bear on what is already billed as the most excit-

ing development in African reality television.

"After a long search, we are delighted to have Dakore Akande and Oluwaseun on board as hosts for our new reality show,

Ultimate love. We believe they have all it takes to deliver a great on-screen experience that will resonate positively with viewers," said John Ugbe, Chief Executive Officer, MultiChoice Nigeria.

"They have done well in their respective careers in the Nigerian entertainment and media space, and we believe the Ultimate Love show will be a great inclusion to their portfolios as hosts. We ask that you join us on Sunday Live on DStv and GOtv to witness their amazing work first-hand," he added.

Dakore Egbuson-Akande is an accomplished and highly regarded multiple award-winning Film/Stage Actor and TV personality. She has appeared in many Nollywood films including big box office titles such as Isoken (2017) and Chief Daddy (2018). She is also a humanitarian involved in several advocacy causes and community outreaches as seen in her work for Amnesty International, United Nations, the European Union and most recently, ActionAid Nigeria.

Oluwaseun P. Olaniyan is a Media Creative, Event Compere and Conference Facilitator who co-pioneered the award-winning radio show, Morning Crossfire on Nigeria Info 99.3FM. He also produced and presented other weekly shows such as Art & Soul, The Panel, Think Agric amongst others. He has hosted a string of events in the private and public sector. Ultimate Love is available to customers on DStv Premium, Compact Plus, Compact, Family and Access packages as well as to customers on GOtv Max and GOtv Plus packages. Visit www.dstvafrica.com or www.gotvafrica.com and download MyDStv or MyGOtv Apps to pay your subscription or switch your package.

TAKE our quiz to find out which one you are!

Which of the below describes your dream shopping spree?

A. No cash, I get husbae's credit card and swipe to my heart's desire! He gotta keep the queen happy.

B. The kind of shopping spree I go on after my business has made lots of money and I decide to spoil myself

C. Everyday is the perfect day for me to have a dream shopping spree. It's how I unwind.

D. The kind of shopping spree where I can get something for myself as well something for the kids, my sisters and the house.

Your husband cuts you off, what do you do?

A. He what? He knows me very well, he wouldn't even dare

B. I start my own business and prove to him that I don't need him.

C. My bae and I are bonded for life, he would never.

D. I try to talk to him to make him realise how his decision is hurting the family

Your husband wants to take another wife, how do you react?

A. Somebody is going to get hurt.

B. I take an audit of our marriage, if he is taking another wife it's probably because things have not been going well, and I AM OUT.

C. There is no room for three in this relationship. I'm not even worried about that

D. I probably knew what I was getting myself into when I married him, so...

What is your secret guilty pleasure?

A. A secret lover

B. A glass of wine

C. I am a mob wife. High stakes, high risks don't scare me

D. A cigarette

Where are you most comfortable?

A. I am very versatile, I can fit in anywhere

B. In a place that is my own where I feel welcome and at home

C. In the lap of luxury, I need champagne, cocktails, nails and hair did home.

Your husband is in jail, what do you do?

A. If he did wrong, I probably got him arrested to keep him out of trouble. I will stay by his side and visit him until he is released.

B. I get him the best lawyer in the country, no matter what it takes

C. I got no time for a man with

time on his hands. We're breaking him out! Prison break honey!

D. I keep things running smoothly at home while keeping abreast of all the developments on his case

How do you act after having a fight with your husbae?

A. Is that before or after he is replaced?

B. If he is not willing to sort things out between us, I move on with my life

C. We always fighting, it's not a bad thing. It keeps our relationship honest, interesting and passionate

D. My husband and I speak to each other with respect, we seldom fight

What are top three most important things in your relation-

ship?

A. Novelty, passion, freedom

B. Respect, appreciation, independence

C. Loyalty, commitment, money

D. Love, respect, selflessness

What is the greatest romantic gesture for you?

A. It's going to need at least 10 people, each delivering a gift and everybody must see

B. A big house for me and my kids

C. A shopping spree, a lavish hotel and all the pampering a girl can handle

D. Respect, making sure the family is taken care of and a little fun!

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MOSTLY B's: Phumelele

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MOSTLY C's: Beauty

You are the definition of a ride or die. You take your vows very seriously, you and your bae are a team building the life you deserve no matter what it takes.

MOSTLY D's: Siphokazi

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Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

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Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch first floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21)** days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

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'My plan is that I continue to play football for Bayern'

BERLIN - Manuel Neuer is still committed to Bayern Munich and is planning to battle with Alexander Nubel for the No. 1 spot next summer.

The veteran goalkeeper's contract with the Bundesliga leaders expires at the end of next season and Bayern have already moved to bring in a long-term replacement for him.

They have snapped up Nubel, who comes from Neuer's former side Schalke, in a free transfer.

The 23-year-old will move to Bayern at the end of the campaign and will look to nab Neuer's starting berth.

Neuer has little intention of letting him do so and also claimed there was nothing new to be said about a possible contract extension.

"My plan is that I continue to play

football for Bayern, and Alex Nubel will be there from summer, then it will continue," Neuer told Sky Sport.

"There is nothing we can announce at the moment."

The 23-year-old will move to Bayern at the end of the campaign and will look to nab Neuer's starting berth.

Bayern and Neuer managed a 0-0 draw with title rivals RB Leipzig on Sunday evening, which leaves them a point clear at the top of the table.

And the 33-year-old hailed Leipzig's display before suggesting the game had not shown which side was better.

"We are one point ahead," he added. "You cannot take this one game to judge whether there is a clearly better team."

"Not a lot happened in the table. We would have liked to have won."

We started quite well and after the dominance Leipzig changed over and played man versus man. Then we had problems in the build-up game and had to play long balls." *Teamtalk*



ZLATAN LEFT FRUSTRATED AFTER AC MILAN THREW AWAY TWO-GOAL LEAD

MILAN - Zlatan Ibrahimovic has accused his AC Milan teammates of lacking belief and energy after they conceded four goals in the second half of the Milan derby and tossed away a 2-0 half-time lead against arch rivals Inter.

Influential striker Ibrahimovic set up Ante Rebic's 40th minute opener and then scored himself seconds before the interval as his side belied their midtable position to look in control against the Serie A title chasers.

Their lead evaporated within eight minutes of the restart as Marcelo Brozovic and Matias Vecino drew Inter level before Stefan de Vrij and Romelu Lukaku sealed victory, leading Ibrahimovic to a loss to understand the collapse.

"It's difficult to explain what happened," the frustrated Swede told Sky Sport Italia in the aftermath of another depressing night for Milan in a season when they have turned to the 38-year-old on a six-month deal in an attempt to improve their fortunes.

"At half-time we told ourselves the first 15 minutes going back out

there will be crucial, and in that 15-minute spell we conceded two goals.

"We stopped playing, the team stopped believing, we stopped pressing, didn't pass it around enough. From the equaliser onwards, everything collapsed."

The thrilling derby proved a real scare for Inter, who recovered to return to the top of the table on goal difference above reigning champions Juventus.

Milan and Ibrahimovic had shown promising form and entered the showdown having lost only one of their last 11 matches, but the despondent veteran conceded that a stronger winning mentality could have seen them hold on to their advantage.

"I think a lot of it is down to experience, because you must know how to control a game at 2-0 up, not just winning at the end," he rued.

"It's strange because our first half was practically perfect. I expected more from Inter and the first half performance did not look like a team worthy of second place. They did after the break."

Sports Mail



BARCA COME FROM BEHIND TWICE TO WIN FIVE-GOAL THRILLER

BARCELONA - Lionel Messi produced a hat-trick of assists as Barcelona came from behind twice to beat Betis 3-2 and move back to three points behind leaders Real Madrid.

Nabil Fekir stole the show in the first half but he was sent off in the second period, as Betis ran out of gas and ideas and defender Clement Lenglet got Barcelona's winner.

With two sendings off in the second period the spaces opened. "We finish the game dead on our feet," said Sergio Roberto. "But we end our run of away defeats."

Barcelona had lost to Valencia and Athletic Bilbao on the road under Quique Setien, this was a huge win for him back where he last coached before taking over at the Camp Nou.

Betis took the lead inside six minutes and the goal came from one of Fekir's many positive early contributions.

It was his shot that Clement Lenglet stuck out an arm to block and although referee Jose Sanchez did not see it, the VAR monitor pitchside showed him

what he'd missed and Sergio Canales scored from the spot.

Barcelona's response was not long in coming. They were playing almost without a centre-forward.

Messi and Antoine Griezmann began the match there as central strikers but they frequently dropped deep and it was midfielders Arturo Vidal and Frenkie de Jong who ran beyond them.

It was Messi dropping off and looping the ball over the top for De Jong to run on to that brought the goal.

His run was perfectly timed and with one touch and a volleyed finish he levelled the score.

Having provoked one yellow card for the handball from Lenglet, Fekir then drew the next two for fouls on him by Sergio Roberto and Vidal.

He produced one mesmerising change of direction to get away from Nelson Semedo. And there was a 'Rabona' cross as well in the exhibition.

The pinnacle of the one-man show came on 26 minutes however when Arturo Vidal gifted Barcelona posses-

sion and encouraged to advance by the retreating Samuel Umtiti and Semedo, Fekir carried the ball forward before unleashing a low shot that beat Ter Stegen.

Barcelona had to come back again but comeback they did. With the clock showing 47 minutes, Messi floated a free-kick into the area and when it was nodded down, Sergio Busquets was in space to hook it home.

It's the first time in his career that he has scored twice in the league in one season.

Betis complained of a foul on Marc Bartra who had swan dived in the area after a clash with Lenglet. There had been no foul and the goal stood.

Messi could have put Barcelona ahead for the first time in the game on the hour but after he had wriggled into space, his shot was pushed away for a corner by Joel Robles.

His next effort went wide, chipping substitute Jordi Alba's pull-back just beyond the back post.

Daily Mail

McIlroy returns to No. 1 spot for first time in five years

LONDON - Rory McIlroy is back at the summit of world golf for the first time in five years after replacing Brooks Koepka at the top of the rankings.

The four-time major winner officially took the world No. 1 spot again yesterday, ending Koepka's 38-week reign at the top since winning the 2019 PGA Championship at Bethpage Black in May.

Neither McIlroy or Koepka featured at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am but the two-year rolling format of the ranking system takes the Northern Irishman top again.

This is McIlroy's first time back at world No. 1 since September 19, 2015 and he will now be hoping to stay their for the long-haul following his fine form in recent times.

Since missing the cut at The Open at Royal Portrush last year, McIlroy has nine top-nine finishes in 11 world-wide starts, including two victories.

In the 30-year-old's last four tournament starts, he has placed tied third,



ON TOP: Rory McIlroy.

first, fourth and tied third again.

Koepka is unlucky to have suffered two injury lay-offs during the ranking period that have counted against him, but in terms of form he can have few complaints at being dislodged.

It will be McIlroy's 96th cumulative

week as world No. 1 - the fourth most of any player, behind only Tiger Woods, Greg Norman and Nick Faldo.

Both McIlroy and Koepka are scheduled to compete at the Genesis Invitational in California, beginning on Thursday.

Sports Mail



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Bayern 'eye up' £75m bid for Firmino

...as German giants devise ambitious plan to pair Brazilian with Leroy Sane

LIVERPOOL - Bayern Munich are reportedly lining up a hugely ambitious bid to try and prise Roberto Firmino away from Liverpool.

The German giants are searching for an elite level replacement for centre forward Robert Lewandowski, and are said to be channelling their focus on the Brazilian No 9 at Anfield.

Firmino, 28, is wanted in order to come in and initially play alongside the free-scoring Lewandowski, while providing an outlet for another top summer transfer target in Leroy Sane, report the Sun.

Bayern are hopeful of making a double Premier raid and signing both Firmino and Sane, though it is a move for the latter which appears most realistic.

Sane has already voiced his uncertainty regarding his Manchester

City future, and was expected to depart for Germany last summer - but for a late injury sustained in the Community Shield final which wrote off his season.

Bayern's stand-in manager Hans Flick is said to be a huge admirer of Firmino, who is a vital component in Jurgen Klopp's prolific Liverpool front line.

It is reported Bayern are willing to immediately test Liverpool's resolve by placing £75m on the table. The Reds signed Firmino from Hoffenheim for £29m in June 2015, after he caught the eye with a string of impressive performances in the Bundesliga. Firmino penned a new deal on Merseyside in April 2018, committing himself to the club until 2022.

The fresh contract catapulted Firmino into the top bracket of earners at Anfield, along with

team-mates Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk.

As for Sane, the German will enter the final 12 months of his contract this summer and last year's offer of a bumper new deal has been left unsigned.

The 24-year-old, who is nearing a first-team return following a long-term knee injury, has had City's desire to keep him made clear by manager Pep Guardiola.

Bayern remain interested in landing Sane but believe it will cost them upwards of £80m to prise him away from the Etihad Stadium - even given his contract situation.

"Sane is a great player that we are interested in, which is a well-known fact," said Bayern president Herbert Hainer. "Now we have to see how he comes back after his injury"

The Guardian

Ighalo in the clear for trip to face Club Brugge

LONDON - Odion Ighalo will be able to travel with Manchester United for their Europa League tie in Bruges next week despite having to miss the club's training camp in Marbella over the coronavirus alert.

Ighalo, a deadline day signing from Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua, was left in Manchester club when the United squad flew to Spain on Saturday amid fears he would not be allowed back into the UK if border controls are tightened this week.

The Nigeria striker is among the travellers to the UK from China being monitored for 14 days, although he did not have to go into quarantine because he arrived from Shanghai not Wuhan where the coronavirus originated.

That two-week period runs out on February 16 and United have confirmed that Ighalo will be free to travel to Belgium to face Bruges a week on Thursday after being added to their Europa League squad.

The 30-year-old, who has moved to Old Trafford on loan until the end of the season, is expected to make his debut against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge three days earlier.

Ighalo's absence from this week's warm-weather training camp in Marbella is still a setback for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer who was hoping the former Watford striker could get to know his new teammates and integrate into the squad.

That two-week period runs out on February 16 and United have confirmed that Ighalo will be free to travel to Belgium to face Bruges a week on Thursday after being added to their Europa League squad.

The 30-year-old, who has moved to Old Trafford on loan until the end of the season, is expected to make his debut against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge three days earlier.

Sports Mail

Pogba 'intending to leave Man United in the summer'

LONDON - Paul Pogba is intending to leave Manchester United in the summer window, according to reports.

The midfielder has had a difficult few months due to a series of injuries and has barely appeared for United in that time - playing just twice since September of last year.

He is currently out with an ankle injury and missed out on United's warm-weather training camp in Marbella.

And now the Manchester Evening News are reporting that he is planning to leave Old Trafford after the end of the season. Pogba's contract will have just 12 months left to run come the end of the current season.

That might mean United have to make a decision on his future ahead of the summer window.

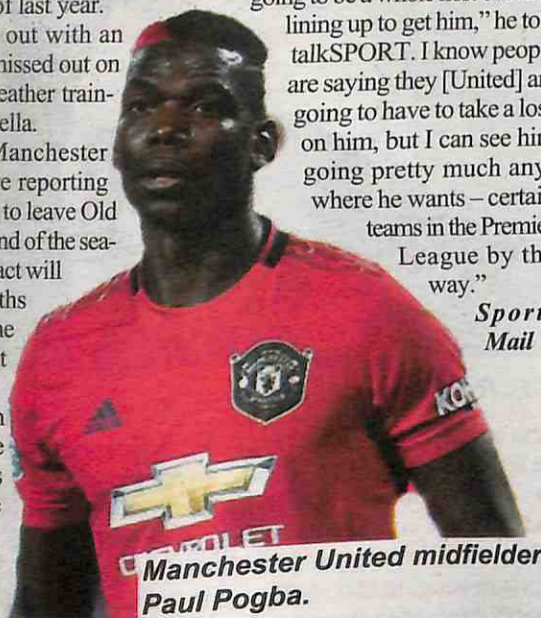
The likes of Real Madrid and

Juventus have previously been credited with an interest in the World Cup winner. Former England striker Darren Bent said last week that he thought a pair of Premier League rivals could be in for the 26-year-old.

"When you talk about Manchester United selling him, I think there's going to be a whole host of teams lining up to get him," he told talkSPORT. I know people are saying they [United] are going to have to take a loss on him, but I can see him going pretty much anywhere he wants - certain

teams in the Premier League by the way."

Sports Mail



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba.

'He has been an absolute blessing'

MANCHESTER - Scott McTominay has credited physiotherapist David Binningsley for helping him return to action ahead of schedule.

The Manchester United midfielder has not played for the Red Devils since damaging his knee ligaments against Newcastle on Boxing Day.

But McTominay is now working hard in Marbella during United's winter break

in order to be fit for his side's clash against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge next Monday.

The Scotland international told United's official website: "Yeah, I have been working with Dave - or Binnings, as we call him - and he has been top drawer. "He has been anything that I have needed. He has just got me out of the house and stuff like that."

"Anything that I have ever wanted, he has been there and obviously through my recovery he has been an absolute blessing. He has been top drawer"

Binningsley joined from Sunderland in the summer of 2018 where he was also a physiotherapist.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will also owe Binningsley a big thank you as his side have only won two of their six league matches in McTominay's absence - losing three times.

The Sun

Jordan Pickford blasts Gary Neville over criticism

LONDON - Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford feels he is being unfairly targeted for criticism due to his role as England No.1.

And the £30 million stopper has taken aim at Gary Neville, among others, in response.

Pickford has been Gareth Southgate's first choice since making the spot his own in 2017.

But amid an inconsistent season, he now faces pressure from Sheffield United's Dean Henderson and Burnley's Nick Pope ahead of Euro 2020.

Mistakes such as his error to allow Christian Benteke's tame strike under him during Everton's 3-1 win over

Crystal Palace on Saturday - in front of Three Lions boss Southgate - won't help his cause.

Neville was highly critical of Pickford for laughing at an error against Manchester City in September.

Now, the 25 year-old has issued a response, admitting criticism is starting to 'p*** him off'.

"It's funny because everyone raves about you when you are with England, but when you go back to your club everyone wants to slate you," said Pickford who has been capped 24 times.

"It does p***s you off. The press, the punters, everybody - look at Gary Neville - they just want to come for England

players. Everyone gets stick.

"That's part of being an England player. You have got to live with it, you have got to learn."

"You just keep it away from your head as the only person who can sort things out is yourself as an individual, on the pitch and in training."

"Every England player gets stick. Some get a lot more praise than others. It is what it is. Look at Joe Hart when he was No.1. He got pelters every week. "It's easy to see. Everyone hates you, for some reason. I just get on with it. I know what I am capable of and I know what I am good at."

The Mirror

FIFA DELIVERS HEAVY KAIZER CHIEFS BAN

CAPE TOWN – The Premier Soccer League (PSL) glamour club Kaizer Chiefs was yesterday sanctioned by the world football body FIFA.

This comes in the wake of Chiefs signing of Andriamirado 'Dax' Andrianarimanana from Fosa Juniors.

The sanction means that Amakhosi has been banned from registering players for the following two windows for failing to pay the player's former club.

Dax has also been banned for four months. Kaizer Chiefs will have 21 days to appeal the registration ban. FIFA announced in a statement yesterday:

"Chiefs shall be banned from registering players, either nationally or internationally, for the next two entire and consecutive registration periods. Respondent I, Andriamirado Aro Hasina Andrianarimanana, is ordered to pay to the claimant, within 30 days as from the date of notification of this decision, compensation for breach of contract in the amount of MGA 157 572 000 plus 5% interest p.a from 11 December 2018 until the date of effective pay-

...for 'illegal' Dax signing



ILLEGAL: Andriamirado 'Dax' Andrianarimanana.

ment. Respondent II, Kaizer Chiefs FC, is jointly and severally liable for the payment of the aforementioned compensation. In the event that the aforementioned amount plus interest is not paid within the stated time limit, the present matter shall be submitted upon request, to the

FIFA Disciplinary Committee for consideration and a formal decision."

Kaizer Chiefs announced that they will appeal the sentence set down by the football's world governing body, FIFA, on the matter involving the transfer of Andriamirado

'Dax' Andrianarimanana. Chiefs were handed a transfer ban for two windows by FIFA for illegally signing the Madagascan international. This was after Chiefs failed to pay Dax's former team Fosa Juniors a transfer fee in 2018, claiming that the player was a free agent, but FIFA has now ruled that Dax breached his contract with the Madagascan outfit by joining Amakhosi as he was still contracted to Fosa Juniors.

Dax, who joined Black Leopards last year, was also banned for four months for breaching his contract by the world football governing body.

Chiefs have now indicated that they will appeal the ban.

"The Club and the player have received a correspondence from FIFA Disciplinary Committee concerning the Malagasy player Andriamirado Aro Hasina Andrianarimanana. "Kaizer Chiefs will lodge an appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance to article 58 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes," read a statement from Chiefs.

The Citizen



'Chiefs were too casual against Eagles'

JOHANNESBURG - Amakhosi made slightly heavy weather of beating a side rooted to the bottom of the GladAfrica Championship.

Ernst Middendorp was delighted to have made it into last night's Nedbank Cup last 16 draw, even if he was not entirely happy with his side's performance in their 1-0 win over Royal Eagles on Saturday evening at FNB Stadium.

Amakhosi made slightly heavy weather of beating a side rooted to the bottom of the GladAfrica Championship, missing a spate of chances, before a touch of class from Lebogang Manyama 20 minutes from time got them the winner.

"We were a bit too casual in the first half, I am referring to a chance for Manyama, and a chance for Samir (Nurkovic). These types of chances against a team that is, fully understandably, going all out to defend and to wait for a mistake, you must pick up one or both of these possibilities," said Middendorp.

"We didn't and it is a bit more difficult with every minute when you play against these deep-sitting teams." *The Citizen*



NEW HOME: Bidvest Wits new signee McClive Phiri.

Wits sign Zim international

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits have reportedly completed the signing of Zimbabwean right-back McClive Phiri on a two-year deal.

Fringe Warriors defender Phiri has been training with the Clever Boys for the past month even though Wits coach Gavin Hunt denied back in December the club was monitoring him.

"The deal was kept under wraps so that the player concentrates on his job. He has signed a performance-based contract," the player's agent Dalu Bhebhe is quoted as saying by *The Chronicle*.

"It's a good deal for McClive and if he performs the way that he was doing while at Highlanders as well as how he has expressed himself at Wits, he can only get better and have a successful stint."

The 26-year-old, who initially played as a striker for Ngezi Platinum before moving to giants Highlanders, comes as a bargain to Wits as he joins as a free agent despite reported interest from Chicken Inn and CAPS United.

A reliable source at Wits confirmed the player's presence at the club.

"Ja he's here, he's training with the club as we speak," the source tells *KickOff.com*.

Wits official Jonathan Schloss and Hunt could not be reached for comment.

Phiri, who is regarded as one of the best right-backs in Zimbabwe, has four caps with the senior national team.

Sundowns issue important Morena update

PRETORIA - After undergoing surgery following a gruesome injury, Mamelodi Sundowns have given another update on Thapelo Morena.

Morena underwent surgery on his ankle this weekend, after he sustained a fracture and ligament damage due to a nasty fall in the clash between Sundowns and SuperSport United on the weekend.

The Brazilians have since confirmed that the player has been discharged from hospital after a successful operation.

The 26-year-old is expected to be out for a few months. "Thapelo Morena was discharged from hospital earlier today (yesterday) after undergoing a successful oper-

ation yesterday (Sunday). He will be re-assessed in two weeks.

"The speedy player is expected to be out for a few months after he twisted his ankle in a freak accident in the second half of the Tshwane Derby at Loftus Versfeld on Saturday evening," Sundowns confirmed on their official website.

Morena then went on to thank the football fraternity for all the messages of support.

"I'm feeling much better and I'm happy that I've been discharged. Thank you for all the messages of support. I am ready to start the process of healing," he said.



DISCHARGED: Mamelodi Sundowns defender Thapelo Morena.

AmaZulu suspend three ex-Bucs stars

DURBAN - AmaZulu have moved to diffuse any potential instability in their camp after reports emerged the club has suspended five players.

The players were handed down the punishment following their embarrassing 4-1 defeat at the hands of Bloemfontein Celtic at Dr Molemela Stadium on Saturday.

Usuthu have been blowing hot and cold this season and are facing the axe in the Absa Premiership relegation zone in addition to their early Nedbank Cup exit.

Five players are reported to have been demoted to train with the reserve team due to allegations of under-

performance. AmaZulu spokesman Brilliant Makhathini says all is well in the team and management is making drastic measures to make sure the KwaZulu-Natal side remains committed to the cause.

The club has now enlisted the services of a psychologist to help prepare the players mentally for matches.

"The club's priority is to remain in the PSL. Since last month we have been involving motivational interactions with players and the likes of Clive Barker and sports psychologist Martin Scheepers," Makhathini tells *KickOff.com*.

have a big chance, compliment to the team they come back against Wits, it's not a small team, it's a big team and when you come back, we conceded two goals and then you come back and then you go in front, normally you have to win," Zinnbauer told *SuperSport TV*.

"But it's the same what I said for the last six weeks, we need time for work, the mood is good, we're fighting, top game for the supporters, we opened the game but normally you can't lose this game."

Zinnbauer unhappy with Pirates' Cup exit

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates head coach Josef Zinnbauer was left disappointed after the Buccaneers were dumped out of the Nedbank Cup by Bidvest Wits on Sunday.

Pirates came back from 2-0 down in the second half to force the game into extra-time. They then led 3-2 in extra-time before Gift Motupa scored late for Wits to take the game into the penalty shootout, where Bucs eventually lost 3-2 to the Students.

"Ja, I'm not happy, we're not in the cup now, we



CRISIS: It says a lot for Juventus that being on equal points at the top of the league is considered a crisis, but this is a Defcon level that Maurizio Sarri (centre) signed up for when he took over in the summer. They are relentless winners in Italy and anything less is unacceptable. (Sport Mail)

JUVE RELYING TOO MUCH ON RONALDO

JUVENTUS - It says a lot for Juventus that being on equal points at the top of the league is considered a crisis, but this is a Defcon level that Maurizio Sarri signed up for when he took over in the summer.

They are relentless winners in Italy and anything less is unacceptable. A shock defeat to Hellas Verona on Saturday night was bad enough. Inter Milan's victory over AC Milan on Sunday made it so much worse as Juve dropped down to second.

The cracks have started to appear for Sarri's regime and there are already suggestions Massimiliano Allegri could be brought back to take charge again.

Sarri was brought in to make Juventus more attractive after Allegri was jettisoned at the end of last season. Well, it is tough to be pretty when you're not leading Serie A — with Juventus having won it in each of the last eight seasons.

There are crucial problems afoot though. Part of the issue seems to be that Sarri is struggling to resolve a disconnect between the older members of the changing room and their younger team-mates.

Leonardo Bonucci and Gianluigi Buffon are said to have hammered the players for their lack of determination at Verona. Sportsmail also understands

Cristiano Ronaldo had words with the rest of the team.

Sarri stood by and listened in, approving of the message that was being put across.

Speaking after the game, the manager admitted: "I hope the old men in the dressing room can help me."

"The boys train in the right way, but in the game they do not reveal."

The truth of the matter is that even with Inter's revival under former manager Antonio Conte, Juventus should always have enough to win the league.

Instead, the serial champions have hired a man who simply cannot win.

Sports Mail

Mercedes unveils modified livery for 2020 season

LONDON - Mercedes has reiterated its long-term commitment to Formula One at the unveiling of its colour scheme for the 2020 season.

The team's livery is largely unchanged from last year, with its famous silver accompanied with streaks of Petronas green on the sidepods and black on the engine cover. The only notable difference are the red patches on the front wing, airbox and rear wing, marking the start of its five-year principal partnership with INEOS.

Branding

The INEOS branding is also prominently located on the inside of the Halo cockpit protection device.

The unveiling came at London's Royal Automobile Club at the announcement of the new five-year sponsorship deal with INEOS. The length of the deal should help dampen speculation that Mercedes will walk away from Formula One, following speculation it was considering its future over the winter. INEOS, which runs a Tour de France-winning team, has become Mercedes' principal partner, the second most important behind title sponsor Petronas.

Toto Wolff, Mercedes' motorsport boss, reiterated the German manufacturer's long-term commitment to the sport at the event.

ESPN

Hamilton shows off his 'caveman' look

LONDON - Lewis Hamilton has switched up his look ahead of Formula One's pre-season winter testing period, with the Mercedes driver revealing a scruffier style.

The British driver shared images on his Instagram, posing shirtless with the new style alongside the caption 'caveman ting', after ditching his cornrows.

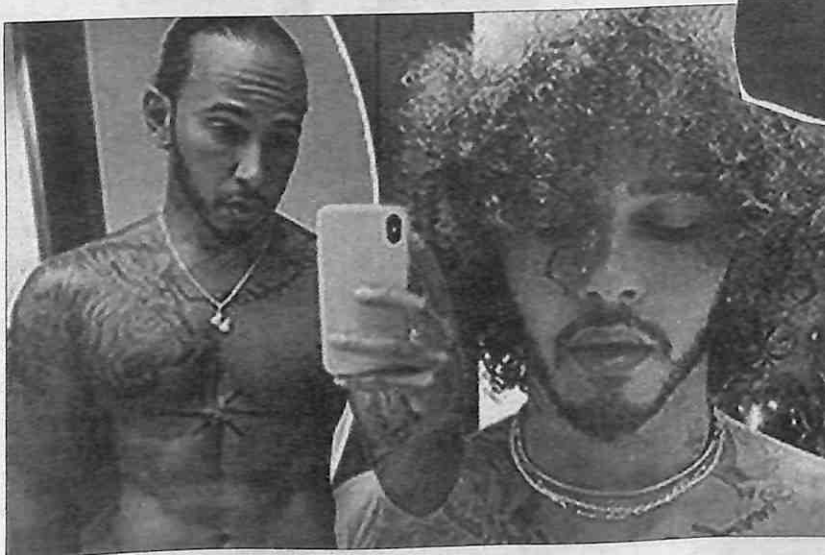
Hamilton will begin fine-tuning his Mercedes ahead of the new season in Barcelona later this month, with the reigning world champion's future beyond this season still undecided.

Ferrari have been strongly linked to the Stevenage-born star, with Hamilton widely reported to be tempted by a move

to the iconic Italian setup.

It is rumoured that Mercedes' long-term future in the sport could be in doubt, with the manufacturers looking to cut costs, though the team has denied this. The 35-year-old Hamilton has also questioned his own future in the sport for 2021, and he has a tough decision ahead over whether to fulfil his dream of taking to the grid decked in red, or stick with the set-up that has brought him five of his six titles. Hamilton is yet to enter talks over a new contract at Mercedes, while Ferrari have admitted they have spoken to him.

The Sun



NEW LOOK: Lewis Hamilton.

'LPGA Tour cancels events in Thailand, Singapore'

BANGKOK - The LPGA Tour, the elite women's professional golf circuit, said yesterday it was cancelling tournaments in Thailand and Singapore later this month due to the coronavirus outbreak.

More than 40 000 people have been infected by the flu-like virus in mainland China, with authorities confirming more than 900 deaths, and the outbreak has had a major impact on the sports calendar in Asia.

The Honda LPGA Thailand event in Pattaya scheduled for February 20-23 and the February 27-March 1 HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore have both been cancelled.

The LPGA said in a statement it was disappointed to cancel the events but looked forward to returning to Asia soon.

"It is always a difficult decision to cancel events and the LPGA greatly appreciates the understanding and all the efforts made by our title sponsors as well as IMG to host incredible events for our players," it said.

The health and safety of our players, fans and everyone working on the event is always our highest priority.

Last month it also cancelled the Blue Bay tournament in Hainan, China, which was due to take place from March 5-8.

With tournaments in Australia unaffected, the Women's Australian Open at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club this week takes place as planned before the LPGA Tour resumes with the Volvik Founders Cup in Phoenix, Arizona on March 19.

Sky Sports

Hazard set to finally return to action

MADRID - Zinedine Zidane is set to have Eden Hazard at his disposal once again, with the Real Madrid star recovering from his ankle injury in time for the La Liga leaders' clash with Celta Vigo on Sunday.

The Belgian limped off in Real's Champions League group stage clash with PSG in

November after a slow start to life with the Spanish giants.

Hazard has only one goal in 13 appearances this season and admitted he began the season overweight. As he takes to the field again after two months out, the former Chelsea star will be under pressure to impress after his £130m summer move.

"He's going to need this week, which will be a long one," Zidane said. "We'll see him next weekend, I hope."

In his absence Real have overhauled Barcelona and distanced their rivals by three points at the top of La Liga.

However, a firing Hazard would be a huge boost to Zidane's side ahead of restarting their Champions League campaign against Manchester City.

Hazard was so often the difference for Chelsea in his

352 appearances in

England, but is yet

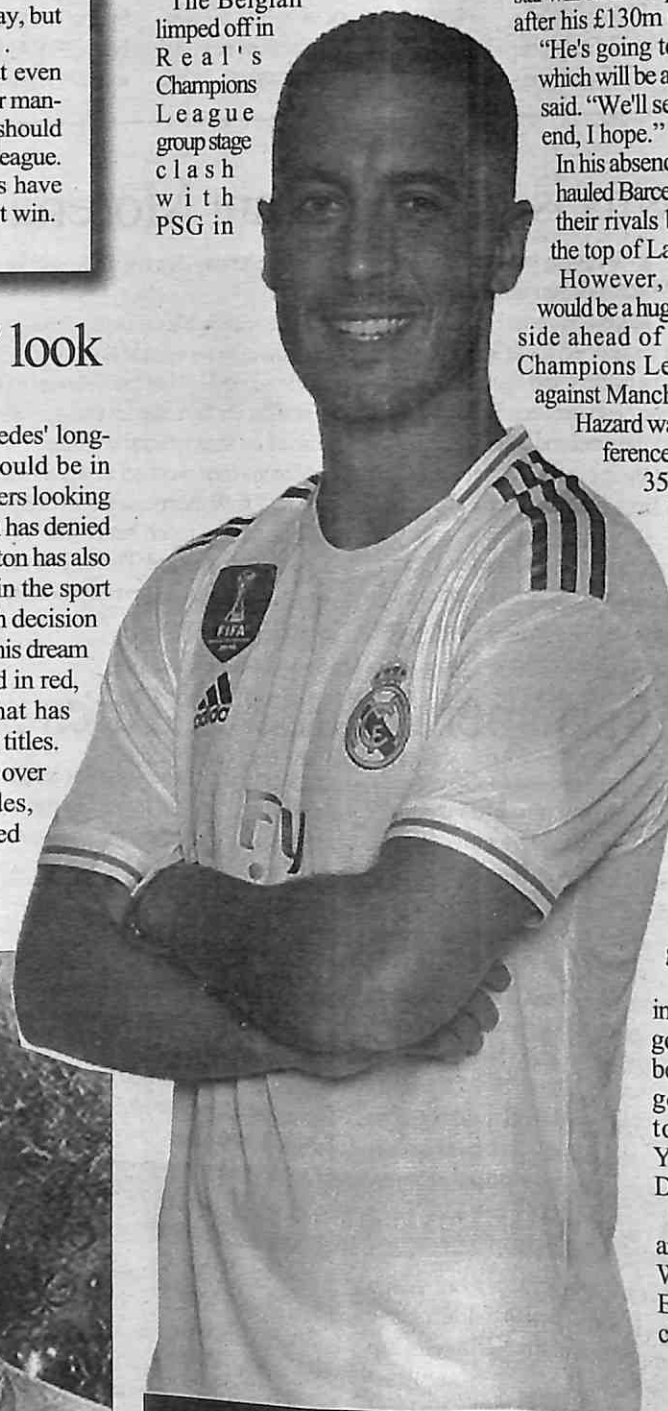
to show his devastating sharpness and quick feet in Spain.

He still has a lot to prove to Madrid's demanding fanbase, but City boss Pep Guardiola believes the star is not the one to blame for his sluggish start.

"If he's not playing well, something's going on at Madrid because he is really good," Guardiola told Spanish YouTuber DjMaRiiO.

"Not a top player, another level above. What we saw in England... he is world class."

The Sun



BACK IN ACTION: Eden Hazard.

Weekend Sports Results

COMPILED BY JONGILE KUBA

Ingwenyama Cup semi finals

Regional		
Shooting Stars	4	Magwanyane 1
Manchester United	2	Hub Sundowns 1
Main		
Mb Highlanders	2	Tambankulu Callies 0
Green Mamba	2	Moneni Pirates 1

Malindza Football Zonal

Umseshi	5	Lubhuku United 1
Highway	3	Dvokodweni 2
Siweni Utd	2	Eleven Angels 0
Calabash	2	Mshana 2
Promising Stars	2	Lubhuku Y Stars 2

Milky-Max Mbabane Juniors League - E10 000

U13		
United	3	Imbume 0
Dark city	3	Real Tec 0
Swallows	3	Bloemfontein 0
Habbana	0	Magwaneni 3
Hurricane	3	White city 0

Furniture Warehouse Mbabane Juniors - U19

Freestyle	0	Supersport 3
Multi classic	1	Ebuka stars 2
Ezulwini Aces	0	The wailers 3
Umbelebele	0	Mvutjini UTD 3
Lubhedze	0	M. Celtics 3
Veni cosmos	0	Matsholo UTD 3
Interstars	2	Hurricane 3

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League - E77 000

Southern Zone		
Burning Spear	1	Sunrise 0
Community	3	Corporation 1
Emajukjuku	0	Sdwasini 0
Imbume	3	Shooting Stars 2
Billy Ocean	0	Junior Stars 0
Mbabane City	0	Swazi Sun 2

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League - E70 000

Promotion		
Free Style	1	Pot O Gold 0
PG Dribbling Stars	1	Village Stars 0
Mvakwelitje	1	Interstars 3
Wizards	1	Multi Classic 1
FC Vaal Stars	2	Sandia 1
Young Stars	3	White City 5

B. Division

Veni Cosmos	2	Matsholo Utd 1
Royal Dynamos	4	Mangwaneni 0
Hurricane	1	Mbabane Utd 1
Red Stars	2	Junction Stars 1
Young Fighters	1	Real Stars 0
Mphalati	2	Lusoti 2

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League - E50 000

Thuluzobona	3	Peak Forest 1
19 Celtics	8	Supersport 0
Darkies	2	Mhlatane 1

Futis Nkhaba League - E30 000

Ngenya Utd	4	Mahangeni 1
Nkoyoyo Utd	1	Atletico 1
Crocodile s	4	Nkoyoyo Jnr 3
Dribbling Stars	3	Motshane Very 2
Majotini Utd	2	Fast Movers 1
Barcelona	2	H. Arsenal 0
Kasi Xi	1	BAfana 3
MAnyisa	6	Lubhedze 0



Mhlosheni Celtics	0	White Rhinos 3
Super Stars	1	Majotini Rebel 1
Motshane Very	1	Crocodile 3

Shebza Ntabenezimpisi Football League - E50 000

Promotion		
D. Darkies	6	City Cosmos 2
Mayiwane	2	Skom Boyz 1
Golden Arrows	0	Manchester U 2
Swallows	5	Arsenal 0
Special Killers	1	Hungry Lions 4
City Stars	3	Buhleni Aces 1
Mazulwini	0	Super Aces 4
Russian Bombers	6	Fontotje 0

South Star Mdzimba Football League - E65 000

Promotion		
Highlanders	1	Africa Stars 2
Rebels	1	Kasiko 3
Driekoppies	0	All Stars 4
Sibuyeni	1	Timbungulu 1
Amacabane	2	Achievers 0
Green Sea	0	Cosmos 1
Highlanders	2	City Stars 0
Swallows	1	Killers 1
Monaco	2	Rhumbas 0
Rangers	1	Chiefs 1

Pots Sigangeni Football League - E30 000

Promotion		
Kupheleni	2	Real United 1
Sigangeni	2	Villa Sport 2
Young Fighters	1	U. Eagles 2
Black Aces	5	Real Touch 0
Mhlane Utd	4	Mighty Chiefs 1
Sibovini	3	Manz. Celtics 0
L. Nationals	1	Ntsetse Flyers 0

Oupa Mhlangatane Football League - E50 000

Western Stream		
Mpofu Aces	2	Celtics 1
Weirma Cosmos	3	City Stars 5
Zinyane	3	Fast Movers 0
Sihoye Academy	0	Lonhlaiane 2
Hotfighters	1	Manchester 2
Democracy	1	Arsenal 2
Chelsea	0	Thuluzobona 1

Eastern Stream

M. Bombers	2	Liverpool 3
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Macocweni	0	Tigers 1
Xi Men	2	Manjengeni 5
New Castle	9	M. Cosmos 0
Swallows	2	H. Defenders 0

Tee & Jay Lobamba Football League - E90 000

Promotion		
L. Dynamos	0	Lusito 2
L. Wanderers	0	Vutha 0
Liwakawaka	1	L. Cosmos 1
Ezulwini Aces	1	Fast Reaction 3
Servest	1	City Stars 1
Kasi Warriors	1	E. Rangers 3
E. United	0	Emaselesele 2
Power Stars	1	Real Masters 1
Liwakawaka	1	Power stars 2
L. Dynamos	1	Emaselesele 2

B. Division

Zabeni All Stars	0	Ezulwini FC 3
Silomo	1	Luveve Killers 2
E. Vultures	1	Masters Utd 0
X-Eleven	2	E.M. Bombers 0
E. Vultures	2	Luveve Killers 0

Bakhanyisele Mabulala & Gongz Maphalaleni Football League - E65 000

Eastern Stream		
Young Stars	3	Hotspurs 3
Rangers	12	Barcelona 0
Thuluzobona	2	Blue Birds 1
Umkhokha	0	Professionals 8
Stone Breakers	1	Manchester 4
Khulangwane	0	Xi Experience 4
Killers	0	Young Lovers 4

Western Stream

Academy	2	Hill Stars 2
Love & Peace	3	Happy Tigers 1
Mighty Birds	1	Lunkanka 2
Top Classic	1	Jubukweni 1
Young Aces	1	H. Fighters 3
Rollers	0	Sunrise 3

Swazi Trac - Lubombo Super League

Rail United	2	Samampela 1
Gucuka	0	City Warriors 2
CK	2	Home Sparrow 1

RSSC Siyakha 1800 North - West

Highlander	2	Bom Again 1
Njakeni United	0	Equator 4
Professionals	1	Tambankulu FC 5
Tongaat	2	Brave Lions 4
Young Killers	1	Skyline 1
Revelations	1	Tsambokhulu 3

RSSC Siyakha 1800 North - East

Rhinos	2	Zamalek 2
Free at Last	4	Summerise 1
Bacambi	4	Juventus 3
Arsenal	0	Professionals 0
XI Stars	2	Silver Stars 3

Dabulamanzi Manzini Super League

Colani United	0	Louis XIV 1
Lozitha Spurs	1	Vickory Nomads 3
Sisonkhe	13	Mhlaleni United 0
Moyeni United	0	Royal Swallows 0

Manzini Promotion League

Kholwane F Birds	1	Home Sparrows 2
African Chiefs	1	The Bones 4
Combine Stars	0	Green Way 3
Maliyaduma	4	Siboniso Selwandle 0
Superstars	2	Bad Boys 3
Ngwane Park	0	Manzini United 1
Two Sticks	0	City Eagles 0
F.C North	0	Wonderful Touch 0

Kpmg Manzini First Division League

New Generations	9	Sunrise 2
Bradford University	11	Shali Y. Aces 0

Ok Foods Kwaluseni Promotion Division League

Nsenga Comrades	1	Umtfunt 1
Supersport	2	Gum Valley 4
Zombodze United	1	Gcwini Trompies 2
Fashion International	1	Dark City 2
Kwaluseni United	2	Real Professionals 0
Mhlane United	0	Zama United 2
Sacrament	1	Kwaluseni Rebels 4

Ok Foods Kwaluseni First Division League

Giant Clockwork	2	Matsapha Town 1
Ludzeludze Kicks	2	Ludzidzi 2
Mhlaleni Superstars	0	Fc Logoba 4
Bafana Bafana	3	Swazi Wire 0
Boyane United	0	Ngonini United 3

Corban Mafutseni Promotion League

Supersport	0	Ma-G-Man 2
Khamatfo	3	African Lions 1
Combine	3	Madubula 1
All Stars	0	Mlamuleni 1
Young Cannibals	1	Mafutseni Valtures 1
Vulamehlo Classic	1	Mafutseni United 3

Nsingweni Promotion Inkhundla E10 000 Knock Out

All Stars	2	Mcengini Sundowns 0
Younglovers	1	Black Aces 0
Young Madrid	1	Taliban 3

MP Vilakati Usuthu Promotion League

Dudusini	1	Mhlangenibuffaloes 1
L. Peacemakers	2	Zondwako Killers 4
Ngogodla Y. Stars	0	International 0
Commandos	1	Mhlangeni United 2
O Swallows	3	Luhleko Revengers 2
Zamalek	0	Luhleko Classic 3
Black Rhinos	2	Luhleko Flyers 1

MUSONA TO SUNDOWNS STILL POSSIBLE

PRETORIA - Knowledge Musona could still find himself at Chloorkop next season if Mamelodi Sundowns are serious about signing him.

Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane publicly declared his interest in signing the former Kaizer Chiefs star during the January transfer window.

However, there was no formal offer from Sundowns for the striker's services and he joined

KAS Eupen on loan from Anderlecht until the end of the season. But this does not mean a move to Sundowns cannot still happen at the end of the season, according to his agent.

"It's public knowledge that Sundowns were interested in him but we never ever entered into a formal negotiation with Mamelodi Sundowns," says Mike Makaab. "It might happen at the end of the season if Musona continues doing what

he's doing now. I mean it been the last three transfer seasons that we've been talking about this. "He's at KAS Eupen now. He scored a goal in his first game, played all three games. They've picked up seven points in those game he has played. He had to stay there [in Belgium] because in March he will become a Belgian citizen. He's been there for five years. We've already started the legal process, and that is important.

"He's already married and started a family in Europe, but one can never say never. We have to consider all options for Knowledge.

"Knowledge's plan is to always play at the highest possible level, but of course if the right offer came around from South Africa, we would definitely consider it. The one thing I can tell you about Musona, he's a professional, he looks after himself, on and off the field. He's a great family man and at 29 he still got four to five years in his career."

Kickoff



...with Mphikeleli Msibi

THE SUCKER PUNCH

[STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]



INGWENYAMA CUP FINAL SET TO BE THRILLER

IT has come to two teams, as capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders and Correctional Services side Green Mamba will fight for the Ingwenyama Cup trophy and E1.3m in prize money.

Buckle up, it's game on. Both teams will be looking to win the trophy for the first time since inception of the tournament five years ago.

This cup final is set to have all the ingredients of a thriller rolled into one.

If you thought the Green Mamba versus Moneni Pirates semi-final clash was a humdinger, then buckle up! This cup final will be exciting and exhilarating. This is one final not to be missed for anything under the sun.

Highlanders beat Callies 2-0 while Green Mamba edged Moneni Pirates 2-1 to reach this stage of the prestigious tournament.

Highlanders will be playing their second final in this tournament as they lost 1-4 to Young Buffaloes last year while their opponents Green Mamba will be making their first appearance in the finals of the fifth edition of the tournament.

The 'Black Bull', will be under pressure from their demanding fans as they would want the team to win their second trophy after clinching the EPTC Charity Cup early in the season.

'Bull' coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati is well aware of this and will want his side to win another trophy at the expense of the Correctional Services side.

Having joined Highlanders under a cloud of controversy, 'Koki' knows what is expected and the good thing is that he also knows the capabilities of their opponents.

In football, to succeed, you need players with the right mentality and attitude



and that is exactly what both teams have. This is set to be an entertaining affair with so much at stake. These teams have already played two times in the league, where they drew both games, and this is what will make this encounter more entertaining as this time around there must be a winner.

Dangerous

Highlanders know how dangerous Mamba will be and how crucial a win is as it will set the tone for the rest of the season as they also want to end it on a high.

On the other hand, it is clear Highlanders will be facing a strong opponent in Green Mamba, who also have strong ambitions to at least win something this year. They will be all out in the finals.

To get to this stage, Green Mamba beat Lobamba Sunrise, Manzini Sea Birds, Young Buffaloes and Moneni Pirates while Highlanders had to eliminate Young Movers, Mbabane Swallows,

Madlenya and Tambankulu Callies.

It has not been an easy road for both teams and we could not have asked for a better final seeing that both teams are on-form. Previous meetings will count for nothing when the two teams meet in the cup final. It has come to this far and now the stage is set for the finals to be played at Somhlolo National Stadium.

I hope fans from all corners of the country will once again come in numbers to watch the final at a date yet to be announced.

We have seen some impressive numbers since the competition started when it comes to crowd attendance and we are anticipating another big turnout on the main day.

Fans have been at their best behaviour; we can only commend that spirit and once again encourage them to continue with the same attitude. It's now the final and may the best team win. Buckle up, it's game on.

The dark side to PLE ticketing system

WE are all aware that local teams' bosses are struggling when it comes to day to day running of the clubs and the last thing one can do is to steal from the gate takings.

I hope whatever the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) is doing or trying to do in as far as the tickets sale is concerned is for the benefit of the teams and not individuals.

I learnt that some of the big teams have already complained to the PLE over tickets sales and I can only hope that they have indeed complained not that certain people want to create a loophole for looting. It's only that I have a very I am inquisitive and I tend to question even the small things when it comes to money matters.

Could it be that the ticketing system we have been using is wrong or someone wants to loot, well I don't know but time will tell, and soonest I hope.

Many football fans have expressed sheer disappointment with how the whole ticket-selling procedure has panned out.

Nomakunini Technologies were stopped from selling tickets by the PLE and one wonders why. It was said that fans can purchase tickets through Mobile Money, a decision that was later abandoned as another company was roped in to provide tickets.

While I was trying to digest that, I heard that the PLE had reverted to Mobile Money again and that is when I realised that fans were in a for a ride in as far as tickets sales is concerned. I still don't know what eventually happened as I went to

sleep on Friday night without knowing where exactly fans were expected to buy tickets. To me, this is total madness. I wonder what the PLE is trying to do and I will say it again that whatever they are about to do must benefit teams.

They should tighten the screws to make sure that there is no money swindling or looting at the expense of the teams.

Just for the Sunday games, football fans complained that the PLE announced it would provide more tickets to the outlets for sale. However, that was not the case as fans continued to line up outside the said outlets to get their hands on the tickets only to be told they were finished.

Improve

The PLE must definitely improve their ticketing system because teams will continue to suffer if this matter is not attended to and with the urgency and seriousness it deserves. We know that the tickets for PLE games have become a hot commodity to such an extent that they are being sold in black market.

The tickets are being illegally resold in 'black market'. And this I say because I have seen it happening. Upon arrival at the gate, fans are expected to produce the tickets for the security to tear them and allow them to get inside the stadium. However, this is not the case as these people, who are at the gates do not tear the tickets but they take them to be resold. I hope you get the picture I am trying to paint here. Teams will continue to suffer.

Cry the beloved Swallows: A big indaba should be the answer

A lot has been said about red and white glamour outfit Mbabane Swallows of late.

Sadly, most of it has been negative as the team has obviously failed to reach the heights that have come to be associated with it.

There is obviously more than meets the eye in the 'Birds' nest.

The team's problems, (even though some of their officials would like to make us believe all is well), are documented, as evidenced by their failure to impress.

Seeing that none of the Swallows officials are keen to admit to their failures and are repeatedly living in denial, perhaps it is high time the whole Swallows family came together to try and map a way forward.

It is a pity that it had to come to

this, honestly.

Swallows have been unique in a number of ways.

They were in a different class from the other traditional big two teams in Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders in the sense that the team's administration never looked up to supporters for help.

We all know that the other two teams, especially Wanderers, allow their supporters to have a huge say in matters of administration. Highlanders too, until

the appointment of South African Ally, also relied on their supporters.

Swallows never did that and it showed on the field, as the 'Birds' dominated and easily became the best team by far.

The Mbabane giants are now not even a pale shadow of their former self. Believe me you, the tragic demise of their former player and Chairman Victor 'Maradona'

Gamedze (may his soul rest in peace) two years ago, played no small part in the sudden collapse of this once enviable side.



But did it really have to come to this? Did Gamedze's death mean it would be the end of this great team, which was established in 1948 and which the same very Gamedze joined as a mere player? Did Gamedze's death give the current officials the right to be arrogant and adopt a holier than thou attitude? Questions, questions and more questions.

Approach

Some of these questions would best be answered on another day.

As sad as it may sound, Swallows now need to swallow their pride, go back to their roots and approach their stakeholders, including their supporters on a way forward.

It is no secret that Swallows need to map a way forward and fast if they are to avoid relegation and ultimate demise for that is where they are headed. If Swallows people

do not stand up now, this team will soon be history, just like their impressive achievements of the past, which are now HISTORY. This is what the current MC members in the team need to know.

They should stop living in the past and boasting about the team's past glories. This was the major collapse of one of the biggest and oldest sides in Highlanders, who have been relegated before and was actually saved by the very same Gamedze from being relegated a second time. People forget this. Yes, Gamedze shifted the goalposts when Highlanders were to be relegated again, to save them. Now the question; who will save Swallows?

Only Swallows people can save the team. A big indaba involving the team's stakeholders cannot be a bad thing.



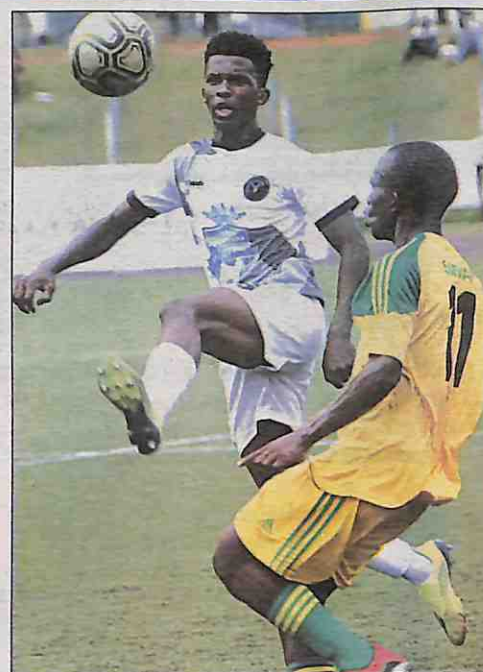
INGWENYAMA CUP 2019/20



MORE ON INGWENYAMA CUP SEMI-FINALS



LEFT- REACTION: Mbabane Highlanders supporters celebrate during the semi-finals match while Tambankulu Callies followers look dejected at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



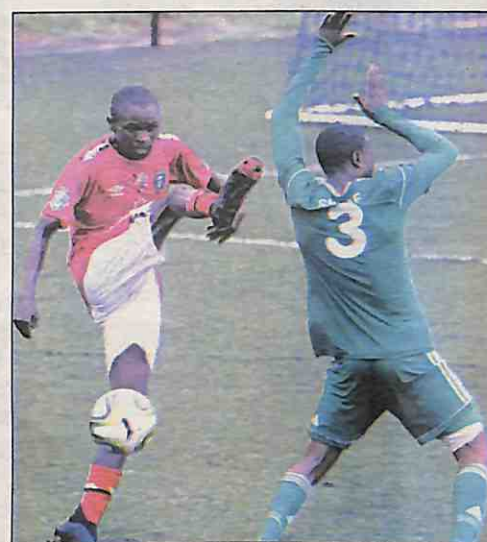
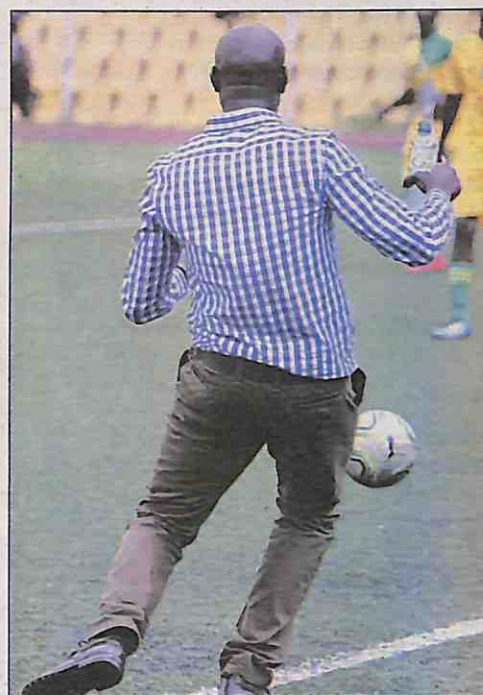
MY BALL: Higlanders' Linda Matsenjwa wins the ball from Callies' Muhle Mamba.



JOY: Green Mamba players celebrate their equalising goal.



BICYCLE KICK: Green Mamba's Mcolisi Mkhontfo clears away the ball from Moneni Pirates' Nhlanhla Nkosi. (RIGHT) **AGAINST TIME:** Callies coach Mduduzi Shongwe provides the ball for a throw in as the ball boys were delaying.



MR REFEREE: Musa Dlamini avoids a tackle from Meshack Lushaba.



GWAZA NKUNZI: Highlanders players celebrate their first goal.



WRITING ON THE WALL: The ongoing campaign continued during the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup games.

GIDZA MAGIDZA: Highlanders PRO Paul 'Magidzeluzakeni' Masilela doing a giya dance after his side qualified for the finals.



● Bayern Munich are preparing a £75m bid for Liverpool and Brazil forward Roberto Firmino, 28, and want Manchester City's 24-year-old Germany winger Leroy Sané to join him. *(Sun)*

● Manchester United's France midfielder Paul Pogba, 26, will seek to leave the club this summer, with 12 months remaining on his contract. *(Manchester Evening News)*

● United have cooled interest in Leicester City's England midfielder James Maddison, with the 23-year-old set to sign a new deal with the Foxes. *(Express)*

● Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp has made Bayer Leverkusen's Germany international Kai Havertz, 20, his top midfield target this summer. *(Express)*

● Klopp is considering bringing Barcelona's 27-year-old Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho - who is on loan at Bayern Munich - back to Anfield. *(Star)*

● Chelsea's Italy midfielder Jorginho would be interested in teaming up with Maurizio Sarri again at Juventus, says the 28-year-old's agent says. *(Mail)*

● Ajax and Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana, 23, is set to choose Chelsea in a £34m deal this summer, despite being linked with Barcelona and Paris St-Germain. *(Caught Offside)*

● Manchester United have new hope of completing a move for West Ham United's 21-year-old midfielder Declan Rice after Hammers boss David Moyes hinted the England international could be sold. *(Manchester Evening News)*

● The release clause of Napoli's 28-year-old Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly, who has been linked with Manchester United, will be active from June - but it is £127m. *(Mirror)*

● Celtic are lining up a summer deal for Cardiff City's English winger Josh Murphy after missing out on the 24-year-old on transfer deadline day. *(Sun)*

● Sheffield United skipper Billy Sharp, the 34-year-old English forward, has tipped the Blades to secure European football next season. *(Talksport)*

● Bournemouth's Norway defender Josh King, 28, says his failed deadline-day return to Manchester United would have been a "dream come true". *(Manchester Evening News)*

● Tottenham Hotspur Manager Jose Mourinho was spotted wearing a baseball cap and sitting alone in the directors' box to watch Champions League opponents RB Leipzig at Bayern Munich. *(Evening Standard)*

● Everton's English forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin, 22, admits he is now "disappointed" when he does not score for the Toffees but has refused to reveal a goalscoring target. *(Liverpool Echo)*

LOCAL ATHLETES FOR AGN LEAGUE 6

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

ATHLETICS - THEIR drive to shine in the sport continues even this year!

This is the story of local athletes in Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa, Phumlile Ndzinisa and Andile Lusenga. The trio will be competing in the Athletics Gauteng North (AGN) League 6 set for February 25 in Bestmed Tuks Stadium, Pretoria.

Athletics Eswatini Secretary Thoba Mazibuko said the competition would help the association to do rankings of these athletics for the upcoming World Olympics. Mazibuko was speaking during the AE Track and Field event held at Mavuso Sports Centre on Sunday.

The competitions saw four local clubs taking part in the first Athletics Eswatini track and field event for the year 2020. The event had over 20 participants from five different athletics clubs in Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), Manzini Athletics Club (MAC), Great Usuthu Club (GUC), Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF), His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS), Enjaulweni and individuals.

They featured in the 100m, 200m, 1 500m, 5 000m, 4x1 relay and long jump.

The association will be ranking athletes after every track and field.

The top10 in the U-18, U-20 and seniors will be drafted into the national team in preparation for COSSASA athletics, World U-20 Championships to be held in July and the U-20 Region 5 set for December.

Mazibuko urged all clubs and schools to come



HIGH HOPES: Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa.

to the next track and field event on Saturday.

"We also remind clubs to continue paying their licence fees which is E30 for temporal and E50 for permanent," he said. Interviewed after clocking an impressive 10:63 seconds to beat Manzini Athletics Club's Banele Dlamini, Dlamini Sebenele, Manana Nqobizwe, Mkhwanazi Sikhanyiso and Mngometulu Mzamo, Andile Lushaba said this was his first competition, stating that he was ready for the AGN League 6 competition.

TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS:

POSITION	CLUB	PERFORMANCE	
800m - U18M	Mhlanga	Great Usuthu	2:33.51
1. Seluleko			
800m - U20W	Ndzimandze	Great Usuthu	2:40.12
1. Sayinile			
800m - senior men	Mkhabela	Great Usuthu	2:05.04
1. Xolani	Malindzisa	REPS	2:06.92
2. Phumlani	Maphosa	Great Usuthu	2:08.04
3. Bonginkhosi			
5000m - senior men	Sifiso	REP	14:05.37
1. Malambe	Veli	UEDF	14:57.44
2. Dlamini	Sifiso	SLOJOS	16:03.94
3. Mgabhi	Ciniso	REPS	17:46.17
4. Nhleko			
400m - senior women	Futhi	REPS	1:03.03
1. Dlamini	Nokwanda	REPS	1:08.38
2. Dlamini			
400m - senior men	Meebo	REPS	49:63.00
1. Mkhaphi	Khaya	REPS	50:13.00
2. Baartjes	Sakhiwo	MAC	51:57.00
3. Dlamini	Ndumiso	REPS	52:06.00
4. Shongwe	Bonginkhosi	Correctional	53:09.00
5. Vlekati	Sakhiwo	UNESWA	54:48.00
6. Zwane	Lindelwa	REPS	57:81.00
7. Mkhosi	Bonginkhosi	G. Usuthu	58:41.00
8. Maphosa			
800m - juniors men	Sipho	IND	2:20.00
1. Zwane	Phathizwa	IND	2:26.56
2. Zwane			
400m - Under-20 women	Sayinile	G. Usuthu	1:06.19
1. Ndzimandze	Asanda	Enjaulweni	1:10.62
2. Mkhabela			
100m - Girls Under-18	Andiswa	G.Usuthu	14:14.00
1. Gama	Sinketive	Manzini	14:45.00
2. Mabuza	Sibusisiwe	Manzini	15:05.00
3. Mabuza	Nomphilo	Manzini	15:41.00
4. Sukati			
100m - Under-18 men	Ayanda	G. Usuthu	11:20.00
1. Malaza	Lihle	MAC	11:52.00
2. Gindza	Bakhona	MAC	12:05.00
3. Sikhondze			
100m - Under-20 men	Sambulo	MAC	11:27
1. Xaba	Bongumenzi	Enjaulweni	11:34
2. Mbingo	Menzokuhle	MAC	11:41
3. Msihi	Senelo	MAC	11:47
4. Mhisi	Mervin	MAC	12:13
5. Njialinjali			
100m Open Men	Andile	Corr	10:63.00
1. Lusenga	Banele	MAC	10:73.00
2. Dlamini	Sebenele	Corr	10:80.00
3. Dlamini	Nqobizwe	MAC	11:33.00
4. Manana	Sikhanyiso	Corr	11:36.00
5. Mkhwanazi	Mzamo	REPS	11:76.00
6. Mngomezulu			
100m - Open Girls	Nombulelo	REPS	13:43.00
1. Dlamini			
100m - Under 20	Ariane	Enjaulweni	15:32.00
1. Bitchong			

Kilowatts stun Correctional in ESRIC Darts League

BY JONGILE XUBA

DARTS - KILOWATTS handed Correctional a shock defeat in the Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ESRIC) E120 000 Darts League match played at Correctional Gymnasium on Saturday.

With the league games in full swing, hosts Correctional first beat Remnants 19-4 before winning 23-1 win against ESRIC.

They eventually narrowly lost 11-13 to Kilowatts. Eco Water were also able to beat Remnants 14-10 while Kilowatts won their second match of the day 19-6 against Mbabane City Council.

Other results saw Kilowatts B beat Scaras 16-8 before winning 17-0 against Railway, who forfeited the match and points for not showing up.

Eswatini National Darts Association (ENDA) Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mduduzi Masango said some of the matches had to be abandoned

due to unforeseen complications.

"Some of the games were not played this weekend and will be moved to next weekend's round of games. Some teams were unable to honour their fixtures due to unforeseen challenges," he said.

The league will continue this coming weekend and it will be an action packed one with plenty of matches for darts lovers.

ESRIC E120 000 Darts League results

Remnants	4-19	Correctional
Correctional II	14-9	Mbabane
Eco water	14-10	Remnants
Kilowatts B	16-8	Scaras
Kilowatts	19-6	Mbabane
Correctional	23-1	ESRIC
Kilowatts B	17-0	Railway
Kilowatts	13-11	Correctional

Highlights

Thando Madzizane (Correctional) 1x180
Senzo Fakudze (Correctional) 1x180

ESA registration open

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SHOOTING - THE Eswatini Shooting Association (ESA) has started its registration for the new year.

This was confirmed by ESA President Sipho Ntshalintshali. He said teams and those interested in joining the association should come and register as soon as possible. "We will be starting our games soon."

We are only waiting for the second leg of the Baganu Festival before announcing the dates of our games." He also urged all team members to make sure they register. For more information, contact Eswatini Shooting Association Secretary Dumisa Bhembe at 7668 2300. On another note, the president said they would host a 'women shooting day' as means of promoting gender equality in the sport. He said they were yet to meet as the executive for more deliberations and to plan for the new year.

Police Academy to host Maiden Zithande boot camp

BY JONGILE XUBA

ATHLETICS - ZITHANDE Athletics Club (AC) will host the February edition of 'Operation Mkhabela Phuma Kimi' at Police Academy in Matsapha this weekend.

This was revealed by Zithande coach Nsizwa Thwala, who said the boot camp was part of the training programme which saw participants completing a week-long detox programme.

"Last week we had our strictly fruit and vegetable diet detox which helped us lose body fat. This week we get back to physical training which will focus on building muscle after that weight loss some of us may be experiencing. The boot camp will be held at Police Academy and we are excited as it will be our first time there," he said.

He further revealed that it would be a three-hour programme which starts at 6am until 9am and encouraged Emaswati to join such weekend fitness and health activities in order to empower themselves. The coach also said the Comrades Marathon runners

would be back in action this weekend, joining the boot camp after a morning run.

"Our Comrades runners are going to have a 7 km run from Zakhele to Matsapha before they do the three-hour boot camp."

Back

They will then have a mid-morning session from Matsapha to Phocweni then Masundvini to Nhlambeni ending back at Zakhele," he said. This will be the second boot camp of the year and all are invited to be part of what has become one of the most popular training programmes in the country.

ECA to send cyclists to Mauritius next month

BY JONGILE XUBA

CYCLING - THE Eswatini Cycling Association (ECA) will assemble and announce the team that will go to Mauritius for a cycling competition.

This was revealed by ECA President Sihlangu Nhlabatsi during an interview after the Individual Time Trial (ITT) held at Phocweni on Sunday.

"We have been invited to participate in a regional competition by the Mauritius Cycling Association and we have accept-

ed. The competition will take place next month from 23 to 29.

The president added that the ITT would help them pick the team they would send to Mauritius which they would announce before the end of the week.

"We are hoping to announce a the team and coaches at the end of the week as we wanted to hold the ITT first. This is because we wanted to know which riders are back this season and available for selection," he said.

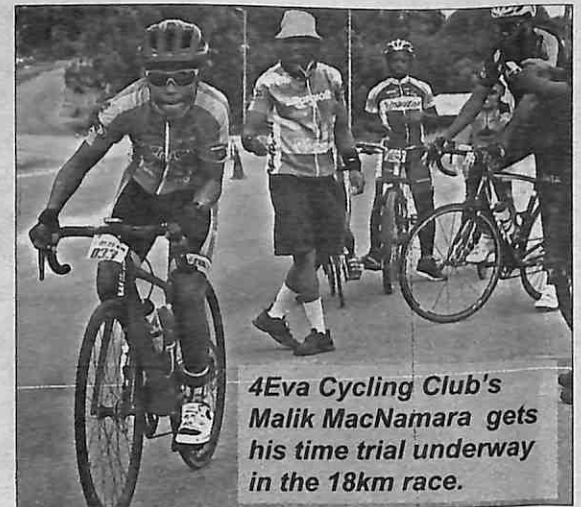
Nhlabatsi also revealed that this year's National Road and Mountain Bike (MTB)

championship races would be held at different venues.

"Nhlangano will hold this year's national road championship whilst Mormond Stix MTB race will host the MTB championship.

We decided to rotate the venues this year in order to give all regions a chance to host national events," he said.

Next on the cycling calendar is the Sisekelo MTB Challenge which will be hosted by Sisekelo High School in Big Bend. The race will be held on urged of March 28 and cyclists are urged to attend.



4Eva Cycling Club's Malik MacNamara gets his time trial underway in the 18km race.

WANDERERS OWE ABAH E33 000

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - TRASFERED Manzini Wanderers Cameroon forward Laurent Abah claims the team is owing him E33 000.

According to the player's agent, Lucas Adams, who is based in South Africa, Wanderers allegedly failed to pay the player for three months. Abah was entitled to a monthly salary of E11 000 as per his contract.

"Manzini Wanderers owe my player E33 000 after they failed to pay him for three months. When I inquired about the money, they said it will be sorted out soon but up to now nothing is forthcoming. I have since written a letter to the Eswatini Football Association and I am ready to take it further to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee," he said.

The news comes after another transferred striker, Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze, claimed that he was owed E24 000 by the maroon and white outfit. The player also



threatened to take a legal action if the team fail to pay him.

The duo was transferred recently by the hub giants alongside Juries Gama and Nathi Mkhonta after they were deemed surplus to requirement by the Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe-led technical team.

Abah joined Manzini Sea Birds while 'Fash' found a home at basement side Pigg's Peak Black Swallows.

Manzini Wanderers Chief Executive

Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini admitted that they were owing some of their players and this was due to the financial instability in the team. He said he was not sure if Abah was part of the owed players.

"We acknowledge that owe some of the players. I am not sure about Abah. I will have to verify with the finance department," he said.

Callies not dampened by Ingwenyama Cup exit

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - TAMBANKULU Callies Chairman Sithembiso 'Ngudze' Mamba says they are not dampened by the Ingwenyama Cup exit.

The sugar belt side suffered a 0-2 loss against Mbabane Highlanders in the Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. Mamba said they would not lose focus after crashing

out of the prestigious tournament.

He said their main focus was to maintain their winning

streak in the MTN National First Division.

Mamba said they would also compete effectively in other upcoming tournaments, including the Eswatini Bank Cup. "We want to gain promotion to the elite league. We have to win at least two cups this year since the boys are hungry to make a name for themselves," he said. Coming to the match against Highlanders, Mamba said luck was not on their side.

He congratulated Mbabane Highlanders for making it to the final, stating that the capital city side has a great leader in Ally Kgomongwe. "Highlanders played well, more especially Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze, who took them to the finals." Tambankulu Callies are guaranteed E230 000 for reaching this stage of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup. According to Article 16 of the 2019/2020 Ingwenyama Cup Rules and Regulations prize breakdown, the Lubombo-based outfit is entitled to E200 000 if they fail to progress past the semis. On top of that they will also receive this year's best finisher prize of E30 000 as they were the only National First Division side remaining in the tournament.

Five local players impress ex-Heartland coach

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - FIVE local players have impressed visiting former Nigerian Heartland Football Club head coach Mehmet Tuyfun in the SMAVF Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals.

The players are Moneni Pirates winger Njabulo 'Sinini' Shongwe and the Mbabane Highlanders duo of Lindani Rio Matsenjwa and Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze.

Others are Green Mamba skilful midfielder Njabulo Thwala and Phinda Dlamini. The visiting coach said the games were competitive and he was impressed by these players.

"In the first match, 'Rio' and 'Sawa' impressed me while in the second match, jersey number 6 and 9 were impressive for Green Mamba. There was also a young boy wearing number seven in Moneni Pirates. He is a future player," he said. The Turkish international also lauded the good football displayed by the teams in the semi-finals. "We watched good football displayed



Nigerian Heartland Football Club head coach Mehmet Tuyfun.

by all the teams. However, I must give credit to Green Mamba coach for the tactics he applied in the match. He is a very good coach.

He took a risk despite that they were a man down," he said. Mehmet was in the country courtesy of the Eswatini Football Open Trials. He is expected to leave before the end of the week. Other agents who were

in the country for the Open Trials are Zimbabwean legend Benjani Mwaruwaru and Emmanuel Eboue.

Meanwhile, Green Mamba will face Mbabane Highlanders in the final of the Ingwenyama Cup.

Former Malanti Chiefs striker Charles Molopo.

Molopo still on top

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - FORMER Malanti Chiefs bulky striker Charles Molopo is still topping the SMAVF Ingwenyama Cup top goal scorers' chart.

The South Africa-born import striker quit Malanti Chiefs before the Christmas break due to unclear reasons.

Molopo, who scored all his goals against Rangers in the last 32, is closely followed by Mbabane Highlanders utility player, Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze, Mbabane Swallows' Sizolwethu Shabalala and Manzini Sea Birds Muzi Tsabedze, who have three goals each.

The Golden Boot Award carries E10 000.

Meanwhile, Young Buffaloes striker Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze is the defending champion of the Ingwenyama Cup Golden Boot after he scored five goals last year and eventually helped his side win the tournament after beating Mbabane Highlanders 4-1 during the finals of the previous edition.

THE INGWENYAMA CUP 2019/20 TOP GOAL SCORERS' CHART:

1. Charles Molopo (Malanti Chiefs) 5 goals
2. Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze (Mbabane Highlanders) 3 goals
3. Sizolwethu Shabalala (Mbabane Swallows) 3 goals
4. Muzi Tsabedze (Manzini Sea Birds) 3 goals
5. Mncedisi Dlamini (Mbabane Swallows) 2 goals
6. Solomon Oladele (Green Mamba) 2 goals
7. Wandile Nheko (Manzini Sea Birds) 2 goals

Nedbank Cup Last 16 Draw		
Bidvest Wits	vs	Chippa United
Highlands Park	vs	Kaizer Chiefs
Bloemfontein Celtic	vs	Maritzburg United
Black Leopards	vs	Amavara
Baroka FC/Polokwane City	vs	Hungry Lions
Zizwe United/Happy Wanderers	vs	TS Sporting
Mbombela United	vs	Real Kings
Mamelodi Sundowns	vs	Vaal Univ. of Tech

Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Tuesday February 11, 2020



'KOKI', 'NGUDZE' FACE PLE WRATH

- The two officials were involved in a scuffle
- Callies chairman says they were provoked
- Police officers intervened to save the situation

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER - MBABANE
Highlanders head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati and Tambankulu Callies Chairman Sitsembiso 'Ngudze' Mamba could be in trouble with the Premier League of Eswatini after they were involved in a scuffle during the Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals.

This happened shortly before the start of the second half of their match played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

A quick intervention of police officers and match officials separated the factions with the aid of the teams' marshals.

According to Article 10 of the 2019/20 Ingwenyama Cup

Rules and Regulations prepared by the Eswatini Football Association Competition Committee, unsportsmanship and misconduct is prohibited.

"Threatening by conduct or words to assault or attempt to assault a referee, match official, players or fan is a punishable offence and carries a minimum fine of E10 000 by the Disciplinary Committee," reads part of the article.

Charges

Mbabane Highlanders won the match 2-0, courtesy of utility player Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze's second half brace.

If the PLE charges them, 'Koki' and 'Ngudze' face a fine for misdemeanour.

Premier League of Eswatini Chief Executive Officer Pat Vilakati said they would wait for a report from the match officials.

"I won't comment for now until we get a report from the match officials and referee. The deadline for the report is tomorrow (today). We will then take it from there if there is something tangible," he said.

Tambankulu Callies Chairman 'Ngudze' Mamba said they were provoked by Highlanders when interviewed on the popular 'Sports Show' on Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services (EBIS) yesterday morning.

"We were provoked by Highlanders as they decided to use our tunnel, which is against the law.

We might be a small team but that does not mean the so called big teams should provoke us. I am not happy with what Highlanders did on Sunday."

Effort to get a comment from Mbabane Highlanders coach 'Koki' proved futile as his mobile phone was out of the network when tried several times.

The black and white outfit will face-off with Green Mamba in the final of the prestigious tournament. The champions will walk away with E1.4 million.

WANDERERS APOLOGISE TO FC VAN FOR RACISM ALLEGATIONS

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - MANZINI Wanderers have expressed their deepest regret to Armenia side FC Van regarding allegations that midfielder maestro Leon Manyisa left the team because of racism.

Manzini Wanderers General Manager Berger Nxumalo said as a team, they were deeply sorry to FC Van for these damning allegations.

He said the player might have said this out of frustration as he was looking forward to play for the Armenia side.

"It is not true that the player left Armenia because of racial discrimination. He might have said this out of anger and frustration since he is still a young boy. On behalf of the Manzini Wanderers family, we sincerely apologise to FC Van for these allegations. As a team we do not want to ruin our

relationship with FC Van since we are hoping that we will continue working with them in future," he said.

Manyisa, who is currently on the books of Manzini Wanderers, was previously reportedly registered with Armenian second division side FC Van, where he spent two months before returning to Eswatini. However, Wanderers disputed that the player was eligible to sign for FC Van and they lodged an appeal with the Eswatini Football Association to declare his registration in Armenia null and void. Wanderers were docked three points by the Premier League of Eswatini after Malanti Chiefs lodged a protest over Manyisa's double registration this season. The 20-year-old midfielder was last year on the radar of Spanish giants Real Madrid and was set to go for a follow-up assessment but visa complications stalled his progress in making the switch.

GREEN MAMBA PRESIDENT WANTS INGWENYAMA CUP

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - GREEN Mamba President Commissioner General (ComGen) Phindile Dlamini has praised the team for making it to their first ever Ingwenyama Cup finals.

Dlamini said she was now expecting the team to win the trophy as it was the only one missing in their cabinet.

The president said this after watching the Correctional Services side beat Moneni Pirates 2-1 in the Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals at Somhlolo Stadium on Sunday.

Dlamini said the team had been

performing exceptionally well throughout the competition and was confident they had what it takes to win the final. "Firstly, I would like to congratulate the whole team for another job well done during the semi-finals against Moneni.

The players displayed great fighting spirit to get the result. We are looking forward to the final and it would be great for us a club to win it," she said.

She also admitted there was a bit of pressure on them to win the cup, having eliminated the defending champions Young Buffaloes.

"We are fully aware that we

have never played in the finals of the Ingwenyama Cup before and that adds a little bit of pressure on the players and the technical staff.

We eliminated Buffaloes on our way to the final, so I know we can handle pressure. We are fully behind the team and will provide them with any support they need," she said.

'Inyok' eluhlazana' face capital city side Mbabe Highlanders who will be playing in their second consecutive final after losing 1-4 to Buffaloes last year. Dates for the grand closing final are yet to be announced by the Management Committee.