

ESWATINI Observer

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Idlala Kamnandzi...



ESWATINIBANK: Therisian Choir clad in EswatiniBank branded soccer kit performing during the launch of EswatiniBank Cup 17th Edition at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

FRANTIC ATTEMPTS TO DECLARE WARRANTS ILLEGAL FAIL...

COURT DISMISSES SIBONGILE, JAN'S URGENT APPLICATION

Judge Maseko observed that the applicants should have first moved their application before the magistrates court

STORY ON PAGE 3

King hands over ALMA Chairpersonship

PAGE 4

ESCCOM gives MTN, Eswatini Mobile April 1 deadline



PAGE 8

IMF warns of state capture, corruption

PAGE 5

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IMF LAUDS ESWATINI'S STRATEGIC ROADMAP

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded Eswatini for the Strategic Roadmap 2019-2022, but warned of the urgent need to reduce vulnerabilities to state-capture and other forms of corruption.

This is according to the consultation report by the Executive Board

...but warns of state-capture and other forms of corruption

that was recently in the country.

Whilst in the country, the board collected economic and financial information, and discussed the country's economic developments and policies with government officials.

"The IMF welcomes Eswatini's authorities' efforts to promote growth, job creation, and good governance, as articulated in the National Development Plan 2019-2022 and

the Strategic Roadmap. But, determined efforts are needed to reduce vulnerabilities to state capture and other forms of corruption," reads the report.

The report further also stresses the importance of governance reforms to support private investment and strengthen competitiveness.

"There's paramount importance of complementary supply-side and gov-

ernance reforms to support private investment and to strengthen competitiveness. The structural reforms should aim to improve business conditions, address weaknesses in product and labour markets, and invest in human capital," reads the report.

The report also highlights the need to rejuvenate the electricity and telecommunications industries.

"Reforms of the electricity and

telecommunications industries are also key for the impracticality of the strategic roadmap," reads the report. ...See more on page 5

There's paramount importance of complementary supply-side and governance reforms to support private investment and to strengthen competitiveness

EMASWATI STUDENTS QUARANTINED IN CHINA

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

STUDENTS from Eswatini currently studying in China have been quarantined.

They described their situation as scary because they fear for the worst.

The students were speaking in connection with the recent outbreak of the coronavirus which has taken China and the world by storm.

Eswatini students placed in China, Hubei, said they have not heard anything from the ministry of health in Eswatini ever since the outbreak. They are having a hard time surviving and coping with the emotional trauma.

Vuminkhosi Masuku, who originally hails from Hlatikulu, said it has been a roller-coaster for them but they were coping for now.

"There has been absolute boredom we have been apart with our friends for 10 days now since we had to be quarantined," shared Masuku during a telephonic interview.

She further divulged that they had not returned to the university and work as they were supposed to return on February 3.

She said the China government closed everything down to minimise chances of the outbreak of the disease.

"Everything is closed down to minimise human to human contact and we have been encouraged to stay indoors. They have closed the communities down, we have to carry our identity documents and passports in order to pass to the other side," explains Masuku.

Another student Lutsandvo Vilane said she wished to be home with her family as she did not know the eventual outcome.

"I stay indoors, we were quarantined at some point and had to be away from school. When necessary, we go to the



STAY AWAY: The death toll in Mainland China has now reached more than 1 000 after 108 people died from the virus on Monday.

shops but we are given masks to wear and the government has placed health professionals by the door who take our temperatures," confirmed Vilane.

She says the situation has been hard for them as they are away from home and only a few of them know each other with the outbreak of the disease, barely having no one to lean on and turn to.

"Thankfully, systematically the government this side has been proactive in monitoring the diseases we have a mini-programme now, 'We Chat', where you put in your location and give pictures of your home and family who have tested positive for the virus," explains Vilane.

Emaswati in China say they have tried to keep calm regardless of the trying situation. This was because China government tried with expedience to curb the outbreak. They alluded that their wish was to come back home should the virus not be contained.

Meanwhile, Nomqhele Mavuso described the situation as scary and draining.

"This is a scary situation, fear of the unknown and being unsure if you have caught the disease or not, we are cur-

rently using the internet for our studies now," said Mavuso.

The foreign affairs ministry referred this publication to Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane who said they fully understood the situation at hand.

"We always have had a standing arrangement that in case of emergencies, Eswatini students studying abroad should contact the nearest embassy for assistance. What our embassies cannot do is pay legal fees as per the Geneva Convention on foreign suspects abroad," closed Simelane.

About coronavirus

Coronavirus was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City.

The announcement came as the death toll in Mainland China has now reached more than 1 000, after 108 people died from the virus on Monday, the highest daily toll since the outbreak began late last year in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

...Coronavirus could infect 60% of world's population

CHINA - The coronavirus epidemic could spread to about two-thirds of the world's population if it cannot be controlled, according to Hong Kong's leading public health epidemiologist.

His warning came after the head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said recent cases of coronavirus patients who had never visited China could be the "tip of the iceberg".

Prof Gabriel Leung, the Chair of public health medicine at Hong Kong University, said the overriding question was to figure out the size and shape of the iceberg. Most experts thought that each person infected would go on to transmit the virus to about 2.5 other people. That gave an "attack rate" of 60-80 per cent.

"Sixty per cent of the world's population is an awfully big number," Leung told the Guardian in London, en route to an expert meeting at the WHO in Geneva yesterday.

Even if the general fatality rate is as low as one per cent, which Leung thinks is possible once milder cases are taken into account, the death toll would be massive.

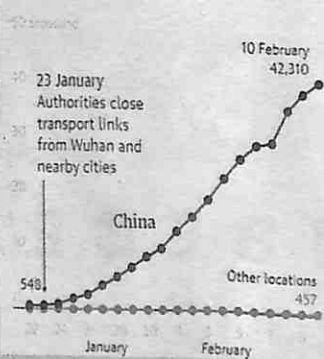
He will tell the WHO meeting that the main issue is the scale of the growing worldwide epidemic and the second priority is to find out whether the drastic measures taken by China to prevent the spread have worked - because if so, other countries should think about adopting them.

The Geneva meeting brings together more than 400 researchers and national authorities, including some participating by video conference from Mainland China and Taiwan. "With 99 per cent of cases in China, this remains very much an emergency for that country, but one that holds a very grave threat for the rest of the world,"

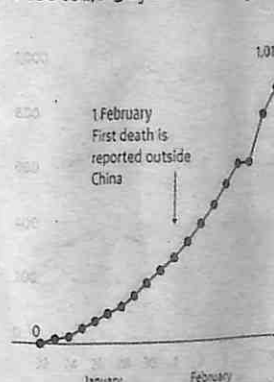
The WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in his opening remarks. To date China has reported 42 708 confirmed cases, including 1 017 deaths, Tedros said.

Leung - one of the world's experts on coronavirus epidemics, who played a major role in the Sars outbreak in 2002-03 - works closely with other leading scientists such as counterparts at Imperial College London and Oxford University. *theguardian*

Confirmed cases of the coronavirus have risen to more than 42,000



Deaths from the coronavirus rose to 1,013 by 10 February



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HIGH COURT DISMISSES SIBONGILE, JAN, 2 OTHERS URGENT APPLICATION

• Wanted the High Court to declare illegal the search, seizure warrants

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

AN application urgently filed by political activists, Sibongile Mazibuko and three others for an order declaring search warrants issued by the Magistrate's Court illegal, has been dismissed.

The High Court yesterday dismissed the application with costs

and further ordered that the orders issued by the court on December 24 last year have lapsed owing to the finalisation of the matter.

When making a ruling in the matter, Judge Nkosinathi Maseko observed that the applicants should have first moved their application before the Magistrate's Court in their bid to prove the contravention of any of the provisions of the Bill of Rights by the respondents.

"In the circumstances I hereby make the following order; the point in limine raised by the fifth respondent (AG) that the applicants have prematurely approached the High Court without exhausting local remedies in the court aquo (Magistrate's) for setting aside of the detention

orders and search warrants is hereby upheld, the urgent application by the applicants is dismissed with costs," Judge Maseko ruled.

Justice Maseko stated in his ruling that it goes without saying that any allegation of unconstitutionality levelled against

the Magistrate's Courts for both Mbabane and Manzini, ought to have been raised with them first, wondering how then could his court be expected to deal with such constitutional issues when the subordinate courts accused of having failed to apply their minds when issuing the search warrants, have not been afforded the opportunity to deal with the matters. The applicants as submitted by the Assistant Attorney General (AG) Mbuso Simelane, should have invoked Section 35 (3) of the constitution before approaching the High Court.

Request

Section 35 (3) of the constitution provides that; "if in any proceedings in any court subordinate to the High Court any question arises as to the contravention of any of the provisions of this charter, the person presiding in that court may, and shall where a party to the proceedings so requests, stay the proceedings and refer the questions to the High Court, unless in the judgment of that person which shall be final, the raising of the questions is merely frivolous or vexatious."

Section 46 of the act.

She stated that these warrants were the basis of the search and seizure of properties belonging to the applicants, hence the basis of the proceedings was to set aside these warrants because they were unlawful and unconstitutional for want of compliance with Section 46 of the CPE as read with Section 22 of the constitution.

Appearing for the applicants in the matter was Mbabane based lawyer Thulani Rudolf Maseko of TR Maseko Attorneys law firm while the respondents were represented by the Assistant AG Mbuso Simelane.

Law Firm

The court further observed that the factual position of the matter as narrated by Mazibuko in her affidavit was that at dawn on December 20, 2019 members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) visited the applicant's respective homes armed with search warrants purportedly issued in terms of

ORDERS SOUGHT

SIBONGILE Mazibuko, Wandile Dlodlu, Musa Nkambule and Jan Sithole were seeking an order declaring unlawful and setting aside the search warrants issued by the Magistrate's Courts against them. The warrants were dated November 25 and December 19, 2019.

The view was that the warrants do not comply with the requirement of Section 46 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, as read with the Section 22 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

They were also seeking an order that the national commissioner of police cited as the first respondent or any of the respondents being the prime min-

ister (second) the two Magistrate's Courts (third and fourth) and the attorney general cited as the fifth respondent, or any other person acting under their authority, be ordered to restore forthwith to them (applicants) all items, gadgets, documents and electronic devices seized from them.

FREED PATIENTS BACK AT PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

ALL is back to normal at the National Psychiatric Referral Hospital.

This follows the prompt response by the ministry of health which engaged a contractor to deal with the toilet drainage system. The ministry's speedy intervention in the matter has prompted the employees to return to work immediately.

According to a source, after the hospital management was engaged by the employees' representatives, they proceeded to the ministry where they reported about their resolve to picket until the toilet issue was resolved on Monday afternoon.

Questions

When sources were quizzed about the status of the situation yesterday, they expressed their appreciation to the ministry for hastening in addressing the matter that had the potential to endanger the lives of patients and employees alike.

In response to questions if all the patients who had left the institution had returned, the source said though she could not be entirely sure, but most of the patients had returned, some were brought back by their relatives while others by the police.

These patients were released by aggrieved employees who felt that letting them out of the institution would force the relevant stakeholders to promptly address their grievances.

Challenges

The employees had complained about a recurring challenge of a dysfunctional drainage system that resulted in the blockage of toilets.

The employees felt that this was a health hazard as it was bound to cause diseases, as some patients had already complained of diar-

rhoea. Leading to the employees' resolve, it was explained that the drainage system had been problematic for a while and each time a contractor was roped in to rectify it, all seemed normal for a few days before it started all over again.

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, hence the decision to free the patients.

Agreement

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 but some left the premises with their luggage.

When the Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula was contacted regarding the status of the matter, he confirmed that patients had returned to the institution, and that the blocked toilets issue was resolved on the same day.

He said after he was informed about the situation, he went to the institution to assess it.

Solutions

According to Dr. Magagula, his findings were that not all the wards were affected by the blocked toilets. Even so, he said the ministry has engaged a contractor who would work on the drainage system that has been problematic for some time.

By the time employees on the night shift reported for work, Dr. Magagula said the contractor was already at work. Going forward, the director said the ministry together with the hospital administration would work on a long-term solution to the problem.

To do this, the director said new equipment would be considered and compared with the one that is currently used at the hospital.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo founder Joseph Shabalala is dead

PRETORIA - Joseph Shabalala, founder of South Africa's multiple Grammy-winning choral group, the Ladysmith Black Mambazo, has died, the choir said yesterday. He was

78.

Shabalala passed away at a Pretoria hospital following complications from back surgery that left him wheelchair-bound, according to the group's Manager Xolani Majosi who spoke to Channel24. "Our founder, our teacher and most importantly, our father left us today for eternal peace," the choir said on social media.

"We celebrate and honour your kind heart and your extraordinary life. Through your music and the millions who you came in contact with, you shall live forever."

Shabalala had retired in 2014 and handed control to the all-male choral group to his four sons.

Founded in Durban in the 1960s, the Ladysmith Black Mambazo gained iconic status in South Africa. The word 'Mambazo' means 'axe' in the Zulu language. The group was popularised abroad by Paul Simon's 1986 'Graceland' album.

Simon was criticised by some at the time for working with musicians while South Africa was still under apartheid rule.

But his album opened up a global audience to traditional Zulu harmony-driven acapella, known as *isicathamiya*, and an international following for the Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

The group is a decades-old favourite at the Grammys, where it won its fifth award in 2018. It is currently on a US tour.

The chorale performed at the inauguration of South Africa's first black president Nelson Mandela in 1994, who was freed from jail exactly 30 years ago on Tuesday.

The choir also performed at Queen Elizabeth II's 92nd birthday in 2018 at a star-studded, Commonwealth-themed charity concert that also featured Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue and Shaggy.

President Cyril Ramaphosa described Shabalala as a "veteran choral maestro".

"Today the spirit of...Shabalala is united with that of our great leader, Nelson Mandela, whose release from prison we are commemorating," said Ramaphosa in a tweet.

AFP



King hands over ALMA chairmanship

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

HIS Majesty King Mswati III has urged all African countries to remain committed to the fight against malaria.

These sentiments were expressed by Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini on behalf of His Majesty during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This was also the King's official hand over of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) chairmanship to the new chairman, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya.

Vision

Dlamini said as His Majesty's tenure had come to an end, on his behalf he was happy to pass on the baton for chairing ALMA to the new leader to lay out his vision as chair and continue to lead Africa's fight against malaria.

As the chairperson of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), last year His Majesty launched the 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me' campaign which was in line with the African leaders' ambitious target of eliminating malaria in Africa by



SPEECH: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini addressing leaders during the Heads of State Government Prayer Breakfast in Addis Ababa. (Courtesy Pics)

2030.

He also requested reports annually on the progress against malaria in Africa and the campaign itself. Following the launch of the campaign in Eswatini in May last year, a number of other African countries including Zambia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, to mention a few,

intensified their efforts in the fight against the disease.

In his speech, His Majesty said despite the successes of last year, now more than ever before there was a need for all African countries to take bold action to safeguard the progress that has been made and accelerate control and elimination

of malaria.

He said at a regional level, progress against malaria has stalled and it remained a significant threat to health, social and economic development, and achieving Agenda 2063, (The Africa We Want), said His Majesty.

He added that according to the World Health Organisations (WHO) World Malaria Report of 2019, the malaria incidence rate in Africa had levelled off since 2015. In 2018, there were 213 million malaria cases and 380 000 malaria deaths in Africa. Pregnant women and children under the age of five were at the greatest risk from malaria.

Challenge

"Two-thirds of malaria deaths are children under five," he said.

He stated that malaria was also fundamentally an African challenge that must be overcome together. The disease accounted for 93 per cent of global malaria cases and 94 per cent of global deaths were in Africa. He said as a continent, Africa also faced significant threats from insecticide resistance and climate change.

His Majesty said accelerating progress was, therefore, essential to get back on track to eliminating malaria in Africa by the end of this decade.

"This is our decade to end malaria," he said.

He noted that the campaign was critical as it was a continent wide

effort to promote individual responsibility to fight malaria and drive political will, domestic resources, and community action. Malaria was not just a challenge for the health sector; it affected all sectors from tourism to agriculture, from mining to banking. It is a social and economic development issue, he added.

The King also said malaria slowed GDP growth, undermined the ability of families to lift them out of poverty and increased worker and student absences.

He added that all heads of state and government to the heads of households had unique experience and capabilities that could aid the fight against malaria.

Member states were encouraged to roll out the campaign in 2020, joining the 12-member states that have already launched national campaigns.

To accelerate the battle against malaria, there is a growing number of countries across the region implementing national End Malaria Councils and End Malaria Fund.

These promote the objectives of 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me' campaign by mobilising multi-sectoral action, resources, advocacy and accountability, he said.

He mentioned that these were critical tools in ensuring malaria remained high on national development agendas and closing the E42 billion (\$3 billion) resource gap under national malaria strategic plans.

He added it was encouraging that at least seven other member states were considering launching similar councils and funds. He, therefore, encouraged African leaders to accelerate efforts to implement End Malaria Councils and End Malaria Funds.

Funeral Notice



Chief Mlungeli Naphtal Mahlalela

In Our Hearts Forever and Always

25th December 1938 - 29th January 2020

Family, Relatives, BantfwabeNkhosi, 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.

DOC2849

African leaders urged to silence guns in promotion of peace

THE African Union strives to ensure a conflict-free Africa.

This is in line with the theme on silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa's development.

This was said by Algerian diplomat Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Sunday.

"Looking at the achievements made in promoting peace and security in the continent, in recent decades, particularly since 2004, with the opera-

tionalisation of the AU Peace and Security Council, the noble objective of silencing the guns and ending wars in the continent is achievable," he said. Lamamra noted that from around 30 active conflicts in 2004, Africa must celebrate the fact that it was now addressing fewer conflicts than in the past.

He said Africa has a robust blueprint for promoting peace, security and stability as well as advancing good governance, respect for human and people's rights and constitution. This blueprint was the combination of the African

Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA).

The Peace and Security Council had led and continued to effectively lead the implementation of this blueprint, of which the determining factor, the political will of member states was very crucial given that the prevention and resolution of conflicts was done on national territories, he said. He underlined that, while the respect for national sovereignty was paramount, this should not undermine the efforts to scale up conflict prevention and, if and when necessary, take collective action in the name of the principle of non-indifference as enshrined in the Constitutive Act.



LOOKING ON: The prime minister with Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed during his delivery of His Majesty the King's speech of handing over the ALMA chairmanship.

BEWARE OF STATE CAPTURE, CORRUPTION - IMF

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

THE Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised Eswatini that determined efforts are needed to reduce vulnerabilities to state capture and other forms of corruption.

On January 31, the Executive Board concluded the Article IV consultation with the Kingdom of Eswatini.

In a press statement released by IMF Press Officer Gediminas Vilkas yesterday, the IMF stated that directors welcomed the authorities' efforts to promote growth, job creation, and good governance as articulated in the National Development Plan 2019-22 and the Strategic Roadmap.

Vilkas stated that the directors stressed the importance of complementary supply side and governance reforms to support private investment and strengthen competitiveness. "Directors agreed that structural reforms should



aim to improve business conditions, address weaknesses in product and labor markets, and invest in human capital," part of the press release reads.

According to IMF, reform of the electricity and telecommunications industries is also key and determined efforts are needed to reduce vulnerabilities to state capture and other forms of corruption. IMF stated that following the severe fiscal deterioration in 2010, Eswatini experienced a period of macroeconomic stability. According to IMF fiscal consolidation, a temporary rebound in Southern African Customs Union

(SACU) revenue, and credibility in the peg with the South African Rand contributed to improved fiscal and external balances and rebuild buffers.

However, declining private investment and weakening external competitiveness has kept growth below the pre-2010 period and are hindering the long-term growth prospects of the economy.

With subdued growth, socio-economic challenges have remained entrenched as reflected by widespread poverty, high income inequality and elevated unemployment," the statement reads.

Eswatini's public debt rising rapidly - IMF

ACCORDING to the IMF, public debt has risen rapidly and financing constraints have led to the accumulation of domestic arrears.

IMF's Press Officer Gediminas Vilkas said the current account surplus has narrowed and international reserves have fallen.

"With a weakening economic environment, credit to the private sector has lately decelerated, and banks' asset quality has deteriorated.

The authorities have recently implemented some actions to contain the rise in the fiscal deficit, which remains large," the statement reads.

Arrears

IMF pointed out that economic indicators are expected to remain weak and GDP growth is projected to temporarily pick up in 2020, as the government plans to repay some arrears, but growth would be subdued afterwards as fiscal imbalances persist and the private sector remains hamstrung. The fiscal deficit, according to IMF, is expected to remain large and budget financing risks to be elevated.

The large deficit would raise public debt above 60 per cent of GDP over the medium-term and contribute to further reduce international reserves the IMF concluded.

It is stated that downside risks weigh on this fragile outlook. These risks, according to IMF, emanate from possible further fiscal slippages that could undermine confidence in the government's ability to control public finances and in the peg.

It is said other risks arise from further decline in SACU revenue, weak demand for key exports, and rising interest rates.

The executive directors noted that Eswatini is at a critical juncture, with subdued growth, rising public debt, and depleting international reserves.

They stated that moreover, falling private investment and declining competitiveness are hindering growth prospects.

The directors welcomed the recent fiscal measures to stabilise the economy and support growth and encouraged more decisive policy action to bring the economy back on a sustainable path. "An ambitious structural reform agenda is key to promoting private-sector-led growth and addressing poverty and inequality," IMF stated.

Vulnerable

The directors also recommended a credible medium term fiscal adjustment plan to achieve debt sustainability and macro-economic stability.

They also emphasised the need for additional high quality adjustment measures, while supporting long term growth and protecting the most vulnerable through better targeted social programmes.

The directors encouraged the authorities to contain public wage spending and administrative expenses, rationalise transfers to state owned entities, prioritise capital projects, and broaden the tax base.

They also underscored the importance of fiscal reforms to support consolidation efforts. They called for further steps to strengthen budget formulation and public financial management to restore fiscal discipline and contain the build up in arrears.

They also encouraged reforms to revamp the public procurement process, improve the efficiency and governance of public enterprises, and adopt a transparent arrears clearance strategy.

An ambitious structural reform agenda is key to promoting private-sector-led growth and addressing poverty and inequality

Central Bank should maintain exchange rate peg with SA's Rand

THE Central Bank of Eswatini has been urged by the International Monetary Fund to maintain the exchange rate peg with South Africa's Reserve Bank.

At the conclusion of the discussion of Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the directors concurred that, given the exchange rate peg to the South African Rand, the Central Bank should maintain the policy rate broadly in line with the South African Reserve Bank's rate and refrain from providing further budget financing.

They noted that stable monetary conditions and fiscal consolidation would help strengthen the country's external position and support the rebuilding of reserve buffers.

About Article IV:

- Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year.
- A staff team visits the country, collects economic and financial information, and discusses with officials the country's economic developments and policies.
- On return to headquarters, the staff prepares a report, which forms the basis for discussion by the Executive Board.
- At the conclusion of the discussion, the Managing Director, as Chairman of the Board, summarizes the views of Executive Directors, and this summary is transmitted to the country's authorities.

The directors, according to the press statement noted that, while the financial sector is overall stable, vulnerabilities are rising.

They highlighted the need to strengthen the financial sector oversight and accelerate efforts to improve the regulatory and supervisory frameworks for the large non-bank financial sector,

including through legislative changes. Further, they underlined the importance of establishing a macro prudential structure and developing crisis preparedness and management capacity, as well as addressing non-performing loans and the high concentration risks in the banking sector.

ROYAL SWAZI SUN PRESENTS A

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ICCFISH E1.2 billion loan to be secured soon

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

GOVERNMENT is close to securing a E1.2 billion loan to complete the International Convention Centre and Five Star Hotel (ICCFISH).

The ICCFISH loan bill was tabled in Parliament for approval by the ministry of finance last year. In the current financial year, the 11th Parliament passed a total of 17 bills, with 14 of those aimed at the resuscitation of the country's economy.

Some of these included a bill for sourcing a loan for the ICCFISH, LUSIP Phase II and the Mbadlane road, to mention a few.

During the State opening of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament, His Majesty King Mswati III urged government to pursue the completion of capital projects.

"As a country we have embarked on other infrastructure capital projects which we wish to see being pursued towards completion as we head towards 2022.

"These, include the referral hospital, ICCFISH, new parliament building, our road projects; including the railway line connecting us to Lothair in the Republic South Africa and Mozambique," said the King.

His Majesty further urged government to ensure timely delivery to guarantee that set targets were met.

Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg disclosed that government was close to securing the ICCFISH loan.

"The loan for the ICCFISH is in the final stage of signing," said the minister.

Of the E1.2 billion loan, an amount of E493 million will be used to pay debts owed to the

current contractors of the project. The companies include Kukhanya Civil Engineers, Inyatsi Construction and Stefanutti Stocks (the KISS Joint Venture). This was revealed by Lobamba Lomdzala Member of Parliament (MP) Marwick Khumalo during the debate of the then proposed loan bill.

MP Khumalo was motivating his colleagues in the House of Assembly to adopt a report of the ministry of finance portfolio committee on the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (Construction of the International Convention Centre) Supplementary Loan Bill No. 21 of 2019. He was speaking in his capacity as the chairperson of the portfolio committee.

Khumalo said the E493 million was urgently needed so that government could be able to pay the debts to the three companies already constructing the facility.

He said the non-payment of the debts could see government being sued by the companies and it would be the taxpayers that would have to pay excessively. It was for that reason why the Loan Bill had to be passed by the House.

The ICCFISH loan bill was tabled in Parliament for approval by the ministry of finance last year.

ESWATINI MAY FACE DROUGHT IN COMING YEARS

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) is currently preparing for a looming drought anticipated in the coming years.

Following the EL-Niño faced by the country in 2015 and 2016, the NDMA, with the help of World Bank, hosted a week-long workshop aimed at capacitating all sectors of the economy to prioritise disaster management, financing as well as drought contingency.

"We will remember that during 2015 and 2016, the country suffered a huge drought which was said to be the most intensive drought in 35 years," he said.

NDMA CEO Russel Dlamini said the workshop attracted 70 people from different sectors of the country including government ministries.

Apart from the 70 people who participated in the workshop, there were 32 others from six countries, including facilitators from the University of Nebraska in USA Drought Management Centre.

"From today onwards, NDMA will be working on the discussions and outcomes of the workshop," he said.

The NDMA has trained over 80 people from rural areas on drought contingency, and disaster risk management and financing.

They include *tindvuna*, *tetinkhundla*, *bucopho* and community leaders from the Hhohho region.

NDMA's Eric Seyama said they dedicated the last day of the workshop to train rural com-



PLANNING: NDMA Eric Seyama stressing a point during the press conference.

munity members because they are prone to drought and other natural disasters.

Seyama said they were trained on how they should be preparing for drought, flooding and other disasters.

He added that they were also empowered on creating networks in their communities.

Seyama added that the networks may be in a form of cooperatives, which would enable them to save money that could be used when a natural disaster strike.

Through the cooperative, Seyama said they could work together and grow crops to be sold and the profits be set aside as disaster risk financing.

Financing

The ministries of finance and economic planning had promised to train communities on disaster risk management and finance so that they would be capacitated on how to set aside money to finance disasters.

Dlamini said the ministries together with the agency and stakeholders suggested that disaster financing should start at

the top.

He said government should set aside funds to finance disaster.

"Disaster financing is not only for government, but it also includes individual households. They should be prepared for it," he said.

Floods

Following the floods that hit the country last Thursday, NDMA is working with Mbabane Municipal Council to come up with ways of minimising flooding in the city.

NDMA CEO said the agency has a memorandum of understanding with the municipality which binds them to work together to address and minimise the effects of natural disasters.

Dlamini said during the workshop the municipality as well as other urban governments were capacitated.

"We are currently engaging each other on how to minimise flooding in the city, and soon you shall see the results," he said.

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BOYCOTT CLASSES OVER PROJECT ALLOWANCES

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

ESWATINI Medical Christian University (EMCU) students have taken to the streets over the non-payment of their practical allowances.

The students stormed the ministry of labour and social security offices yesterday, where they demanded answers on why they still hadn't received their project allowances.

They complained that the delay in allowances was costing them as they were supposed to be busy with field practice and projects during this time of the year.

The students were informed by the ministry that there was a challenge in the disbursement of money for projects for Christian University.

According to information gathered from students yesterday, the ministry explained what the institution needed to do on the money disbursed by government for projects and field practice allowances.

EMCU Student Representative Council (SRC) President Prosper Simelane said EMCU students get project and practical allowances on a yearly basis unlike in the other institutions, where it is a once off thing for the duration of the study period.

Simelane said this was because at Christian University, studies were different from the other universities.

He said for example, a student practising pharmacy is expected to go to field practice at years two, three and four successively.

"The issue of allowances is really frustrating for the students. Today, we will be going to the ministry of labour carrying the letter from the institution explaining about the allowances. There are students who are currently stuck on their projects as they have no money to buy material or move around while executing their duties," he said.

ESWATINI



GOVERNMENT

GENERAL NOTICE

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AUTHORITY ACT, 1988 AS AMENDED IN 1992 (Act No. 2 of 1988) **APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A HUMAN SETTLEMENT (Under Section 10)**

It is notified for general information that in terms of the Human Settlements Authority (Amendment) Act of 1988, **Urral Planning and Management Systems** on behalf of **Style Form Building (PTY) Ltd** has lodged an application with the Human Settlements Authority.

The proposed mixed use development to be known as **Nhlangano Holiday Resort**, is to be established on **Portion 8 (a Portion of Portion A) of Farm 285 and Remainder of Portion A of Farm 285** situated in Nhlangano in the Shiselweni district of Eswatini.

Plans, documents and information regarding this application will be open to the public at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Fifth Floor, Old Income Tax Building, Mbabane.

Persons who object to the granting of this application or who wish to make representations regarding the proposed development should communicate with the Human Settlements Authority c/o Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, P.O. Box 1832, Mbabane within a period of two (2) weeks from the date of publication of this notice. The Authority shall give particulars of every objection to the applicant.

C.S. MAMBA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DOC/21361



MANZINI NEWS

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'manzini news'

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MANZINI THE HARD WORKER: REHABILITATION OF FAIRVIEW SOUTH ROAD BEGINS

ACCORDING to the City of Manzini's Integrated Development Plan (IDP), integrated infrastructure development remains one of the key deliverables of the municipality.

The IDP is the city's guiding framework pertaining city development and it is a product of extensive stakeholder consultation.

A number of development projects and programmes are highlighted in the IDP document and one of them is rehabilitation of Pleasing Prospect road in Fairview South.

Pleasing Prospect is the road stretch that begins at the corner just above KaMthunyelelwa shopping complex near Metropolitan Church and stretches all the way up to Northern Distributor road (near Rainbow preschool). Northern Distributor is the road stretch from William Pitcher College up to St Paul's school.

The project entails patching of the existing potholes and resealing (resurfacing) of the entire road stretch. This will give it another eight years or so of useful life. Preparatory work for the project has already started and, all things constant, the works should be com-

...Pleasing Prospect to be a smoother road by end of March 2020



YES. THESE POTHOLES YOU SHALL SEE NO MORE: The present state of Pleasing Prospect road in Fairview South. Rehabilitation works have commenced.

pleted and residents will be driving on a perfectly smooth road at the beginning of April 2020. Residents and all other users of the road are urged to cooperate with the council throughout the construction period. As a norm with any other in-situ road construction works, there is bound to be inconve-

niences from time to time but these will be temporary.

Residents are urged to bear with council during this period and, instead, focus on the end result – which is a perfectly surfaced road. Citizens who live along the road are also advised that there is an ongoing dilapidation survey

...Portion of Donegal road will also be surfaced

THOSE who live along Donegal road in Fairview South will also somewhat benefit from the Pleasing Prospect rehabilitation project.

A portion (about 150 metres) of Donegal road, which is presently in a gravel state, will be surfaced in the form of rigid paving (surfacing of the road using concrete).

The portion that will be concrete surfaced is the stretch from the Pleasing Prospect/Donegal roads intersection up to just above Peace Centre Guest House. It has been observed that the existing damage on the foot of Pleasing Prospect road (at the pothole-riddled corner above KaMthunyelelwa) is as a result

of silt (loose soil) that gets washed away down Donegal road.

A proper catch pit (storm water drain) will be constructed at the foot of Donegal road and the concreted portion of Donegal road will be shaped in such a way that it channels storm water into the catch pit. Therefore, construction of storm water drains will not be necessary. It is important to clarify that the main project is rehabilitation of Pleasing Prospect road. According to the Integrated Development Plan, it is not yet time for upgrading of the entire Donegal road but the portion thereof is only being surfaced so to avoid further damage on Pleasing Prospect road.

of any elements that may potentially be affected during construction works. Council's plea is, therefore, that residents allow those that have been tasked with carrying out the survey into their properties for purposes of the survey.

...Portion of Villiers Street will also be surfaced

THE Municipal Council of Manzini will also concrete-surface the tail end of Villiers

Street in the city centre. Villiers Street is the road stretch from St Theresa's

Primary School down to Shamrock Butchery. A bulk of the road is presently surfaced

save a short stretch of about 60 metres just below Shamrock Butchery. council will, there-

fore, be completing the unfinished business on that road. Again, those doing business along the affected road stretch are requested to cooperate with council during the construction period.

...Manzini/Matsapha municipalities team up for Marula Fest

IN a true sister city spirit, the Municipalities of Manzini and Matsapha have once again teamed up as they joined throngs of Lutsango to deliver and participate in the annual Marula festival which was held last weekend at Buhleni Royal Residence in the Hhohho region.

This partnership dates back about four years ago and has remained strong since inception.

Employees from both municipalities are accommodated in the same tent and do all things together.

Most importantly, they make use of this exciting home-away-from-home experience for team building and sharing of municipal experiences and ideas. It is no wonder that sometime last year the two municipalities extended this sisterhood by organising a joint sports and wellness day which was held at the Manzini Club.



TOGETHER AS ONE: The municipal Lutsango made time for a group photo with Matsapha Council Chairperson Alice Russouw and Manzini Human Resources Manager Bonginkhosi Nsingwane.



LUTSANGO LWAMASPALA: Matsapha and Manzini employees posing at the Manzini Civic Centre.



HHOLOHHOLO: The Lutsango carrying some of the goodies that were to be delivered at Buhleni Royal Residence.



SHIGI: Manzini employees Menzi Shongwe-Dlamini and Goodness Magongo having a ball before their departure for Buhleni.

STORIES BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) has given MTN Eswatini and Eswatini Mobile an ultimatum to have an interconnect agreement by April 1.

An interconnect agreement is a business contract between telecommunications organisations for the purpose of interconnecting their networks and exchanging telecommunications traffic.

ESCCOM, the body responsible for regulating the communications sector, announced the decision in the call termination market review decision taken on February 5 and effective as of March 2.

Notably, the decision by ESCCOM follows the proposed decision by the regulator announced in September 30 last year.

"The commission directs that Eswatini Mobile and MTN Eswatini interconnect as per The Electronic Communications (interconnection) Regulations 2016 on or before 1

April 2020," reads the decision by the regulator.

Currently, Eswatini has three players in the telecommunications industry, namely; MTN Eswatini, Eswatini Mobile as well as the Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC). Whilst both MTN Eswatini and Eswatini Mobile have interconnect agreements with EPTC, they do not have an interconnect agreement with each other regardless of the fact that Eswatini Mobile has been in the telecommunications space since 2017. In 1998, MTN established the first mobile network in Eswatini and entered into an interconnect agreement with the fixed network EPTC.

According to the agreement, MTN charged E1.30 per minute to terminate EPTC's voice calls on their mobile network at peak hours, whilst EPTC charged 0.25 cents per minute for terminating all voice calls originating from MTN's network. With off-peak call termination rates, MTN charged 0.51 cents to terminate EPTC voice calls whilst EPTC charged 0.10 cents for terminating voice calls originating from MTN.

ESCCOM gives MTN, Eswatini Mobile April 1 deadline



Rates

In 2015, the two operators revised their call termination rates and the outcome of the revised agreement was that MTN's peak price for terminating EPTC calls was revised downward from E1.30 to 0.30 cents.

Off-peak rates were also revised down from 0.51 cents to 0.30 cents per minute.

EPTC's pricing for terminating voice calls originating from MTN at peak hours were maintained at 0.25 cents. However, off-peak voice termination



rates were revised upward from 0.10 cents to 0.25 cents per minute.

Agreements

In 2017, EPTC and MTN revised their call agreements again and MTN's call termination rates were maintained at 0.30 but introduced a discount of 0.06 cents; hence effectively the price for terminating voice calls originating from EPTC's network was 0.24 cents for both peak and off-peak.

On the other hand, the price for terminating voice traffic from MTN on

EPTC's network was revised upwards from 0.25 cents to 0.30 cents for both peak and off-peak.

In the very year, there was a new mobile network entrant in the market - Eswatini Mobile, who entered into an interconnect agreement with EPTC in November 1, 2017.

According to the agreement, Eswatini Mobile charges 0.24 cents for terminating all voice calls originating from EPTC and EPTC charges 0.30 cents per minute for terminating all voice calls originating from Eswatini Mobile.

In the absence of an interconnection agreement between MTN and Eswatini Mobile, it remains unclear how voice traffic originating from MTN is terminated on Eswatini Mobile and at what price.

...Imbalance in market benefits MTN

ON the other hand, ESCCOM has flagged that there's an imbalance in countervailing buyer power in the Eswatini telecommunications market.

This benefits the network operator with the Significant Market Share (SMS), which in context is MTN.

Notably, the ineffective competition in the market is bad news for the consumer as it fights off lower costs of communication and better services in the telecommunications industry.

According to the overall conclusion on market structure and conduct in the call termination market review decision, the commission has determined that the call termination market is not effectively competitive.

"MTN has largest market share of voice subscriptions and consequently high share of traffic volume terminating on its mobile network compared to

calls originated. Eswatini Mobile and EPTC account for a significant share of total off-net voice traffic originated and a very low share of off-net traffic terminating on their network.

Power

This by implication means that both Eswatini Mobile and EPTC have very low countervailing buyer power to balance MTN's significant market power and negotiate for favourable terms and lower call termination rates with MTN," reads part of the decision.

Given the structure of the wholesale call termination market and the downstream retail mobile market in the country, the regulatory body further notes that the lack of the interconnect agreement between MTN and Eswatini Mobile benefits the network operator with the SMP.

"There is a clear incentive for network operators, particularly those with large

retail market share to set termination rates that are above cost or even refuse interconnection.

Termination

MTN Eswatini has countervailing buyer power and is currently able to exploit the market for mobile termination to limit competitive entry in the downstream retail market for voice calls," ESCCOM further states.

When sought for comment, MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo briefly said "the interconnect with Eswatini Mobile was on-going," without stating the reasons behind the delays.

On the other hand, Eswatini Mobile Communications Manager Nosipho Shongwe could not be reached when called several times whilst Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini's phone was off the network.

MEGA LOUNGE PRESENTS

GET CUFFED OR GO HOME

FRI 14 FEB 6PM DILLING

CUP INDICATIONS:
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BLUE - DEPENDS ON WHO'S ASKING

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Muddy road...



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: An elderly man had to abandon his car after trying several attempts to drive past a muddy road due to the persistent rainfall at Gobholo yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

3 months later; SANU SRC still suspended

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

YESTERDAY marked exactly three months since Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) Student Representative Council (SRC) members were suspended by the institution.

On Monday, Sibusiso Nkwanyana appeared before the disciplinary tribunal.

The accused student, according to some members of the SRC, was in the company of his attorney Bonginkhosi Xaba of Xaba Attorneys. Nkwanyana is now waiting for a verdict together with the president and secretary general.

The president, secretary general and Nkwanyana, who is not part of the SRC, are expected to make an appearance today at the High Court.

Some SRC representatives stated that they were suspended by the institution on November 11, 2019. The students were suspended after a violent class boycott which took place at the institution.

The boycott resulted into property belonging to the institution being destroyed. SANU when justifying its suspen-



sion back then, stated that the suspension of SRC members was a decision that they were forced to arrive at considering that human life was at risk as property was being vandalised by the protesting students.

SANU suspended Student Representative Council (SRC) SG Tiger Nxumalo and President Zamokuhle Mamba together with first year students at the Manzini Campus.

Constitution

SANU Marketing Manager Petros Mavuso said SRC members must be guided by the constitution on how to provide mature leadership to the students; for example, the constitution guides students on how they should organise meetings.

He said the constitution guided SRC

SANU when justifying its suspension back then, stated that the suspension of SRC members was a decision that they were forced to arrive at considering that human life was at risk as property was being vandalised by the protesting students

on how to hold demonstrations with students and how to make decisions when things start to get out of hand. He said this time around, the leaders didn't act in accordance with the constitution.

Company demands E400 000 property from late prince's estate executors

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

A Mbabane based company has instituted legal proceedings against three executors to the late Prince Sulumlomo's estate in which the company demands transfer of a property worth E400 000.

Duarte Investments (Pty) Ltd has filed papers at the High Court seeking an order compelling the three executors Bongani, Celiwe and Temphilo Dlamini to forthwith transfer the property which is under the estate of the late prince, to its (Duarte) possession.

Represented by Mbabane-based law firm LR Mamba and Associates, the company which has been cited as the plaintiff, wants the executors who have been cited as defendants, to facilitate transfer of the property being Lot 698 situated at Extension 4 Mbabane Township within 14 days after an order of court.

According to papers filed before court, the company which is duly registered in terms of the company laws of the Kingdom of Eswatini, hereby institutes action against the defendants in which action the company claims transfer of the property worth E391 000.

The plaintiff submitted that on March 31, 2016, it entered into a written agreement of sale with the

defendants and the company was represented by Antonio Dos Santos while three executors represented the defendant.

Annexed to the papers is a letter of administration which indicates that the three were appointed as executors in the estate of the late prince.

The agreement was in respect of the purchase of the property in question and the plaintiff submitted that the purchase price was paid in full with E39 100 paid as deposit on January 15, 2016 while the full and final payment was made through a balance of E351 900 paid on March 30, 2016.

"Notwithstanding payment, the defendants have failed, neglected or refused to pass transfer of the property into the plaintiff's name, wherefore an order sought directing the defendants to register the property in the name of the plaintiff within 14 days of the order sought," submitted the plaintiff.

The matter is still pending at the High Court and other parties have indicated that they want to file an application for joinder in the matter and annexed to the papers are documents from Buzzby Services purported to be an agent in the alleged sale of the property.

Also annexed are papers from the Master of the High Court in a form of a letter of administration of the estate of the late prince.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE



STAKEHOLDER REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MBABANE MUNICIPAL BYELAWS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES 2020

The Municipal Council of Mbabane in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 77 of Urban Government Act 1969 (Act No.8 of 1969), has promulgated the Draft Byelaw for the Registration of Food Premises in Mbabane. The document is available for viewing at the Municipal Council of Mbabane reception area front desk, the Eswatini National Library Services Mbabane Branch and on the Council website www.mbabane.org.sz.

The public views and comments are therefore invited and same should be sent to the office of the Information and Public Relations Office through the Council email address: citycouncil@mbacity.org.sz. Submissions should be made between the period of the 14th February to 6th March 2020.

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF OFFICE SECURITY SERVICES TENDER NUMBER: SMVAF006/2019/20

Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund invites sealed Proposals for the Provision of Office Security Services. The 'Request for Proposals' document can be obtained at the Funds offices in Mbabane. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to establish a service agreement to cover a period of two (2) years. Detailed information regarding the terms of reference is available in the 'Request for Proposals' document. This document can be obtained from the MVA Clinic Cashier's office at a non-refundable fee of E500.00.

The Proposal shall consist of a Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal, which shall be in separate sealed envelopes marked "Technical Proposal - TENDER NUMBER: SMVAF006/2019/20" and "Financial Proposal - TENDER NUMBER: SMVAF006/2019/20", respectively. The two envelopes must be enclosed in a sealed outer envelope, which shall be marked: "Request for Proposal: Provision of Office Security Services - Do Not Open before 12.00 (noon) on 13th March 2020" and addressed to "The Procurement Committee, Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund. Failure to mark the envelope clearly and accurately may result in rejection of the application.

To be eligible for consideration for this proposal, a tenderer should provide in its proposal the documents specified in "Instructions to Tenderers", including the following:

- Certified copy of valid Trading License,
- Original/Valid Tax Compliance Certificate,
- Certified copy of current Labour Compliance Certificate,
- Certified copy of Current Swaziland National Provident Fund Certificate,
- Certified copy of Form J and Form C (Company Ownership and Shareholding)
- Audited Financial Statements for the past 3 years,
- Names and Contacts of at least (3) Reference Customers,
- Certified copy of a Certificate of Incorporation,
- Certified copy of Police Clearance for All company Directors,
- Certified copy of proof of Legal Joint Venture (where necessary),
- General receipt (E500.00) for proof of payment of the tender document.

There will be a compulsory site inspection of Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Fund facilities. No company will be evaluated without this tour. The site tour will be on the 12th February 2020 at 0900 hrs starting from the SMVAF Conference room.

The Proposal must be delivered at the 4th Floor, Finance Office at the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Fund, Mbabane at the latest by 12.00pm on the 13th March 2020. Late tenders, as well as tenders received by telegram, facsimile, email or similar medium will not be considered. Tenders received in time by the latest date and time for submission will be opened at Fund's Offices at 12.15pm on the 13th March 2020. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

Requests for clarifications, which must be in writing, should be addressed, via email, to procurement@mva.org.sz. The Fund will strive to promptly respond in writing via e-mail to any requests for clarification up until close of business on 6th March 2020. Written copies of the Fund's response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of inquiry) will be sent to all prospective Bidders.



SENATE PRESIDENT SPEAKS AHEAD OF BUDGET SPEECH

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

SENATORS are looking forward to a budget that will improve the well-being of Emaswati as well as improve the economy of the country.

Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini said she hoped government would heed the call by His Majesty King Mswati III to come up with a budget that would improve the welfare of the elderly, as well as improve local produce and the economy of the country.

Despite the constraints in the economy, Dlamini said His Majesty spoke of improving the welfare of the elderly as they contributed in keeping the country intact.

She said the previous year, both houses of Parliament gave priority to bills that would improve the welfare of Emaswati.

"We are looking forward to a budget that seeks to improve the basic needs of Emaswati. This includes bills passed by Parliament which relate to the improvement and availability as well as access of clean water," she said.

In addition to the access of clean water, is the access of roads and their improvement and availability of electricity to every Liswati.

The Senate president further stated that as senators they were looking forward to a budget that would focus on job creation.

This includes allocation of funds that will improve small entrepreneurship in the sense that there will be enough



BUDGET SPEECH: Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini.

funding for small business.

Furthermore, Dlamini said they were also expecting an improvement of the Rural Development Fund (RDF). She said the RDF supports installation of electricity and clean water as well as improves the lives of Emaswati living in rural areas.

Dlamini said she hoped government would come up with plans that would improve the economy.

She said this while quoting the King, where he spoke about reducing the country's dependence on SACU.

"His Majesty further spoke on improving the country's production and improve exporting rate of the country," she said.

The Senate president applauded both houses of Parliament for tirelessly working hard during their first year in the august House.

In 2019, Parliament was able to pass 17 bills of which 14 were directed to the ministry of finance to improve the economy.

Current parly plans to construct a new building

SENATE President Lindiwe Dlamini also touched on improving parliament building.

She said it was in the current Parliament's plans to construct a new building that would accommodate more people.

Dlamini said the current building was unable to accommodate the current numbers.

She said this was because the current building was constructed at a time when the country had less constituencies.

"Currently, the number of tinkhundla doubled hence there are more members of Parliament," she said.

She added that the new building must be able to accommodate dignitaries which the current one is unable to.

The senate president also mentioned that as parliamentarians, they were looking forward to passing laws that would boost the moral of the country.

She said they would not be influenced by outside forces to pass laws that would corrupt the nation. She condemned nations that consider their laws as superior and want to influence the system of governance of the country.

Man's jaw dislocated by brother for condemning incest

BY BONCIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A man had to undergo a jaw surgery after he was punched by his elder brother.

Mangaliso Innocent Ngwenya (27) of Nsuka narrated how he sustained the jaw dislocation in the hands of his older brother Mlungisi Ngwenya (34) on December 29, 2019.

The matter was before Magistrate Nelisiwe Hlophe at the Mliba Circuit Court on Monday.

When leading evidence, Mangaliso alleged that the bone of contention was that he (Mangaliso) had confronted and warned his brother to cease from having sexual relations with their niece, a minor.

Mangaliso said he tried to reason with his brother by making him understand that what he was doing was wrong.

Mangaliso said he told his brother that he would take him to task if he (brother) does not stop the incest.

Though Mlungisi had tried to manhandle Mangaliso in response to the mini-lecture he received, the witness said he managed to flee and headed home, since they lived at separate homesteads but very close to each other.

"I went home to take my bag

before I headed to a bar.

However, when I passed by Mlungisi's home he pounced on me before and threw a rain of punches on my lower jaw," stated Mangaliso.

Mlungisi allegedly further assaulted his younger brother with fists in the ear, and thus dislocated his jaw.

Mangaliso stated that one of his siblings who witnessed the scuffle gave him some money to go to Dvokolwako Health Centre where he was examined.

Mangaliso said he was referred to the Mbabane Government Hospital, where he had braces installed to tighten the jaw.

Mangaliso said he had not provoked his brother save for that he warned and tried to reason with him to stop sleeping with their niece. He added that he was sure of this as the niece confirmed and another member of the family had caught them red-handed.

"I asked my niece about it after I had my own suspicions and she confirmed. In addition to this, she had a love bite in her neck," stated Mangaliso.

The veracity of these allegations is yet to be tested in court. The matter was adjourned and Mlungisi was remanded in custody pending finalisation of the matter.

Govt dedicated to minimise cancer deaths among children

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE ministry of health under Eswatini Cancer Registry has dedicated the month of February to childhood cancer awareness.

Eswatini Cancer Registry Data Manager Lomalanga Hlophe said the department noted with great sadness that a lot of children's lives had been lost through cancer in the country.

Hlophe said the deaths were regrettable as most of them were due to late diagnosis yet there are 80 per cent chances of childhood cancer to be cured as compared to adult cancer.

The data is taken from the ages of zero to 14 years.

She added that most childhood cancers were inherited.

She said the most common cancers among children was the eye cancer referred to as retinoblastoma, kidney cancer and leukaemia found in the body's blood-forming tissues.

"Unfortunately these cancers do not form sores which sometimes help to identify symptoms of cancer," she said.

Hlophe urged parents to pay attention to certain cancer symptoms in their children.

These include but not limited to fever, chills, night sweats, feeling

exhausted or weak and losing weight.

Kidney cancer symptoms include blood in children's urine, pain in one side of the lower back that isn't caused by an injury, a lump on one side of the child's lower back, feeling tired all the time, a low appetite and fever that doesn't go away.

She said in most cases, children who have cancer would be unable to walk.

She added that the most reoccurring challenge is that parents delay in seeking medical attention of their children and try home remedies or over the counter medication.

"Delay in seeking medical attention leads to late diagnosis and increases the rate of deaths caused by childhood cancer," she said.

To reduce the rate of childhood cancer deaths, Hlophe said the Cancer Registry with the ministry of health during the month of February is equipping all healthcare professionals on how they could quickly identify cancer symptoms in children.

Hlophe said if healthcare professionals were equipped with the necessary skills, they would diagnose correctly hence reducing deaths cases by cancer.

She further pleaded with parents to monitor their children's growth and behaviours so that they could easily dictate if there is anything unusual.

HAWANE DAM OVER-SPILLING

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

FOLLOWING the recent rains that were experienced by the country mostly in Mbabane, Hawane Dam is reportedly over-spilling.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy Director of Water Affairs Trevor Shongwe said this was due to the rains that were experienced by the country.

However, water levels in some of the country's dams have decreased.

Hawane Dam is the major supplier of water for Mbabane and surrounding areas.

Worth noting is that the dam in 2015 reached zero per cent capacity when the country was faced with the El Nino-induced drought.

"As of yesterday (Monday) Hawane Dam recorded the highest level of 100 per cent and it is currently over spilling," he said.

He added that the situation had been prevailing over the past three weeks. He stated that over the last week, Lubovane Dam rose by 0.7 per cent moving from 93.7 per cent that was recorded on February 3, to 94.4 per cent, which was recorded yesterday.

The dam draws water from the Mhlathuzane River and Great Usuthu

River, and it is located at Siphofaneni in the Lubombo region.

Lubovane Dam has a storage capacity of 155 million cubic metres.

Luphohlo Dam levels slightly improved as compared to February 3, 2020. The dam recorded 93.5 per cent while yesterday it recorded 94.78 per cent.

Meanwhile, Maguga and Mnjoli dams showed a slight decline.

On February 3, Maguga Dam was sitting at 72.67 per cent and yesterday it was sitting at 72.17 per cent. Mnjoli Dam is currently at 55.45 per cent, while at the beginning of February it was at 55.83 per cent.

Mnjoli Dam supplies water to the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) for the irrigation of sugar cane.

Water status in the country's main dams:

Name of dam	Storage in January 27, 2020 in Percentages	Storage in February 3, 2020 in Percentages	Storage in February 10, 2020
Mnjoli	57.2157.21	55.83	55.45
Lubovane	93.10	93.72	94.42
Maguga	71.30	72.67	72.17
Hawane	100	99	100 (Over spilling)
Luphohlo	95.65	93.50	94.78

MAN HELPS WIFE GIVE BIRTH IN KOMBI

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlanguano

A man found himself playing the midwifery role when assisting his wife to give birth inside a kombi.

Sibusiso Tito Mkhabela (39) of Makhosini outside Nhlanguano assisted his wife Makhosazana (nee Myeni) to give birth last week Sunday.

It was 6pm when Mkhabela's wife started experiencing labour pains while at home, thus she had to be rushed to hospital.

As it was a Sunday, public transport is normally scarce, 50 Mkhabela had to make a plan on how his wife would be rushed to hospital as she was groaning in pain. Confused on what to do, he called his friend, a kombi driver, and requested him to rush his wife to Nhlanguano Health Centre.

However, upon reaching the health centre, they were advised that the woman had to be taken to Hlatikulu Government Hospital.

It was while the woman was transported to Hlatikulu that she was heard screaming while sweating profusely that Mkhabela had to apply the unpolished skills of midwifery where he covered the lower part of her body and started to advise her to push.

This happened while the kombi was in motion as the driver wanted to make sure they made it to the hospital quickly. However, with the help of her husband, she gave birth 12 kilometres away from the hospital.

"We were four in the kombi but the driver and conductor watched while I was busy in the back seat trying to comfort my wife and praying that we make it on time to hospital. We were passing KaMdabula when she screamed and I had to cover her lower part of the body as a watery like substance came out-



FOR THE LOVE:
Sibusiso Tito Mkhabela who assisted his wife give birth inside a kombi on Sunday.

I FEEL LIKE A HERO - FATHER

MKHABELA said assisting his wife deliver a baby in a kombi made him an instant hero.

The next day, both the mother and baby returned home.

"It's not usual for a man to assist his wife give birth inside a moving vehicle. I found myself in that situation as there was no one else equal to that task," said Mkhabela.

Meanwhile, the kombi driver Lucky Dube confirmed that he rushed the couple to hospital.

"The woman gave birth inside the kombi along the way to hospital.

Tito assisted her as I was speeding with the hope of making it on time to hospital. However, the baby was delivered before reaching there," said Dube.

MAN LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT

The man who assisted his wife give birth inside a kombi is desperate to get employment.

Sibusiso Tito Mkhabela is relying on piece jobs to earn a living.

He said even his wife was not in gainful employment, which made it difficult for the family to make ends meet. "Life is tough and we survive

through the grace of God. I am willing to work anywhere as I am the head of the family who also has to be a provider," said Mkhabela. Mkhabela said he was in a dilemma on where resources would come from for the family. "I have a driving licence but this does not assist me as I am still struggling," said Mkhabela.

from her. I noticed that the baby was coming and the kombi driver accelerated with the hope of making it to hospital before worse happened," said Mkhabela.

A few minutes later, his wife delivered the baby.

"We proceeded to Hlatikulu Government

Hospital in order for the baby boy to be monitored, get professional medical assistance and to see if he was healthy," said Mkhabela.

Mkhabela said at the hospital, they were warmly received and baby Mawande was given a clean bill of health by the healthcare professionals.

Woman (21) tells of horrifying abuse by jealous boyfriend

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
MANZINI

A 21-year-old female was assaulted, stabbed, fondled and forced to ingest some tablets by her jealous boyfriend.

Mlungisi Khulile Dlamini (26) of Hlane under Chief Hadane was arrested and charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act No.15 of 2018 for allegedly doing the aforementioned violations against the mother of his child, *Rose.

The incident happened on January 17 at KaBen. Dlamini appeared before Magistrate Nelisiwe Hlophe at the Mliba Circuit Court on Monday.

According to the charge sheet, Dlamini allegedly intentionally stabbed the woman with a screw driver on the neck and further assaulted her with fists and kicks several times all over the body.

Narrating to the court how she ended up being violated by her lover, Rose said she was from Mliba when she alighted from a public transport at KaBen, where Dlamini was waiting for her.

The 21-year-old said she was asked

where she was from and she informed her lover that she was from Mliba as proved by some groceries she was carrying. Dlamini, according to Rose, did not believe her so he kept asking her the same thing while walking with her. Rose said she was heading home since she also had some tablets belonging to her grandfather.

However, things escalated when Rose was supposed to take a turn home. Dlamini allegedly forced her into a dirt road leading to a forest while assaulting her with fists. He allegedly further bit her on the right cheek and she bled profusely.

While in the forest, Dlamini allegedly wielded a screw driver to induce submission when he ordered that Rose slept facing upwards. When she complied, Dlamini proceeded to abuse her. "He then stabbed me with the screw driver on the neck and throttled me. I tried to wrestle him but he overpowered me since I was weak from the profuse bleeding," Rose told the court.

As if that was not enough, Dlamini proceeded to drag Rose to another forest where he ransacked through the gro-

cery bag that she had carried.

From the bag, Dlamini allegedly took the tablets meant for her grandfather and forced her to ingest them using a soft drink to wash them down. Shockingly, after Rose had ingested the tablets, Dlamini forcefully had sexual intercourse with her before leaving her for dead.

"I tried to get up but failed. I kept trying until I managed to stagger to a Matsenjwa homestead where I asked that they called the police for me," stated Rose.

The same family assisted in calling my brother who made means to get transport to ferry her to hospital. As a result of the stabbing on the neck, the woman said she had challenges swallowing as her throat was affected as well. During cross-examination, Dlamini asked where exactly Rose had gone to and she maintained that she went to Mliba where she coincidentally met her other boyfriend.

The matter is pending before Magistrate Hlophe, and Dlamini was remanded in custody pending its finalisation.

SOBER DRIVER ABANDONED ME - DD OFFENDER

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man who was found sleeping in his car was shocked that his sober driver had abandoned him at the side of the road.

This left Nkosinathi Mahlangu with no choice but to drive himself home, only to be apprehended by police officers for having driven his vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

"I had asked a friend of mine to be my sober driver, only for him to abandon me at the side of the road.

Upon waking up from my nap, I discovered that I was left to fend for myself and drive home. It was only until I was apprehended by police officers that I discovered that I was way above the legal alcohol limit," Mahlangu explained. Mahlangu was nabbed while driving his Isuzu

LDV at Makhlokholo, by police officers.

When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, he was found to have a blood alcohol content reading of 1.11 mg/l, thus exceeding the legal alcohol limit of 0.38 mg/l.

Appearing before acting Magistrate Simo Simelane, the judicial officer warned Mahlangu against putting himself and other motorists in danger. "You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to be responsible in your actions.

You cannot place yourself in danger for only a few beers.

Also, find yourself another sober driver who will do exactly what you hire him to do," the judicial officer warned.

After considering that Mahlangu was a family man with five children, he was sentenced to serve one year in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 000.

ELDERLY MAN (63) CAUSES ACCIDENT WHILE RUSHING FOR WORK

IN what may be deemed as a series of unfortunate events, an elderly man found himself in more trouble than he bargained for when he drove his vehicle while drunk.

63-year-old Shadrack Tsela explained that he was rushing for work when he bumped into a Ford Ranger near the Hilltop traffic circle.

"I had been drinking the night before and I was not aware that there was still alcohol in my system. As I drove towards the traffic circle, I made a poor judgement call one which resulted in the accident. I apologise to the owner of the car I knocked into," Tsela pleaded.

Tsela had been driving his Nissan LDV while under the influence of alco-

hol. When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, he was found to have a blood alcohol content reading of 1.56 mg/l.

Tsela, while under the influence of alcohol, then proceeded to collide head-on with a Ford Ranger, driven by Zanele Maseko.

He failed to apply his brakes timeously, and further failed to avoid an accident. After submitting a guilty plea, Tsela was sentenced to serve 15 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 600, on both counts.

His sentences were wholly suspended for one year, on condition that he was not to commit similar offences during that period.



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 nceleicious@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.



ENJOYED: Friends from Nelspruit in a jovial mood at Festival.



Xolani Khoza came all the way from South Africa for the Buganu Festival.



Olga Mhlongo posing for the camera during the event.

Domestic, regional tourists going for Hlane

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

TOURISTS from all over the country and some parts of South Africa have vowed to attend the Buganu Festival at the Hlane Royal Residence.

This was ascertained from those who attended the Buganu Festival over the past weekend at Buhleni Royal Residence.

Most tourists were interested in the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) stand at the festival, where promotional material was distributed. This year's ETA stand was manned by Nontsikelelo Mazibuko and Khethiwe Dlamini. This is what some of the tourists had to say:

Thando and Hlobisile (Nelspruit) – “We just responded to the King's call to come and enjoy the festival. We love the fact that there are tents here and lots of people.

“We stayed at a friend's house at Herefords, but we will leave for South Africa. However, we are definitely coming back for the Hlane Festival.”

Shyaka Emmanuel Young (Rwanda) – “I came for a workshop last week and I have decided to explore

the culture of the country. I have enjoyed myself because the country has very nice people.

We are staying at Upper Room in Mbabane and the staff there is absolutely amazing and the service is impeccable.”

Edward Boduah (Ghana) – “The country has been great since my arrival last week. I have witnessed hospitable people only.

“The culture is quite beautiful. There is minimal crime and we have been walking around without fear.

“The country is peaceful, there is unity, respect for people. I am glad we got to pay homage to the King and the Royal family during this festival.”

Abdon Atwine (Uganda) – “The country has been wonderful, especially on the security aspect. The people here are caring and the country's reputation is definitely uplifted in my opinion.”

Xolani Khoza (South Africa) – “I feel like I am a Liswati, and that is why I came to the kingdom just for this day and I will be returning to South Africa today. I love the King, umbutfo and the African culture.”

Zethu Makama (Nelspruit) – “I

was born in Eswatini, but I now live in South Africa. I love my culture and heritage as I decorate *emahiya* for the South African market. I have enjoyed myself, especially because I came with five friends.”

Olga Mhlongo (Nelspruit) – “My friends and I danced until our feet hurt. It was really fun and because our friend, Zethu, is a liSwati, it made it so much easier for us to belong and participate in the festivities. We slept at the George Hotel in Manzini and it has been good.”

We are staying at Upper Room in Mbabane and the staff there is absolutely amazing and the service is impeccable



Thando and Hlobisile from Nelspruit could not miss out.



Shyaka Emmanuel Young from Rwanda, Edward Boduah from Ghana and Abdon Atwine from Uganda said they had fun at the event.

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KFC ESWATINI TO CELEBRATE 37 YEARS

BY NONCCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

KFC to celebrate 37 years of successful operations in Eswatini.

With about eight branches of the internationally renowned brand in the country, KFC will be celebrating good years of fruitfulness.

Manzini Regional Manager Raymond Hlatshwako stated that the existence of the franchise has had a positive impact in the country, mostly the job creation opportunities that it has brought forth.

Hlatshwako mentioned that the franchise had also made a huge mark in the economy of the country in various ways. “Our food is loved all over the world and the Kingdom of Eswatini has not been an exception in that aspect,” he said. He added that reaching 37 years of operation simply means that they are greater years for the brand ahead.



Hlatshwako stated that he strongly believes that there would be more branches to be opened in the regions of the country. However, the regional

manager stated that parking space was the main challenge at KFC Manzini because their clientele was growing on a daily basis.

ALL SET FOR EPILEPSY WEEKEND EVENTS

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

IT'S all set for the Eswatini Epilepsy Organisation (EEO) event scheduled for the weekend aimed at celebrating and highlighting problems faced by people living with epilepsy.

This was said by EEO Executive Director Mbusomuni Mahlalela.

In celebration of this year's International Epilepsy Day, the Eswatini Epilepsy Organisation has organised a Valentine's dinner and an epilepsy marathon.

"Every year, the organisation celebrates under the theme

'The Yellow week of Epilepsy'. This day is mostly celebrated on the second week of February and it shall be so even this year," said Mahlalela.

He said they would be discussing what the organisation is all about, educating the nation on epilepsy and also disseminating information on future plans of the organisation.

Mahlalela revealed that they would

have the yellow Valentine's Day dinner on Friday at the Adega Restaurant.

The executive director stated that the dinner was aimed at raising awareness around the issues of epilepsy at the workplace and at school.

"Our target market are the decision makers and supporters of the association.

We want to make them conscious on certain matters that they may face with epileptic people.

For example, a driver can be involved in an accident and when you investigate the matter, you may find that the driver was sober.

Reveal

Investigating the health aspect might reveal that this was an epileptic person.

Those are some of the things we will address," said the director.

Adding, Mahlalela said during the dinner, they would also focus on the best dressed guests, who will be awarded later in the night.

"So people are advised to dress to impress," stated the director.



EEO Executive Director
Mbusomuni Mahlalela.

On Sunday, EEO will have an epilepsy marathon hosted at the epilepsy centre at Sikhuphe with four categories. The walk will start at six in the morning; 3.3km, 5km, 12km and 21km. Everyone is welcome to join in on the walk at a fee. Mahlalela said they were expecting runners and people who would like to join just to exercise.

FIRE ENGULFS ESWATINI BANK STAFF HOUSES

BY STARKSKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

HUGE flames of fire caused panic among the EswatiniBank staff houses premises in Nhlangano last Wednesday evening.

There was also fear that the other buildings, including shops such as OBC Better Butchery close by, could catch fire.

The mysterious fire caught a mobile house operating as a storeroom for items, including personal belongings for the bank's employees.

While there was no clear explanation as to what actually caused the fire, claims are that burning of garbage led to children playing with the fire.

It is said the children were next to the garbage pit and they started playing around the mobile house carrying papers and it was torched. Neighbours noticed flames within the premises and raised an alarm.

The occupants in all the staff houses came out immediately and were shocked.

Fire personnel and police arrived while members of the public also crowded the place.

The fire brigade battled with the fire for some time.

On the other hand, police interviewed almost all the occupants of the staff



Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

houses and other relatives on what could have caused the incident.

"We still don't know what actually happened.

At first we thought it was an arson attack but later we gathered that children were seen playing with the fire which was meant to burn the garbage. Fortunately, there were no casualties," said one of the occupants. Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident, saying the matter was being investigated.

"We are not sure of the damages as that is something which can be explained by the owners of that property," said Vilakati.

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Vacancy Executive Director Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC)

The Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) is an entity established in terms of Section 62 of the Industrial Relations Act of 2000 (as amended) for the resolution of disputes through Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.

Main purpose

To provide strategic leadership and guidance to CMAC management and staff with sound management policies and procedures in accordance with the relevant labour relations statutes.

Also, to provide sound financial and human resources management to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, as well as promote CMAC's ability to deliver on the expectations set by Government, organised employers and organised labour in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Key Performance areas

- Develop and maintain with the Board, strategic plans for the Commission and implement such plans to the best abilities of the organisation.
- Ensure the implementation of approved strategic and business plans within budget as set out by the board within specified periods.
- Make sure that CMAC as an organisation operates to its full capacity in terms of the organisation's responsibilities, its development and functioning, emphasizing the promotion of labour peace in the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- Provide high-level policy legislative options, orientations and discussions for consideration by the Board.
- Lead management staff to achieve organisational as well as individual objectives and set sound management, administrative and financial controls.
- Develop and present appropriate organisational policies and present these to the Board for approval.
- The development and implementation of appropriate performance measures to drive, guide and also assess the overall performance of CMAC.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor of Laws Degree or equivalent from a recognised tertiary institution.
- MBA/MBL or Equivalent Postgraduate Degree.
- 6 years relevant experience in an executive or senior management role.

Key Competencies

- Very good communication, people management, public speaking and presentation skills.
- Strategic/analytical thinking, strategy development and advanced financial management.
- Computer literacy and time management skills.

Closing date for receipt of applications 27 February 2020.

Late applications shall not be accepted. Should you not receive further correspondence within one month of the closing date, please consider your application to be unsuccessful.

Written applications clearly stating the position applied for accompanied by a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of academic certificates should be submitted to:

The Recruitment Manager
KPMG Advisory Swaziland (Pty) Ltd
Umkhwa House, Lot 195
Kal Grant Street, Mbabane

Email: recruitment@kpmg.co.sz



NORTHERN HHOHO NEWS

...With
Sizwe Dlamini

Pigg's Peak Office

➔ Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
Office No:3

➔ Tel: 2437 1083 Cell: 7806 3590
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz

Top Two Security offers armed body guards

PIGG'S Peak based security guard company, Top Two Security (TTS) is now offering highly trained and armed body guards to high level security clients and their families.

The company employs more than 400 trained security guards. They shot to fame when one of their armed personnel managed to shoot four armed men who attacked a businessman at Mshingishingini in late 2019.

During that incident, security guard managed to shoot the criminals leading to two of them suffering fatal bullet wounds.

After that incident, Top Two administration stepped up their security guard personnel training by introducing multiple shooting training exercises.

In addition to the shooting exercises, the security company opened a special ranger division complete with rifles to secure large areas of land like game parks, farms and commercial forests.

Top Two Operations Manager Nkosazana

Mhlanga said the company works with the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) who provide valuable expertise during safety exercises.

"As we said last week, our organisation offers highly skilled security guards who can also be used as body guards if the client desires. By body guard we mean security personnel who will travel with the client or clients' family on continuous bases.

As we can all remember, Top Two Security acquired a large inventory of licensed firearms of all sizes and ranges in the last few years. This has been done to offer the best protection for our valuable clients who are stationed around the kingdom.

We would like to repeat the statement that all the firearms are registered and are licensed to be in the Kingdom of Eswatini but for security reasons the number of the firearms will remain private," she said.

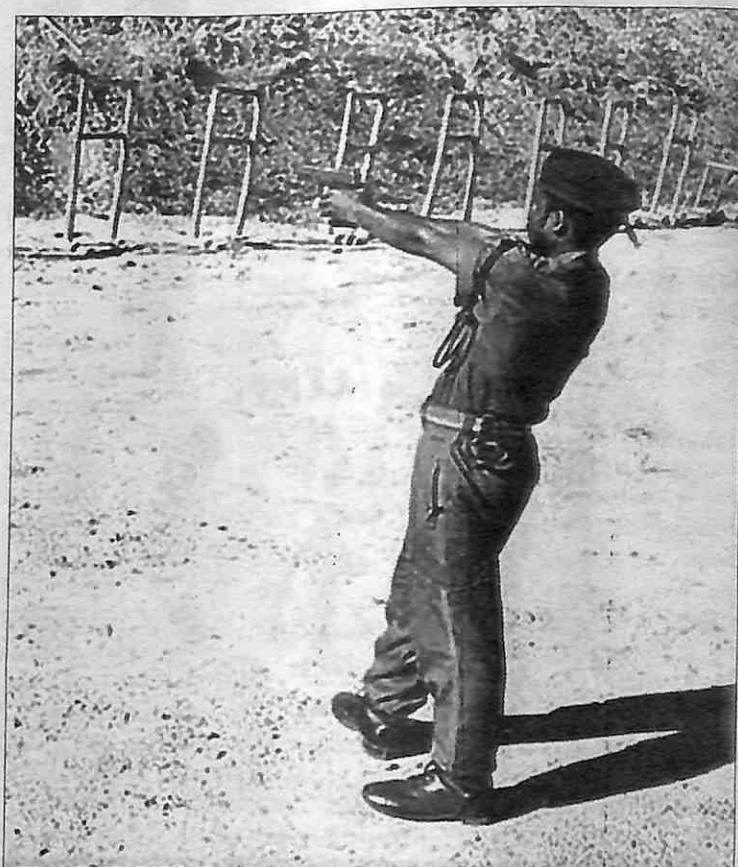
Mhlanga said in addition to owning the

firearms, the organisation also trains personal on how to best defend their clients based on situational awareness.

"It is very important for the security personnel to know how to operate the firearm so that the client remains safe. We also offer security guards who don't possess firearms. These individuals are trained on how to defend the client and the client's property using the latest defence techniques like hand to hand combat.

Our organisation believes that prevention is better than cure, hence we pride ourselves on researching all the latest security guard techniques with the help of the police who we see as our partners in the fight against crime.

"It is very encouraging to see the company grow from its humble beginnings in 2014. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Philani Mswati for granting us the opportunity to continue securing the annual Biggest Braai which is a very important annual event," she added.



SHOOTS: A Top Two Security guard being trained on how to use a hand-held firearm at a secluded location.

BOTHO UNIVERSITY RETURNS TO PIGG'S PEAK

THE new BOTHO University from Botswana has returned to speak to the youth of Pigg's Peak.

The university that awards free scholarships to the best performing pupils in Form Five examinations in Eswatini, commenced its operation in 2019 after being accredited by the Eswatini Higher Education Council (EHEC).

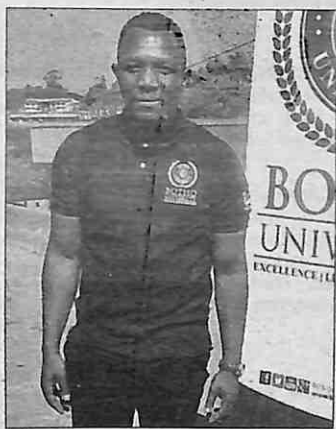
The university was founded in 1997 and has campuses in Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana.

Speaking yesterday, Admissions Officer (AO) at Botho University Majaha Nkonyane said the institution offered undergraduate and post-graduate programmes at its Eswatini campus at the Riverstone Mall in Manzini.

"As we have said before, Botho University began operations in Eswatini in 2019 and we have campuses in Namibia, Lesotho and Botswana where the university was founded.

We want to introduce the university to as many people, which is why today we were invited back to Pigg's Peak by Educational Youth Empowerment (EYE) body.

Pigg's Peak is listed as a major area of interest because it does not possess very good schools that mould many young minds. Let me also mention that pupils who performed well in the 2019 Form Five examinations will be awarded scholar-



RETURNS: Admissions Officer at Botho University Majaha Nkonyane in Pigg's Peak.

ships to the university after passing our terms and conditions.

However, I cannot reveal the figure," he said.

Nkonyane added that Botho University was proud of its popular online black board programme that gave learners many online or digital modules.

"Botho University has seen success after launching our online education centre known as the black board programme. This programme will give scholars a virtual classroom. This feature will allow learners who are employed to receive lectures from their homes via the internet," he added.

Shafi retrieves 18th spitting cobra in Pigg's Peak

ASIAN businessman and part-time snake catcher, Sharafat Ali Shafi used his bare hands to retrieve his 18th spitting cobra.

The aforementioned snake, which is most venomous, was retrieved at the Pigg's Peak Club over the weekend.

When asked how many snakes he had retrieved in Pigg's Peak since late 2017, Shafi said he had lost count but he believed that this was his 18th.

"I received a phone call from a woman who does not want to be named. She lives near the Pigg's Peak Club. The woman had phoned me once before to aid her remove a spitting cobra from her home in early 2019. This time the woman phoned to tell me that there was another snake at the gate of the Pigg's Peak Club.

I used my own transport from my shop and I raced to the scene to retrieve the snake before anybody killed it. Also, during the phone call the woman told me that the snake was moving quickly as it feared the sounds being made by all the humans near the club," he said.

Shafi added that when he arrived at the scene, the snake had disappeared and he spent more than 20 minutes trying to locate it.

"The problem is snakes often hide because of fear, so when a person sees a snake it is very important that that same person watches to see where the snake disappears to because spitting cobras are venomous and they can bite



RETRIEVES: Businessman and part-time snake catcher Sharafat Ali Shafi who rescued another spitting cobra in Pigg's Peak over the weekend. (Courtesy pic)

if somebody steps on them by mistake. With this in mind, I arrived at the scene and searched for the snake. Luckily, there was a security guard nearby who saw the snake slither under some rocks.

I approached the area and used a stick to remove the rocks. As usual, the snake sensed my presence and spat at my eyes but I managed to avoid the venom. I used a long stick to hold the snake down while I safely picked it up on the neck without strangling it.

The snake was less than one metre long, hence I believe it was still a juvenile snake.

I was very happy that the reptile was safe and unharmed. As we speak, I have already released the snake back into the

wild at the forests near Bulembu where it is safe away from people," he added.

When reached for comment, the woman who phoned Shafi to retrieve the snake said she would continue calling Shafi because people usually believed in killing snakes instead of removing them safely.

Meanwhile, snake expert at the Eswatini Anti-Venom Foundation, Thesha Litschka-Koen said over 200 venomous snake bites occurred in the kingdom during the summer season.

Litschka-Koen added that about 80 per cent of the 200 snake bites were caused by the deadly Mozambique spitting cobra that actively hunted inside people's houses during the night.

Municipal Council chambers to be used for court cases

STORIES BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE
Mbabane

THE Municipal Council of Mbabane premises was abuzz with activity as people were spotted moving up and down the corridors attending their court cases last Thursday.

This was hardly a day after the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala conducted a tour of the municipal council offices after reaching an agreement that they would use some of the council spaces to conduct court proceedings.

The CJ hinted that there was an agreement between the Judiciary and council to turn the chambers into a Magistrate's Court.

Maphalala said they decided to engage the municipality concerning the facilities because the country was short of courtrooms.

The CJ said they would appreciate to use the municipal chambers from Monday to Friday. Maphalala toured the council chambers with officials from the High Court.

Law Society mum on new court space

SOME sectors of society have frowned at the stance by the Municipal Council of Mbabane to give working space to the Mbabane Magistrate's Courts.

Some were of the view that there could be conflict of interest in the process. One expert in the field of law applauded the municipal council for coming to the rescue of the Magistrate's Courts, but feared that there could be conflict of interest in due course.

"We hope the Judicial system will not be lenient when called to deal with matters that involve the council. As we all know that you cannot bite the hand that feeds you," he said.

Law Society of Swaziland Secretary

Thulani Maseko declined to comment on the matter for now, stating that they would only discuss it once they meet as an association.

"As much as I would like to make a comment on the matter but please allow us to meet first as a society, then we would release a formal statement.

"The granting of office space to Magistrate's Courts by the council would definitely be discussed in our meeting," said Maseko.

The shortage of courtrooms is not a new thing as one of the local dailies once a published a story of a magistrate captured working inside his vehicle. The magistrate was seen seated in the vehicle, a Toyota double cab.

Municipal Council of Mbabane spokesperson Lucky Tsabedze confirmed the latest developments, stating

that court proceedings were conducted immediately after the CJ toured the chambers last Wednesday.

DRUNK MEN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING FATHER

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

BONGANI Mabuza (27), who admitted to having imbibed on marula brew, was arrested at the Mkhuzweni Health Centre facility.

This was after he fought his father Major Mabuza (64) at Mpofu on Friday evening.

Bongani was hospitalised for 24 hours after his father assaulted him on the head with a knobkerrie in self-defence.

Bongani, who had a bandage on the head while appearing at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court on Monday, said he was intoxicated when he fought his elderly father.

"My father wanted me to close the homestead gate when I was in a hurry to get more marula at a nearby homestead.

In anger I attacked my father by

pushing him to the ground. I then picked up a rock but my father used his knobkerrie to strike me once on the head, rendering me unconscious.

I then woke up at the Mkhuzweni Health Centre hours later. On Saturday evening, I was arrested for the incident. I still love my father as I live at his homestead," he said.

After hearing the submission, Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe gave Bongani a suspended sentence for the assault of his father.

"You are living at your father's homestead so you have to live by his rules. I want you to apologise to him. Then I will sentence you to one year in a correctional facility if you fail to pay the E2 000 fine for assaulting your father.

However, I will suspend your sentence for three years provided you don't assault your father again," he said.

15 ARRESTED FOR DD FROM BUHLENI

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

THE Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court heard how 15 individuals with very high alcohol content were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol at Buhleni over the weekend.

While sentencing the aforementioned individuals, Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe said the high blood alcohol content was caused by the potent *buganu* brew that was on sale at the festival.

Appearing before him first was Zethu Dlamini who was arrested after she drove her BMW under the influence of alcohol.

When police stopped Dlamini and administered a breathalyser test, she was found to have a blood alcohol content of 2.0mg.



This reading was five times above the legal limit of 0.38ml.

Dlamini said she was intoxicated because she had imbibed on Savannah on an empty stomach, a claim that Hlophe dismissed while sentencing her to 12 months in a correctional facility if she failed to pay the E2 000 fine for the incident. Sicelo Dlamini also appeared before the magistrate, he pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested after driving his Honda Fit while intoxicated on Saturday afternoon. At the time of his arrest, Sicelo was found to have a blood alcohol content of 1.64ml.

hol content of 1.64ml.

Hlophe sentenced Sicelo to 12 months in a correctional facility if he failed to pay the E2 000 fine.

Other people arrested for drink-driving were a Mercedes Benz driver Ncamiso Mabuza, Honda Fit driver Bheki Nkambule, another BMW driver Sabelo Shongwe, Toyota Hilux driver Sanele Mncina, Honda Fit driver Mbongeni Dlamini, Toyota driver Thando Mnyamane, Mazda 2 driver Thando Matsebula, Honda Fit driver Albert Hlophe and another Mazda driver Albert Dlamini, who all pleaded guilty to driving under the influence.

All aforementioned individuals were sentenced to 12 months in a correctional facility if they failed to pay the E2 000 fine. Hlophe added that the sentences were actually lenient as the blood alcohol contents warranted fines of E5 000 and above.



House breaking convicts back in court on fresh charges

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

TWO men of Maphungwane, fresh from serving time at the correctional facility, appeared before the Magistrate's Court after they were arrested for committing a break-in and theft on Monday.

Bongani Ndzimandze (32) and Sandile Matsenjwa (33) appeared before Acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe where they elected to conduct their own defence after they were informed of their right to legal representation.

The accused persons face two counts of house breaking and theft.

On the first count, the accused persons reportedly acted jointly in furtherance of a common purpose and wrongfully and unlawfully broke into a house belonging to Thabile Nhlengetfwa where they proceeded and stole items valued at E4 125.

They face a similar charge on the second count, in that they broke and entered a house of Peter Matsenjwa and stole items valued at E2 850.

When asked on how they intend to plead to the charges, each of

the accused persons stated that they intend to plead not guilty.

The first accused person told the court that they had been arrested merely on false accusations which were influenced by the fact that they had recently served time in prison for a similar offence.

He said some residents from the same community were not happy that they are back in the area, and blamed them for anything that went wrong.

In the meantime, the crown filed an application to have the accused persons remanded into custody pending setting of a date of trial.

Meanwhile, in another matter, Thulani Maziya (28) of Sitsatsaweni faced a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

He wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted Wandile Tsabedze by stabbing him two times on the shoulder.

The complainant sustained serious injuries which saw him being admitted for a day in hospital.

The crown filed an application to have the accused person remanded into custody pending recovery of the complainant.

The matter is expected back in court on Friday.

Man fined E1 000 for assaulting woman at Buhleni

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

MANCOBA Mavuso was fined E1 000 after he pulled a woman by her traditional regalia (*sidvwashi*) before assaulting her using his forehead at Buhleni on Saturday.

The victim Nonhlanhla Ncongwane also claimed that Mavuso threatened to kill her during the public assault.

Mavuso was arrested minutes after the assault and appeared at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court 48 hours later on Monday.

During his appearance, Mavuso claimed to have been hurt by comments made by Ncongwane.

"I was speaking to Ncongwane who was rude to me.

I have a short history with her as she is an old acquaintance but at the festival she made some hurtful remarks to me about my having no money.

Due to the fact that I was intoxicated, I pulled her and used my forehead to rub her face.

I did not mean to injure her in any way," he said.

Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe was lenient with Mavuso, saying he was wrong to assault Ncongwane.

"I will sentence you to five months in a correctional facility if you fail to pay the E1 000 fine for the assault, however, I will suspend your sentence by a period of three years," he said.

Mavuso was arrested minutes after the assault and appeared at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court 48 hours later on Monday.

MINISTER TOURS PHUZUMOYA STRATEGIC OIL RESERVE DEPOT



TOUR: Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Peter Bhembe touring the Phuzumoya Strategic Oil Reserve Depot on Monday, where he was accompanied by his staff. (Pics: Delisa Thwala)



DUO: Motshane MP Robert Magongo and Zombodze Emuva MP Muzi Kunene paying attention.



OKAY: The Minister asking questions during the tour while his PS listens.



FAST: Conco CEO Mark Marucchi briefing the entourage while EEC MD Meshack Kunene looks on.



US TOO: EEC staff were also part of the tour.



ARMS FOLDED: Natural Resources PS Winnie Stewart (r) and staff in full concentration.



HERE IT IS: Health Inspector Thaius explaining to the rest of the team about the health inspections.



TOUR: The entourage listening to briefings at the site.



FIELD : The land to be used to build the power plant.

What's in Your Mind

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Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

ISABEL DOS SANTOS: FEELING THE HEAT OF POWER SHIFT



I have to admit I have a problem. It started in London in the year 2000. My problem is that I don't sleep and if I do, it's only for four hours.

I have just arrived from an 18 hour flight from Johannesburg to Dubai, transit to Seoul, Korea. I am here to attend The World Summit, as a delegate of Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

It must have been midnight when I entered the sheets of Grand Hyatt Hotel bed, and at exactly 4am I am awake and doing my favourite chore; writing and articulating my 50 cents analysis! Yaa!

Besides Trump's impeachment which he obviously won and the China coronavirus—that's been trending for some weeks now, is the news of Isabel Dos Santos, who for the first time, is feeling the heat of power shift!

THE LADY ABOVE ALL LADIES

The word scrutiny and probe are hieroglyphics, let me just say, are foreign or simple say, do not exist in the Oxford dictionary of the 46-year-old multi billionaire, Isabel Dos Santos; the Lady above all ladies in Angola.

This is because Africa's richest woman (born of Russian mother Tatiana Kukanova) is the first born daughter of former Angolan president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who unflinchingly held power for a period spanning four decades!

A deep glance at dos Santos's fierce administration sheds light why the above words would not form part of his daughter's menu. But as they say, that was that, whatever he had, he had!

Her father has lost a tight grip of Angolan politics. But now, as daughter pages through the dictionary, all she is confronted with are the words that defined the fates of others when her father called the shots!

POWERSHIFT

Her father's expiry date came in 2017 as he exited the presidency and like many African despots, he thought his shadow would loom large behind the scenes to influence political discourse.

But the new administration led by President Joao Lourenco said *NADA!* And that was the beginning of the end for his daughter Isabel

as she was removed as board member of influential boards.

And her wealth was put under scrutiny in a lifestyle audit. I guess when the floodgates opened, she dialled her father and said 'Preach Papa.'

PAPA DON'T PREACH

But papa don't preach anymore as he fears his own skeletons will come jumping out of the closet. So he can't be of any assistance! Because power has shifted, it had slipped off the fingers of the 77-year-old former strong man.

He must be cursing in his breath, "Am I dreaming? Is this not my Angola?" Yes it is but the title deed has a new name. Ownership has changed hands.

Just like Mugabe, he would die a bitter man because he never dreamt a day would come when he would be 'ordinary' after being 'extraordinary' for close to 40 years!

EXILE

As we speak, the former president is in unofficial exile in Spain. His son is on corruption trial and Isabel's Angolan assets have been frozen. These are all the ingredients of power shift.

THINK YOU IN HEAVEN BUT YOU LIVE IN HELL

When her father was in power, Isabel, who had greatness thrust upon her, was living in heaven; lavish; in the midst of squalor and abject poverty procured by her father's nearly four decade franchise that controlled all forms of accumulation.

To say oil rich Angola is poor is an understatement of extreme proportion. The Human Development Index paints a gloomy picture of 48 per cent; about 15 million of the 31 million total population live beyond the poverty line.

In fact, 94 per cent of the rural population is extremely poor. This is a country that was ravaged by civil wars for more than 30 years and a horrific administration that plunged state coffers.

**THE SPECIAL ONE**

Isabel; 'The Special One', whose wealth is estimated at \$2.2 billion, spends much of her time in London. She controls interests across Africa, Europe and the Middle East, in banking, telecommunications, TV, cement, diamond, supermarkets and real estates.

The Luanda Leaks alleges that her father used his power of decrees to loot from the state purse to make her the goddess of glitz with luxury cars, super yachts, multi-million luxury residents in London, Monaco, Dubai, Lisbon, Algarve, etc.

ARMAGEDDON

In a BBC interview, obviously denying any wrong doing, she calls it 'Armageddon'—that won't only wound her but will leave permanent scars to the thousands she employed all over the world.

Biblically, 'Armageddon' refers to the place where the last battle between good and evil will be fought. What a fitting quote and I can't help but admire Isabel's sense of humour even under duress.

After all her macho stunts have been exhausted as she tries to 'negotiate' with the president but he bangs the door on her face, "we do not negotiate with the corrupt." He roars giving Angolans a deserved orgasm.

IS IT A CRASH OR JUST TURBULANCES?

The battle has been escalated to war; between the do Santos dynasty and Angolans; who stood and watched as the family loot with impunity.

But one may wonder, if it is really a crash of the dos Santos plane or it is just turbulences as it passes through rough storms. Or it is both!

Of course this will depend on the difference between a shampoo and a body wash.

It is true that Isabel, indiscriminately, seemed to be firing blanks as the vicious bite of the father is no more.

However, the fierce winds and harsh storms are not near a crash even on this bad politi-

cal weather.

Because there seem to be discord between captain and cabin crew, the president and members of the party who benefitted from the previous thuggery.

PAWN

Since we are not kids in napkins, we know that this is not about Isabel per se. She is just a pawn fighting a war she didn't start. This is about her father.

That's the real target of the bullet. The new administration is shaking down the hegemonic structure of the dos Santos dynasty. And Lourenco has to fight with precision.

Since the gloves are now off, he must make sure he stings with corrosive venom. He has to take aim and hit the target, because if he misses, he might have awakened a rattlesnake!

While he gets standing ovation for killing a Goliath, his butt might not enjoy the warmth of the high office chair as he seemed to have drawn bad card with his austerity measures. There is grumbling among ordinary Angolans who are unable to cope with the economic situation.

PRESIDENTIAL SEAT

News that Isabel is eying the presidential seat doesn't sit well with the current administration because her win will be giving the Dos Santos an extended mandate to loot.

But can Angolans, who have suffered severely under the Dos Santos' near 40 year rule, give power back to the slave master? On the surface the answer would be a BIG NO!

POLITICS

But this is politics; in elections anything can happen! This is a billionaire with multiple streams of income, friends in higher places, global influence, etc. And more over, politics is about interests.

And if she draws the eyes of the world-market she can easily be parachuted to the seat of power.

So the seeds have to be viciously plucked before germination!

ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 12

1892 - In the US, President Lincoln's birthday was declared to be a national holiday.

1907 - A collision of the steamer Larchmont and a schooner resulted in the death of more than 300 people. The incident occurred off New England's Block Island.

1909 - The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded.

1912 - China's boy emperor Hsuan T'ung announced that he was abdicating, ending the Manchu Ch'ing dynasty. Subsequently, the Republic of China was established.

1915 - The cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington, DC.

1918 - All theatres in New York City were shut down in an effort to conserve coal.

1924 - US President Calvin Coolidge made the first presidential political speech on radio.

1924 - "The Eveready Hour" became radio's first sponsored network program. The National Carbon Company was the first sponsor of a network show.

1934 - The Export-Import Bank was incorporated.

1940 - Mutual Radio presented the first broadcast of the radio play "The Adventures of Superman."

1968 - "Soul on Ice" by Eldridge Cleaver was published for the first time.

1971 - James Cash (J.C.) Penney died at the age of 95. The company closed for business for one-half day as a memorial to the company's founder.

1973 - The State of Ohio went metric, becoming the first in the U.S. to post metric distance signs.

1973 - American prisoners of war were released for the first time during the Vietnam conflict.

1985 - Johnny Carson surprised his audience by shaving the beard he had been wearing on "The Tonight Show."

1993 - In Liverpool, England, a 2-year-old boy, James Bulger, was lured away from his mother at a shopping mall and beaten to death. Two ten-year-old boys were responsible.

1998 - A US federal judge declared that the presidential line-item veto was unconstitutional.

1999 - US President Clinton was acquitted by the US Senate on two impeachment articles. The charges were perjury and obstruction of justice.

2001 - The space probe NEAR landed on the asteroid Eros. It was the first time that any craft had landed on a small space rock.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



Jesse Gordon Spencer (born 12 February 1979) is an Australian actor.



Christina Ricci born (born February 12, 1980) is an American actress and producer.



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

Electronic Communications Act 2013

43. Enforcement of regulations as to sales, etc. by manufacturers and others

(1) 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)(b) of the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Act, 1983, the Commission may serve on a person who has manufactured, assembled or imported that apparatus in the course of business a notice in writing prohibiting that person from selling the apparatus otherwise than for export or offering or advertising that apparatus for sale otherwise than for export or letting that apparatus on hire or offering or advertising that apparatus for letting on hire.

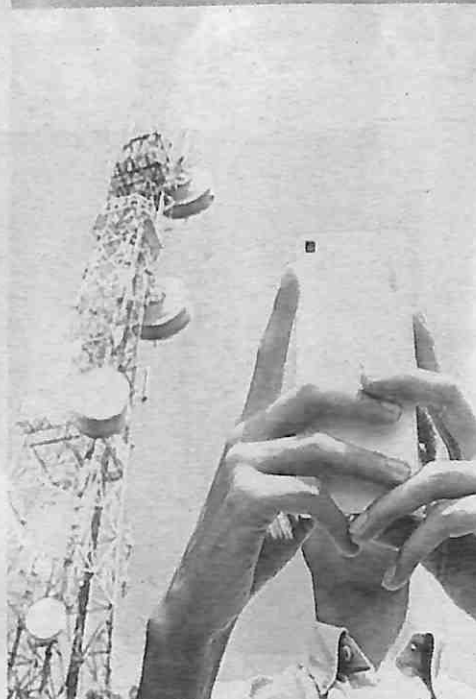
(2) Where a notice has been served under subsection (1), the person on whom the notice has been served may, by notice in writing served on the Commission, require the Commission to refer the matter to the Appeals Board, and the Commission, unless the Commission revokes that notice, shall refer the matter to the Appeals Board.

(3) Upon referring a matter to the Appeals Board under subsection (2), the Appeals Board shall hear the Commission and the person at whose instance the reference was made and any other person appearing to the Appeals Board 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 apparatus in question complies with the requirements applicable to that apparatus under the regulations, shall direct the Commission to revoke the notice, and the Commission shall revoke the notice.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), the making by the Appeals Board of a direction under that subsection shall not, where the apparatus is subsequently altered, prevent the Commission from serving a fresh notice under subsection (1) with respect to the apparatus; and the refusal by the Appeals Board to make a direction under that subsection shall not, where the apparatus is subsequently altered, prevent the Commission from revoking the notice, or the person on whom the notice was served from giving a further notice under subsection (2).

ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS

...unlawful sending of misleading information



apparatus is acting is authorised by the Commission to receive; or

(ii) except in the course of legal proceedings or for the purpose of a report on those legal proceedings, discloses information as to the contents, sender or addressee of a message referred to in subparagraph (1), being information which would not have come to the knowledge of that person but for the use of radio communication apparatus by that person or by another person; commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand (E5 000) emalangenani or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

45. Use or sale, etc. of apparatus in contravention of notice

A person who —

(a) knowing that a notice of the Commission under section 42 is in force with respect to an apparatus, uses that apparatus or causes or permits that apparatus to be used in contravention of the notice; or

(b) having been served with a notice under section 43(1), contravenes that notice prior to a revocation of that notice by the Commission, commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred (E200) emalangenani or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both.

46. Interference with radio communication.

(1) A person who uses an apparatus for the purpose of interfering with a radio communication commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred (E200) emalangenani or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

(2) This section applies whether or not the apparatus in question is radio communication apparatus or apparatus to which a provision of sections 86, 87, 88, 93, 94 and 95 of the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Act, 1983, sections 55 and 56 of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act, 2010, or sections 42 or 43 of this Act, apply, and whether or not a notice under section 91 or 92 has been given with respect to the apparatus or, if given, has been varied or revoked.

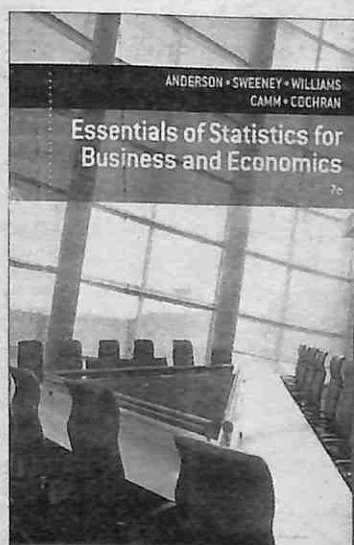
BOOK review



MPAKA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

ESSENTIALS OF STATISTICS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS - BY ANDERSON..ET AL

This edition gives readers the foundation in statistics needed for an edge in today's competitive business world. The authors' signature problem-scenario approach and reader-friendly writing style combines with proven methodologies, hands-on exercises, and real examples to take readers deep into today's actual business problems. Readers learn how to solve problems from an intelligent, quantitative perspective. Streamlined to focus on core topics, this new edition provides the latest updates with new case problems, applications, and self-test exercises to help readers master key formulas and apply statistical methods as they learn them.



ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EDITION BY THOMAS G CUMMINGS

Expert Program Management posit that people resist change in four common ways namely, "[1] when they feel that they, personally, will lose something of value, [2] when they misunderstand the implications of the change, [3] when they assess the situation differently from those initiating the change, and [4] when they have been working the same way successfully for years". Similarly, Paycor identified 5 causes for resistance to change confirming the aforementioned ways namely, Job loss; poor communication and engagement; lack of trust; future is unknown; and poor timing. The book blends rigor and relevance in a comprehensive and clear presentation. The authors work from a strong theoretical foundation to describe, in practical terms, how behavioural science

Cummings & Worley

Organization Development & Change

8th edition

TAIWAN



財團法人國際合作發展基金會

International Cooperation and Development Fund

'GIVING BIRTH TIPS FOR FIRST TIME MOMS'

THE maternal and infant health care promotion programme funded by Taiwan International Cooperation Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), in collaboration with Sexual Reproductive Health Unit under Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, last month discussed a number of topics in their programme aired by the Voice of the Nation every Monday morning.

Some of the topics discussed during the program include the 'Importance of immunisation, the five main deadly diseases and pre-conception care'. Lastly, listeners' questions of 'Immunization' will be answered after introducing the topics above.

Below is a summary of health talks:

SESSION 1: 'IMMUNISATION'

Importance of immunisation:

- Helps to protect the baby against various infections and viruses, e.g. measles, polio, etc.
- Prevents the spreading of diseases from one child to another.
- Prevents autoimmune disorders.
- In cases of impaired immunity or auto-immune conditions, immunisation will hold up against certain diseases.
- Prevents a number of complicated disorders, e.g. from diabetes to osteoarthritis.
- Prevents severe illness and safeguard from the vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Reduces the risk of epidemic diseases.
- Eradicates polio in infants.
- In government hospitals, no amount should be paid for immunisation.

SESSION 2: 'DISEASES PREVENTED BY IMMU-



NISATION"

The five main diseases:

a) Tuberculosis:

- It is highly contagious.
- It is an airborne disease.
- Keep windows open to allow fresh air in the room.

Symptoms;

- Loss weight
- Night sweats.
- High temperature.
- Cough with blood in sputum.
- Babies tend to have poor health skin.

b) Diarrhoea:

- Vomiting.
- A frequent urge to evacuate your bowels.

● Dehydration;

- Sunken eyes
- Sunken fontanelle.
- Dry mouth.
- Decreased urination.
- Irritability.

- Make sure to drink plenty of water.

c) Measles:

- It is easily passed from the mother to the baby.
- It is an airborne disease.
- It cannot be eradicated, but can be prevented.

Symptoms;

- High fever.
- Cough.
- Brain infection.
- Rash that starts from face then spreads to body.
- Conjunctivitis (Inflamed eyes).
- Runny nose.
- Koplik spots (small red spots with blue-white centres) inside the mouth.

d) Tetanus:

- Sudden death without any reason.
- Sudden muscle tightening.
- Seizures.

- Changes in blood pressure and heart rate.

Complications;

- Brain infections.
- Breathing difficulty, possibly leading to death.
- Fractured bones.
- Uncontrolled tightening of the vocal cords.

e) Polio:

- Fever.
- Weakness and fatigue.
- Back pain, neck pain or stiffness.

- Muscle tenderness or weakness.
- Loss of reflexes.
- Severe muscle weakness and pain.
- Floppy and loose limbs.

SESSION 3: 'PRECONCEPTION CARE TIPS'

STAGE I: Advantages of pre-conception care:

- It creates a bond between the unborn baby and both parents.
- It helps the couple to budget to avoid any struggle financially.
- It creates peace between the couple as they will be having a baby that they planned for not a surprised baby that wasn't budgeted for.
- The couple will both contribute to a good atmosphere where the baby will be born
- The man will be able to adjust on the hormonal changes of his pregnant partner.
- It helps to manage any chronic conditions, to make sure that the baby will not be affected.

STAGE 2: Preconception health a) Drugs:

- A woman planning for pregnancy is encouraged not take any alcoholic drinks. Alcohol has a bad impact on the baby and may lead to at times miscarriages and intellectual disabilities since it can cross the placental barrier and affect the fetus.

- Traditional medication is discouraged because of its unknown mix of herbs used as some does affect pregnancies and complications during labour and delivery. Most of the time it causes precipitate labour which often times leads to post-partum haemorrhage coz of the effect on the uterus.

- Only take prescribed medication, as some medication may affect the liver.

b) Infections:

- Make sure to check any sexually transmitted infections before pregnancy because some STIs cross the placenta and does harm to the baby. Some stillbirths are caused by some STIs like syphilis.

- Make sure sugar diabetes, Bp or HIV level is well controlled if you have them before pregnancy so that they can least affect your pregnancy.

SESSION 4: QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IMMUNISATION PROCESS

We urge all parents/guardians to

keep the immunisation card safe, so that the hospital can track the vaccination history of the child.

Questions taken from listeners are as follows:

Q1. At 14 weeks, my child was injected once instead of three times. The nurse told me that was enough. Can I still go to the hospital or it is too late?

Ans: There was a mistake made by the nurse in that facility, because complications may occur. The child can still be taken to the clinic if he/she is not above 23 months of age for immunisations.

Q2. I took my baby to the clinic for 18 months, in November the baby showed swolleness in the thigh and even now (January) there wound is not getting better?

Ans: Sometimes children react differently to the medication, thus it is always advised to stay at least 30min at the hospital to monitor if the child will react badly. You should have taken the baby to the hospital immediately, but we still advise you to go to the clinic so that the nurses can attend to her.

Q3. Why don't nurses tell us when to come for the next visit, and also indicate in the immunisation card, so that we do not forget?

Ans: Immunisation cards do have a provision of the return date, and nurses do fill that space because they know when the 28days will be. We will, however, make sure to urge the nurses during workshops to announce the next visit and also indicate in the card for reference.

Q4. Can I still take a child above five years to the hospital if he/she did not get all the vaccines?

Ans: Yes, but he/she may not get all the missing vaccines. You should also bring the immunisation card for reference.

Q5. I never took any supplements when I was pregnant. Are there any complications that may have occurred?

Ans: The purpose of supplements is to ensure the safety of the mother and baby against diseases or infections, thus if not taken, complications may occur.

NB: This VOC programme is supported by Taiwan ICDF under the Maternal and Infant Health Care Improvement Project. You can listen to the programme every Monday from 0900hrs to 1000hrs. Please feel free to send WhatsApp message for questions at 78337421.



● Money does not make you happy but it quiets the nerves.
(Sean O Casey)

● Rain is also very difficult to film, particularly in Ireland because it's quite fine, so fine that the Irish don't even acknowledge that it exists.
(Alan Parker)

● Rain is also very difficult to film, particularly in Ireland because it's quite fine, so fine that the Irish don't even acknowledge that it exists.
(Alan Parker)

● You know it's summer in Ireland when the rain gets warmer.
(Hal Roach)

● The Irish gave the bagpipes to the Scotts as a joke, but the Scotts haven't seen the joke yet.
(Oliver Herford)

● The great Gaels of Ireland are the men that God made mad. For all their wars are merry, and all their songs are sad.
(G K Chesterton)

● It's my rule never to lose me temper till it would be detrimental to keep it.
(Casey again)

● The world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed.
(O Casey again)

● I have my faults, but changing my tune is not one of them.
(Samuel Beckett)

● He was a bold man that first ate an oyster.
(Johnathon Swift)

● I used to go missing a lot... Miss Canada, Miss United Kingdom, Miss World.
(George Best)

● In 1969 I gave up women and alcohol - it was the worst 20 minutes of my life.
(George Best)

● I spent a lot of good money on drink, women and cars, the rest I just squandered.
(George Best)

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 11 FEB 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.9192	14.9692
British Pound/SZL	19.2510	19.3155
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.3437	7.3677
Swiss France/SZL	15.2455	15.2950
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3666	1.3787
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.0168	10.0578
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.2225	11.2576
Euro/SZL	16.3537	16.4085
Gold	1,568.0000	
Oil	53.98	

For more information contact:
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Standard Bank

IMF advises CBE to refrain from further budget financing

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE International Monetary Fund has advised the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) to maintain the policy rate broadly in line with the South African Reserve Bank's rate and refrain from providing further budget financing.

This is contained in Article IV consultation with the Kingdom of Eswatini concluded by the executive board of the IMF on January 31, 2020.

A central bank policy rate (CBPR) is the rate used by central bank to implement or signal its monetary policy stance. It is most commonly set by the central bank's policy making committees.

One of the assessments by the executive board was that stable monetary conditions and fiscal consolidation would help strengthen the country's external position and support the rebuilding of



reserve buffers. The directors noted that while the financial sector was overall stable, vulnerabilities were rising.

They highlighted the need to strengthen the financial sector oversight and accelerate efforts to improve the regulatory and supervisory frameworks for the large non-bank financial sector,

including through legislative changes.

According to IMF, the consultations revealed that following the severe fiscal deterioration in 2010, Eswatini experienced a period of macro-economic stability.

Fiscal consolidation, a temporary rebound in Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue,

and credibility in the peg with the South African rand contributed to improve fiscal and external balances and rebuild buffers.

However, declining private investment and weakening external competitiveness have kept growth below the pre-2010 period and are hindering the long-term growth prospects of the economy. With subdued growth, socio-economic challenges have remained entrenched reflected by widespread poverty, high income inequality and elevated unemployment.

They also underlined the importance of establishing a macro-prudential structure and developing crisis preparedness and management capacity as well as addressing non-performing loans and the high concentration risks in the banking sector.

The directors also supported enhancing the AML/CFT framework and looked forward to this year's planned assessment.

MTN MoMo loans a plus for micro, small businesses

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE MTN Mobile Money (MoMo) Quick loans have proved useful for micro and small businesses.

The MTN MoMo lending was initially piloted from June 2019 with a few MoMo customers before it was opened to the entire base of close to 700 000 customers. Following a successful pilot, the product was commercially launched which meant that all MTN MoMo customers could now have access to loans of up to E200.

From the pilot, MTN has observed how these businesses have used

MoMo loans to buy stock for their businesses.

MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo stated yesterday that once these businesses have sold their stock, they readily repay the amount loaned.

"In fact, several customers do not wait for the elapse of 30 days to repay their MoMo loans, which is good practice.

"These loans are useful to customers who have emergencies they need to take care of which include fuel and paying different bills," he said.

He added that the MoMo lending facility, which was officially launched in January, has disbursed

82 569 loans which are to the value of E5.7 million, the highest number of loans disbursed since the product started.

"Of the loans disbursed about 33 574 were voluntarily repaid which represents 41 percent of the total number of loans issued. Notably January alone registered the highest number of repayments which is 120 114. The repayments in January were to the value of E5.6 million.

"In January MTN MoMo disbursed the highest number of loans while in August, the platform registered the lowest number which is 32 691 loans to the value of E2.2 million," he said.

MTN MoMo Loan Disbursement Count



BUSINESS EXTRA

LESS JOBS FOR YOUTH, BLACK WOMEN!

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's official unemployment rate remained unchanged at 29.1% in quarter 4 of 2019 compared to Quarter 3 of 2019.

According to according to Statistics SA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey, the number of employed persons increased by 45 000 to 16.4 million and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 8 000 to 6.7 million in the fourth quarter.

There was a resultant increase of 38 000 employed people.

The formal sector recording the largest employment increase of 117 000, followed by the agriculture sector, which employed 6 000 more people.

Employment in the informal sector declined by 77 000.

Statistics South Africa announced last Thursday that the unemployment rate among the youth is higher irrespective of education level.

Also, black African women are the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of over 30 per cent. *Dailysun*

COMESA Business Council, ALLPI, AeTrade Group partner on Trade Facilitation

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE COMESA Business Council (CBC), Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) and the AeTrade Group are joining forces to advance the interests and concerns of business, cooperating on matters related to technical skills development, digital business facilitation, trade partnerships and private sector development.

According to a statement released by COMESA yesterday, this was symbolically done through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the three institutions that took place on Monday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the side lines of the 33rd African Union Ordinary Session Summit themed, 'Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development.'

Past CBC Chairperson Doctor Amany Asfour, AeTrade Group's founder and CEO, MuluAlem Syoum and ALLPI Executive Director, Professor Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations.

"This partnership is a real opportunity to transform the region's socioeconomic landscape, strengthening

industries and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through financial inclusion, business linkages and facilitation of market access," said Chairperson of the CBC Marday Venketasamy.

CBC and ALLPI in collaboration with the AeTrade Group will further explore and implement as appropriate actions that support solutions to some of Africa's trade and economic challenges. These are identified as priorities in line with the implementation of the Agreement on African Continental Free Trade Area, with a specific focus on the master plan of the African Union strategy on micro small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

"The three institutions complement each other very well and can offer meaningful support towards enhancing the levels of trade in the region," said Syoum.

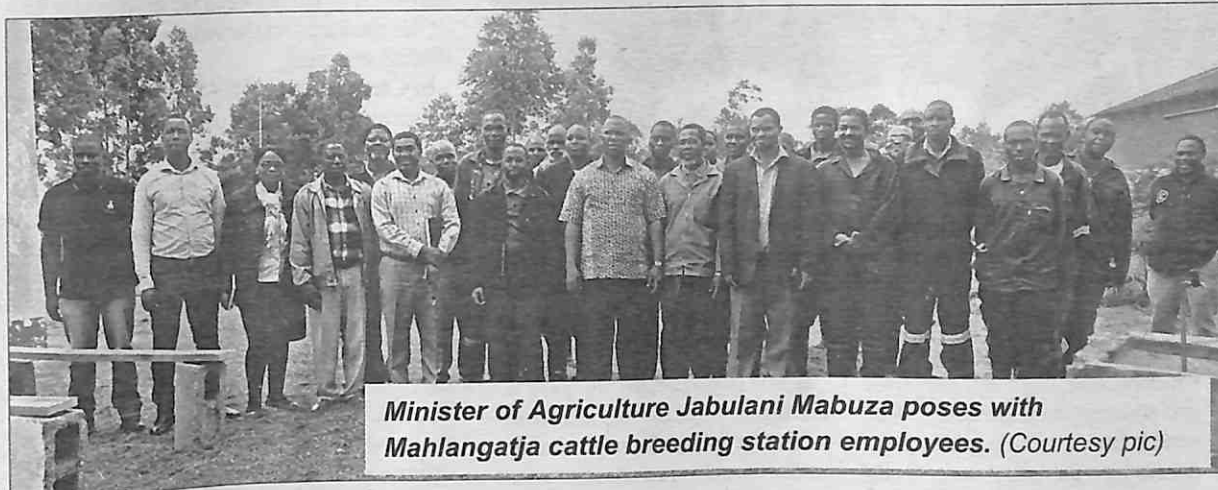
The cooperation will concentrate on, but will not be limited to, establishment and/or consolidation of regional electronic trade, and development of sustainable efforts in the areas of fair and transparent business models and practices.

The collaboration between the three institutions is in response to low levels of intra-Africa trade, and will pro-

vide an opportunity to empower and support small and medium enterprises across the continent so that they can take full advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and its opportunities in the digital market.

Both the public and private sectors are urged to explore ways that they can partner with the CBC, ALLPI and AeTrade Group, in facilitating the delivery of intra-regional trade enhancing solutions, through multi-stakeholder processes and mechanisms, befitting for the African context.

The three institutions complement each other very well and can offer meaningful support towards enhancing the levels of trade in the region



Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza poses with Mahlangatja cattle breeding station employees. (Courtesy pic)

'TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EU, TAIWAN BEEF MARKETS'

BY BAHLE GAMA

MINISTER of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza has urged farmers to take advantage of the beef markets in the European Union and Taiwan where Eswatini beef is on demand.

Speaking during a tour of the Highveld Cattle Breeding Station at Mahlangatja in Mankayane on Friday, the minister said Eswatini had good relations with Taiwan and that country had interest in Eswatini's beef.

He said the purpose of the tour was to get an insight on the operations of the breeding station and also find ways on how to transform and make it better so as to have good and healthy cattle for market purposes.

The station currently keeps 192 cattle, has grazing and arable land where the ministry grows yellow maize for

cattle feeding purposes and hay.

The minister also advised farmers to use the arable land to grow cotton, enough maize for the country to minimise importing maize from outside the country and also to grow yellow maize which assists in the feeding of the cattle. "The ministry's strategic plan talks to produce being maximised from 10 000 to 16 000 metric tonnes. We would like to urge farmers to capitalise on agriculture opportunities."

"There is a processing plant at Matsapha with a carrying capacity of 100 million litres that will need to be supplied with milk. It would also be good for the breeding station to have a dairy farming portion so they could supply milk once the processing plant starts operating. This will also create jobs for Emaswati," he said.

The minister added that the Highveld breeding station was also good for

keeping animals like sheep and goats.

"Goats are in demand and they have a huge market while rearing it is cheaper and affordable," he added.

Meanwhile, Thabo Nhlabatsi, who represented the employees, said they were all out to support government, especially because they understood the strategy of the ministry.

He said they were also willing to work harder but noted that there were challenges they faced which made life harder for them.

He said these included the unavailability of toilets in the farm, protective clothing, and working on weekends without getting overtime payment and shortage of working equipment. "The fencing is now old and this results in our breeding cattle mixing with other cattle. There is also the scarcity of water for both the cattle and personal use."

Gross reserves reflect 8.2% growth, now at E6.6b

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

GROSS official reserves stood at E6.6 billion at the end of January, reflecting growth of 8.2 per cent from the level recorded at the end of December 2019.

According to the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) Monthly Statistical Release, the improvement in reserves was on account of the quarterly inflow in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues at the beginning of January.

It stated that in line with the rise in reserves, the import cover went up from 2.6 months observed in December 2019 to 2.8 months at the end of January. Year-on-year, the reserves increased by 4.4 per cent.

According to the valued in special drawing rights (SDR), the reserves amounted to SDR323.3 million at the end of January, higher than the SDR316.7 million registered in December 2019. At this level, the SDR value of reserves represented a month-on-month expansion of 2.1 per cent.

Over the year, however, the value of the reserves in SDR declined by 5.8 per cent due to a notable depreciation of the lilangeni against major trading currencies.

Meanwhile, credit extended to the private sector stood at E14.8 billion at the end of December 2019, reflecting a month-on-month increase of 2.6 per cent from the E14.4 billion recorded in November 2019.

The expansion was driven by

credit to businesses and households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH). In contrast, credit to other sectors of the economy declined over the month under review. Year-on-year, private sector credit contracted by 0.4 per cent.

Improved

Also, credit extended to businesses stood at E6.9 billion at the end of December 2019, reflecting a month-on-month growth of 3.7 per cent, a recovery from the fall of 2.3 per cent observed in November.

The improved performance in credit to businesses was predominantly observed in credit to the following subsectors; agriculture and forestry and construction which grew by 19.0 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.

The increases were however, partly dampened by credit to transport and communication and manufacturing which declined by 3.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent, respectively.

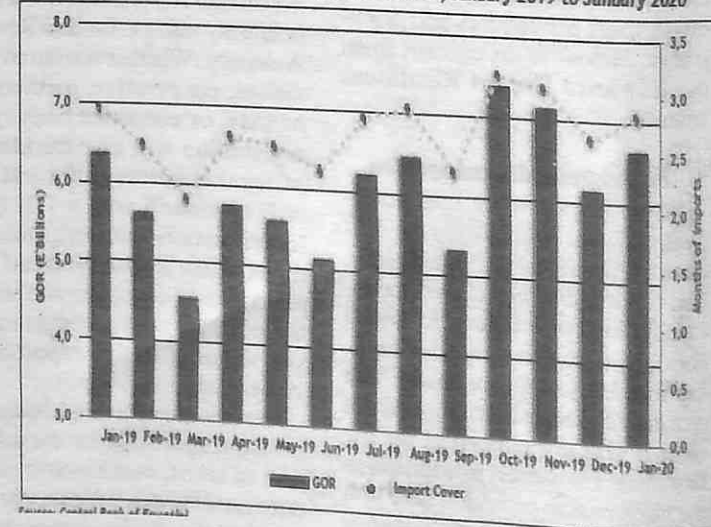
Credit to other sectors depicted a negative turnaround from growth of 4.7 per cent registered in November 2019 to a fall of 2.3 per cent at the end of December.

At this level, credit to other sectors amounted to E1.3 billion at the end of December 2019.

The downward movement in credit to other sectors was evident in credit to other financial corporations which decreased by 5.7 per cent.

Credit to local government and public non-financial corporations on the other hand grew by 32.1 per cent and 2.4 per cent, respectively.

Figure 1: Gross Official Reserves (GOR) and Import Cover; January 2019 to January 2020





COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & TRADE ESWATINI



EXPORT PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

EMASWATI crafters have attracted huge interest in India!

The crafters are part of one of the world's largest craft fairs, the Surajkund International Craft Mela, held in Haryana, near India's capital of New Delhi. This is particularly good news for Eswatini, especially in the Year of the SME; where government is channelling its attention towards the development of the MSME sector.

Gratitude goes to the Indian government, who sponsored our crafters with the view of exposing them to the world market. Special tribute is also paid to India High Commissioner Radha Venkataraman; who facilitated this trip and worked with our ministry as well as the Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) to see this through. With over a million visitors, it goes without saying that the Surajkund Mela has been by Eswatini's largest platform ever to showcase our unique craft.

Now, coming back to this week's column, we continue with our series on exportats. This week, we discuss export procedures and documents. Below is an excerpt from the Eswatini Export Readiness Manual.

Procedures and Documentation

Proper paper work and documentation are essential for the efficient execution of an export order. Forms should be completed meticulously and procedures followed correctly to avoid misunderstanding and delays that are costly. The procedures seem daunting and not clear if you are exporting for the first time. However, in addition to the information provided here you will find the office of the Eswatini



Revenue Authority extremely helpful and will clear any uncertainties, especially on compliance. They are there to help you to succeed in your export business. Clearing agents and your bank should also be good sources of information as well as consulting your chamber of commerce e.g. Business Eswatini, FESBC, SWIFT etc. or other exporters.

Eswatini Revenue Authority

You must be registered as a business entity with the Eswatini Revenue Authority. Whether you are an individual, cooperative, partnership, MSME or corporate body, your registration will give the identity of legal business entity and you will be issued with a TIN (Tax Identification Number). Once the registration is done, you can then periodically complete and secure the necessary export documents you require for each export cargo you make.

The Eswatini Revenue Authority is also responsible for the collection of taxes, customs and excise duty on all goods which come into the country. As far as exports are

concerned, the interest stems largely from the need to keep records for economic planning purposes and ensuring that the required documentation to enable preferential access into the target is correctly processed for products that are exported into markets with which Eswatini has trading relations with. Relatively few goods are subject to export controls. While imports are also of statistical interest, they are invariably subject to a number of import controls which are put in place to control the entry of say, health – or environmentally-sensitive products, to protect certain industries and/or to generate revenue for the country.

The enforcement of export and import controls is the responsibility of customs authorities. Whenever goods enter or leave a country, they have to be 'cleared' by customs. This involves customs officials;

- Checking that imports and exports comply with import/export regulations of the country
- Checking that the correct documentation has been submitted in support of imports/exports
- Where relevant, examining,

and collecting duties or taxes on, goods

● For goods requiring 'origin' certification that the exporter/ manufacturer meets the requirements under the relevant trade agreement and that the appropriate documents (primarily the certificate of origin) are processed at the time of exporting the goods.

Other responsibilities include:

● Being on the look-out for possible fraudulent activities (e.g. smuggling or under-valuing goods to attract lower duties) and reporting such offences to the authorities.

● Ensuring that appropriate financial reporting requirements are met with respect to export transactions by administering the requirement for F178 controls to facilitate collection of information pertaining to the payments of foreign currency received from the country's exports.

● Keeping records and making such information available to customs administrations and/or other government departments to assist in the compilation of a country's trade statistics, etc.

Your customs registration number/code must then appear on every customs declaration form.

Rules of Origin

Every agreement has rules of origin (RoO) which indicate how export products can be eligible for preferential treatment in the country of destination. The rules are a set of criteria that is used to confer qualification status to products that are produced within the territories of the signatory member states. The basis of these rules is that the products in question must have a specific local content input from the country which is exporting them.

A product can qualify in one or two ways:

● If wholly produced in Eswatini. These are natural products and goods made from natural products which are entirely obtained in Eswatini (examples are minerals, vegetables, animals and products entirely from Eswatini)

● If manufactured, a product must have undergone an acceptable amount of processing/transformation and has a specified percentage of local content. Three criteria are most commonly used

a. **Value Percentage** - value of the non-originating materials limited to a certain percentage of the ex-works price of the finished product: - This means that the value of all the non-originating materials used may not exceed a certain maximum ex-works price of the final product, e.g. 40 per cent of the ex-works price of the final product. The comparison is made between the ex-works price of the product and the value of all non-originating materials.

b. **Change of Tariff Classification:** non-originating materials used must be from a different HS tariff heading or subheading than the final product. This means that all non-originating materials used must come from a heading or subheading other than that of the finished product

c. **Specific Process Criterion:** certain operations or stages in a manufacturing process have to be carried out on any non-originating materials used. A particular process must be performed on non-originating materials; the product must be produced from a specific raw material; or it can be manufactured from non-originating material from any heading. Sometimes a combination of two or more of these three criteria is used.

Some processes might be adding value to a product through simple processes or slight alterations, e.g. cutting and re-packing vegetables, breaking up and assembling of packages, quick-freezing meat portions, or simply painting and polishing operations. These are not regarded as sufficient processing to confer origin, as they do not alter the character of the product sufficiently or could be aimed at circumventing origin requirements and therefore customs duties.

Next week, we continue with export procedures and documents. Till then. For more information about market access, check out the International Trade Department's website www.itdswaziland.org and the Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority's website www.investeswatini.org.sz or drop an email to our Communication Officer Thabile Mdluli at jehovaunani@gmail.com. You can also call 2404 3201/2/3 or visit our offices at the Inter-Ministerial Building or ITD's offices at the DPM's Office Building in Mbabane.

Trudeau meets African leaders

JOHANNESBURG - Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has met African heads of state, foreign ministers and representatives of the United Nations and other multilateral bodies to discuss how to secure peace across the continent as a necessary condition for prosperity.

In a statement on the meeting, the African Development Bank said Trudeau, who chairs the United

Nations Peacebuilding Commission, called for cooperation among international partners and governments to create economic opportunity during the Monday meeting, held on the sidelines of the 33rd African Union summit in Ethiopia.

The meeting was aimed at strengthening the UN commission's partnership with the African Union and to better integrate African priorities in conflict prevention and bolster-

ing economic security.

It discussed, among other issues, the role international financial institutions and youth job creation can play in averting extremism and conflict on the continent.

Trudeau said one of the biggest challenges both developed and developing countries faced was the perception that governments were indifferent.

"In this time of change, in this time

of transformation of the global economy, time of conflict, time of climate conflict, people worry that the system has no place for them and isn't providing them with what they need," he said.

African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina applauded Canada's role in enabling the bank's work on the continent.

"The successful replenishment of the bank's African Development Fund 15 - to which Canada contributed substantially with \$355 million - will allow the bank to deploy an additional \$1.2 billion to address

fragility, strengthen resilience and sustain peace and economic security," Adesina said. *ANA*

"In this time of change, in this time of transformation of the global economy, time of conflict, time of climate conflict, people worry that the system has no place for them and isn't providing them with what they need"

ANGLOGOLD PICKS HARMONY TO BUY SA ASSETS

JOHANNESBURG - AngloGold Ashanti picked Harmony Gold as the buyer for its last remaining South African operations, according to people familiar with the matter.

The two companies are finalising the exact terms of the deal for the Mponeng mine and surface facilities, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private.

AngloGold is selling the assets as Chief Executive Officer Kelvin Dushnisky focuses on more profitable mines in Ghana, Australia and the Americas. Harmony - backed by billionaire Patrice Motsepe's African Rainbow Minerals - is hunting for deals to replenish declining reserves in South Africa. Harmony paid \$300m for AngloGold's Moab Khotsong mine in 2017.

AngloGold spokesperson Chris Nthole declined to comment.

Harmony is looking at potential acquisitions in South Africa and has a plan to finance the deals, Chief Executive Officer Peter Steenkamp said on a conference call yesterday to discuss the company's half-year results.

The company is looking at assets with at least one million ounces of reserves and a 10-year life span, he said.

AngloGold's mines could be used as



"criteria if we are to evaluate any assets in South Africa," Steenkamp said.

"We understand and we do have the ability and expertise to run underground mines," he said. "We will not necessarily shy away from underground mines."

AngloGold's Mponeng mine, the world's deepest, produced 265 000 ounces of gold in 2018, while output from its surface operations, which extract the precious metal from ore dumps, totalled 171 000 ounces. Those South African assets accounted for about 13 per cent of AngloGold's production that year.

AngloGold said last week it plans to

provide an update on the asset sale on February 21. In November, AngloGold narrowed the list of bidders for its South African assets to Harmony and Sibanye Gold, people familiar with the matter said at the time.

The strategic rationale to find a buyer "trumps a straight valuation call" for the operations, said James Bell, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets in London. AngloGold needs to sell the assets before it can move its primary listing from Johannesburg to London, "something that we think could drive a material re-rating in time."

Fin24/Bloomberg

UNIONS THREATEN TO STOP RETRENCHMENTS

JOHANNESBURG - Telkom's troubles are likely to deepen as the Communication Workers Union (CWU) and the South African Workers Union (SACU) threaten to either take legal action or down tools against the company in a bid to prevent the retrenchment of 3 000 employees.

Telkom is scheduled to meet organised labour representatives tomorrow on the imminent job cuts as part of the 60-day consultation process facilitated by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration following a previous meeting held last Thursday and Friday. Telkom, which is 40 per cent state-owned, said last month that it intended to axe 3 000 of its workers as it grapples with increasing debt and a decline in the fixed-voice market in a tight economy.

In a formal notice issued to organ-

ised labour, Telkom said the depressed economy, regulatory uncertainty and a tough competitive environment had taken a toll on its business.

In a memo to members, Keith Aimes, the national organiser for SACU, said that the alliance between SACU and the CWU was of the view that Telkom's rationale made during the previous meeting for the retrenchment was weak.

"None of the presentations made on the rationale for the retrenchment makes a clear-cut indication that the company needs to retrench the amount of staff they intend to," said Aimes.

Aimes said that the alliance was considering either embarking on an industrial action or referring the matter to the Labour Court if Telkom did not provide sound reasons for the imminent retrenchments.

Business Report



Investors flock to gold over fears of impact of coronavirus

JOHANNESBURG - Fears by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that the spread of the deadly coronavirus could accelerate outside China pushed the gold price higher, but it was too early to tell the impact of the virus on the demand for the precious metal, the World Gold Council said.

The bullish gold price and the heightening trade war between China-US last year sent investors fleeing to the traditional safe havens, such as the yen, bonds and gold. A spokesperson for the World Gold Council, the authority which is responsible for stimulating gold demand,

said only time would tell what the magnitude of the coronavirus would be on the demand for gold.

"It's way too early to understand the potential impact the coronavirus might have as it seems we are still in what may be the early stages of the outbreak," the World Gold Council said in response to Business Report questions. It said that China was the world's largest gold consumer and any impact on economic growth and consumer spending might influence jewellery demand. "However, slowing global growth could prompt gold investment demand."

Business Report

Quality becomes affordable

LONDON - With the big names in the industry, like Redragon and MSI, one does not think of Chinese brand Foxrray to be a competitor, but the Demon Gaming Mouse changes that.

The Demon gaming mouse is a great mouse for the R500 price tag but the mouse becomes amazing for the fact that most places discount the mouse to R279, like Loot.co.za, or R299. Less than R300 for a mouse of this quality is a steal. But, does this large-scale price reduction signal poor quality? The basic features of the Demon Gaming Mouse include four adjustable dots-per-inch (DPI) settings with a max of 4000D DPI, five custom profiles, seven programmable buttons, RGB backlighting, braided cable, and software for customisation of the profiles and buttons.

While all the features sound intimidating, that is not the case. The DPI settings change the sensitivity of the mouse, i.e. how much effort is required to move the cursor from one side of the screen to the other.

This is essentially for gaming as it allows four sensitivity settings for users to pick their preferences when playing and makes sure that more people can use the mouse.

The red, green, and blue (RGB) lighting make the mouse aesthetically pleasing while not being distracting and the braided cable adds durability.

There are many positives to the Demon Gaming Mouse. Firstly, it is easy to use on all surfaces. You do not need a mousepad to work the Demon gaming mouse unless you are on a glass sur-

face.

The scroll wheel, much like the rest of the mouse, is good quality and feels durable. The Demon Gaming mouse is responsive: no lagging when you move it, clicking is easy, and the clicks register straight away.

The mouse is durable and the buttons and scroll wheel do not feel flimsy as you use them.

The mouse is larger and heavier than others which I enjoyed as it made the mouse feel less flimsy but some may not like the weight or size if they have small hands.

While the Demon Gaming Mouse has its weak points, there are only a few to mention.

The mouse comes with a software disk that is unusable if you do not have a disk drive, and the ability to customise the mouse buttons is taken away.

Business Day

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

ZUMA'S STALINGRAD SCRAWLED ON A DOCTORED SICK NOTE

DURBAN - Former president Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma is ill and can't appear before the state capture commission which he was instructed to set up by the courts after alleging that the Public Protector's recommendations were not binding; that's the word from The Mud House, also known as Nkandla.

And last week, he also said he is too ill to appear before a criminal court

that is supposed to determine whether he is innocent or guilty.

The Mud House says Zuma's problems started when his estranged wife, Nompumelelo Ntuli, allegedly poisoned him, a charge which failed to stick and resulted in a withdrawal of charges by the National Prosecuting Authority. And, with this rumour of Zuma's Cuban hospitalisation being nothing but a false flag operation, South Africans are left wondering if he, eyeing a judicial cul-de-sac, sees himself as some African version of the late Bolivarian Venezuelan leader Hugo

Chávez who also taxied to Havana to die - for real in his case.

But Zuma's case is different because Msholozzi has been globe-trotting foreign hospitals since 2015, unaware it is an admission that he did not invest enough in the health sector and now has to seek healing in foreign hands.

There is something many people miss about Zuma's façade of an illness that requires Cuban and Russian doctors to treat him.

Zuma is not running away from Deputy Judge President Raymond Zondo's inquisition. He has nothing to fear there. *City Press*



'Strive for culture of service on 30-year celebration of Mandela's release'

PORT ELIZABETH - ANC MP Zwelivelile 'Mandla' Mandela in a statement has lambasted politicians in public office for placing their narrow interests and greed above the people they were meant to serve.

Commenting on the 30th anniversary of the late former president Nelson Mandela's release from Robben Island

where he was imprisoned for 27 years, he called on South Africa to "reflect and ponder on the road we have travelled and how far we have reached on the long walk to freedom".

Citing the country's achievement, through struggle, of freedom from "poverty; discrimination of all kinds; and freedom for each South African to achieve their true potential," he said South Africans needed to reflect on "what must still be done".

He said Nelson Mandela's own words from the balcony of Cape Town City Hall on 11 February 1990

to the masses gathered on the Grand Parade and broadcast to billions around the world were significant.

"I stand here before you not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people. Your tireless and heroic sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands," Nelson Mandela said.

Mandla Mandela said that South Africa lacked a "culture of service or being a servant of the people".

News24

SA citizens should emulate Nelson Mandela - Grandson

CAPE TOWN - Former president Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela says South Africa can fight the scourge of poverty and corruption as well as achieve the vision of non-racial, non-sexist and just nation,

if all citizens can emulate the world icon.

This as the nation commemorates 30 years since Mandela's release from prison.

The chief of Mvezo says this day provides the country with an occa-

sion to reflect and ponder on the road travelled. He added that the country needs to look at how far it has reached on the long walk to freedom, freedom from poverty, racism and discrimination of all kinds. *SABC News*

Six-month-old survives after being ejected in high impact collision

DURBAN - A six-month-old baby has survived a horrific head on collision that took place on the N2 near Zinkwazi on Monday evening.

According to Paul Herbst from IPSS Medical Rescue, three patients were critically injured and had to be stabilised by advanced life support paramedics.

Herbst said one of the light motor vehicles, a Kia was torn apart and patients were ejected from the vehicle.

"Among those ejected and critically injured was a six-month-old baby," said Herbst.

He said the remaining two patients sustained moderate injuries. All were taken to hospital.

In a separate incident yesterday morning, a head-on collision on the M1 Richmond Road claimed one life and left two others seriously injured.

According to Garrith Jamieson, The Durban Fire Department used the jaws of life had to be used to extricate the female patient from the car before she was taken to hospital.

"She sustained multiple critical injuries and sadly passed away in hospital. The two patients in the other vehicle sustained moderate injuries and were treated on scene before being transported to hospital."

Last week, three women were killed in two head-on collisions in Durban.

In the first incident, two passengers were killed in an accident on Spine Road in Westville, while the other head-on collision on the M7 highway claimed the life of a 30-year-old female driver.

Post



Claims of racism at Wits over 'falsified marks'

JOHANNESBURG - Claims of racism at Wits University's medical school have resurfaced, amid a probe into allegations that black medical students falsified their portfolio marks.

The management's decision to exonerate a white student, whose name is known to City Press, has sparked claims that the university's medical school was targeting black students.

City Press understands that six black students, who were expected to graduate last year, could not do so after their final results were withheld pend-



ing the outcome of the investigation.

The six were studying towards a three-year Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice degree.

This is not the first time students in this programme have been involved in similar allegations.

In 2015, 24 students faced a simi-

lar investigation after they were accused of misrepresenting their marks. Wits University did not respond to questions last week about the outcome of that investigation.

Last year, the six allegedly awarded themselves marks throughout the year for performing certain tasks at Gauteng hospitals.

They were charged with misconduct, which could result in them being expelled, if found guilty. The alleged misconduct was only picked up late last year, ahead of their graduations, a situation which the lawyer of Jimmy Shembe,* one of the affected stu-

dents, raised as a concern.

City Press understands that Shembe's lawyer wrote to the university saying that it should shoulder the blame for what allegedly happened.

The lawyer demanded that the charges against Shembe be dropped and the university apologise.

Wits University failed to allocate a supervisor to monitor the students when they performed their tasks to ensure that they did not falsify their assignment marks. This allegedly led to the trainee doctors at hospitals doing this and approving their portfolio marks in their e-log books. *City Press*

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Mkhwebane's birthday bash: 'Irregular' to host a guest she's investigating

PRETORIA - Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane's impartiality has been called into question after a former minister she is supposedly investigating Mosebenzi Zwane was among the guests at her 50th birthday party.

Zwane, a former mineral resources minister and Free State Agriculture

MEC, reportedly attended Friday evening's party with fellow ANC MP and corruption-accused Bongani Bongo. Other well-known political figures at the party included Ekurhuleni Mayor Mzwandile Masina, who recently said he would go to jail for former president Jacob Zuma, former national chairperson of the EFF

Dali Mpofu, the African Transformation Movement's Head of Policy Mzwanele Manyi and former senior NPA prosecutor Nomgcobo Jiba, who was fired by President Cyril Ramaphosa in April last year after an inquiry found she wasn't 'fit and proper'.

Zwane was allegedly a central figure in the Estina dairy farm project,

which was the subject of testimony at the commission of inquiry into state capture. Estina, the company charged with running a farming scheme to benefit black farmers in Vrede, Free State, was allegedly a Gupta front with government money allegedly funnelled to and being laundered for the Gupta family. *News24*

EFF adamant they will disrupt SONA

CAPE TOWN/PARLIAMENT - The Economic Freedom Fighters party said yesterday it had learnt of a plan to bring police into Parliament, disguised as members of the legislature's protection services, in response to its plan to prevent President Cyril Ramaphosa from delivering his State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The EFF said it was unlawful to call the police into the legislature buildings as court rulings during the tenure of former president Jacob Zuma had shown, adding that it would stick to its plan to disrupt this week's event.

The party this weekend issued an ultimatum to Ramaphosa to fire Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan or face chaos when Parliament opens tomorrow.

"The EFF further maintains that we will not allow the proceedings of SONA to continue as long as Pravin Gordhan remains a minister. When Cyril Ramaphosa speaks, we will also speak," it said in a statement. The country's second biggest opposition party said Parliament would lose face if it flouted its own rules, which held that only the protections services and sergeant-at-arms could remove members of parliament from the legislature.

It named the head of security at Parliament, Deon Van Der Spuy, as being involved in "secret meetings to co-ordinate a conspiracy to smuggle members of the South African Police Services inside parliament disguised as parliamentary protection officers to unleash violence on members of the EFF during the state of the nation address".

Parliament's spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment. *African News Agency/ANA*



SACP WANTS ANC'S MANTASHE DISCIPLINED OVER SAA REMARKS

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Communist Party (SACP) is calling for African National Congress (ANC) National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe to be disciplined for expressing his personal views on South African Airways (SAA), which contradicted the governing party's position.

Mantashe told an ANC gathering at the weekend in the Eastern Cape that SAA should be sold off if it could not generate money,

saying the state-owned airline only serviced 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," Mantashe was quoted as saying by City Press.

This was contrary to the ANC's official position which was that

the struggling airline should be saved.

The SACP said Mantashe showed ill-discipline when he expressed a personal view on SAA and went against the approach the ANC, SACP and Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) agreed to. "We disagree with Mantashe and we will engage with him," said SACP Spokesperson Alex Mashilo.

Mashilo said Mantashe was the subject of an alliance secretariat

meeting yesterday.

"We have a secretariat meeting of the alliance where the issue of SAA will be one of the two main agenda items. We will take matters from there," he said.

The communist party also took a swipe at SAA's business rescue practitioners for cancelling domestic flights, saying they should remember that SAA went into voluntary business rescue and was still under state ownership. *EWN*

'No need for DA to treat Ramaphosa, ANC with kid gloves'

JOHANNESBURG - Mbali Ntuli, one of the contenders for the position of national leader of the DA, says under her stewardship the party will not be soft on President Cyril Ramaphosa and the ruling party.

In an interview with Independent Media in Durban on Monday, Ntuli said there was no need for the official opposition to treat Ramaphosa and his party "with kid gloves".

The approach Ntuli is advocating against Ramaphosa is quite distinct from the one the party adopted after Mmusi Maimane's resignation in October last year. Speculation was rife that he was pushed out for adopting a tougher stance against Ramaphosa, who is favoured by some in the DA as a pro-business leader. Maimane was responsible for unearthing the R500 000 Bosasa donation to the CR17 fund, and the revelation led to the exposure of the fund's other donors, some of whom are said to be DA donors too. As a sign of sympathy to Ramaphosa, former DA leader Tony Leon had said: "It was a big mis-



TARGET: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

take (for the DA) to accept Busisiwe Mkhwebane's report that Cyril Ramaphosa misled Parliament (over the Bosasa donation)." Furthermore, as an indication that the DA was softening its stance on Ramaphosa, in November DA interim leader John Steenhuisen reportedly said he would co-operate with the ANC if their interests converged.

But that is not the case with Ntuli, who

is set to lock horns with Steenhuisen for the position of national leader when the DA convenes to elect leaders.

"When Ramaphosa and the ANC mess up, of course I'm gonna be strong on them, of course I have to challenge them and take them on. There is no need to be soft on people who are watching 26 million people living in an economic crisis." *News24*

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Focus on World News

Global News

Killer coronavirus may live four times longer than flu, study finds

WUHAN/GENEVA - Coronaviruses such as the killer Wuhan strain can survive on doorknobs and train handrails for up to nine days, research has found.

Unless surfaces are disinfected the virus may lurk on them and stay contagious for more than four times as long as the flu, which survives for two days.

A study has revealed the viruses are relatively easy to kill with alcohol or bleach but can live for a long time if left undisturbed.

And the scientists behind it warn protective gear worn by medics must be disposed of immediately because coronaviruses can survive on them for up to two days.

The research comes amid an outbreak of a new type of coronavirus that is gripping the world, infecting more than 40 000 people around the world and killing 910.

Understanding the virus and how to destroy it – and doing so – are 'crucial' to stopping the outbreak and controlling the illness, the scientists said.

The research was done by a team of experts from Ruhr University Bochum and the University of Greifswald, both in Germany.

Experts extracted data from 22 studies looking at the survival rate of coronaviruses, including the SARS and MERS strains.

The researchers found that coronaviruses can persist on inanimate surfaces such as plastic, glass, metal and wood for between two hours and nine days, on average.

When an inanimate object is exposed to viruses and can spread pathogens, it is known as a 'fomite'.

Like the flu, the viruses prefer colder weather and can live on inanimate objects for up to 28 days if the temperature is 4C or lower.

But temperatures above 30C slash its survival rate, the study published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* found.

The research also found that the viruses were easy to kill with simple cleaning products – alcohol based disinfectant took just one minute to destroy the coronavirus.

Bleach on the other hand took just 30 seconds to disinfect whatever object was contaminated.

Daily Mail



LONDON - The Queen's eldest grandson Peter Phillips has separated from his Canadian-born wife of 12 years after she asked for a divorce, friends claim.

Autumn Phillips, 41, is believed to have told her husband, 42, that she wants to split up, leaving him devastated and the Queen 'upset'.

Friends say Peter, who is the son of Princess Anne, didn't see the breakdown of his marriage coming and was stunned by his wife's request.

The couple have two children together, daughters Savannah, nine and Isla, seven.

According to the Sun, some friends are also suggesting that Megxit – which saw Prince Harry and Meghan Markle quit the royal family – hastened Autumn's decision and she now 'wants to return to her native Canada'.

One claimed that she may have been 'influenced' by Harry and

Meghan to move back to Canada and take daughters Savannah and Isla, who have dual citizenship, with her.

Another source close to the couple revealed: "Peter is absolutely devastated by this and just didn't see it coming."

"He thought he was happily married and had the perfect family with two lovely daughters. But he is now in total shock."

The friend added that Autumn is a 'favourite of the Queen' and the shock move makes it feel as if the royal family is 'falling apart'.

However, sources insisted that no other parties were involved in the split. Autumn was born and brought up a Roman Catholic but renounced her faith shortly before their wedding so her husband-to-be did not have to give up his claim to the throne.

In September, she was spotted with the Queen, Prince Charles and her husband at the annual Highland Games Gathering.

Australia joins growing revolt against Baroness Scotland

LONDON - Australia Monday joined the revolt against Baroness Scotland's leadership of the Commonwealth.

It cut nearly £500 000 in annual funding for the group's secretariat and said it would refuse to hand over the remaining £250 000 payment unless there was a financial shake-up.

Lady Scotland faces mounting pres-

sure to resign over alleged lavish spending and an auditors report last week that castigated her over a £250 000 commission paid to a firm run by her fellow Labour peer Lord Patel. Her four-year stint as secretary-general ends next month and Boris Johnson is leading moves to deny her a second term.

The Daily Mail revealed last week that Australia was considering pulling

the plug on the secretariat.

The decision was confirmed Monday by Foreign Minister Marisa Payne whose spokesman said the funding cut was in response to the auditors report and its criticism of Lady Scotland.

Payne was furious last year when she discovered Lady Scotland had invited world leaders to a cricket match in Australia without first informing the government in Canberra.

She complained in writing to Lady Scotland, accusing her of lacking 'basic courtesy' and 'inappropriate conduct'.

The move by Australia is the latest in a series of setbacks to the 64-year-old baroness including being forced to close a 'Commonwealth Hub' in London as a result of the secretariat's cash crisis. Dedicated to the Queen, the centre had been open for only four years.

Daily Mail

Trump calls on Republicans to vote for weakest candidate

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump brazenly tried to rattle Democrats during his emboldened speech in Manchester, New Hampshire Monday evening, where he espoused the idea that Republicans should vote for the weakest Democratic candidate in the primary to sabotage the election and slammed Speaker Nancy Pelosi for 'mumbling' through his State of the Union speech.

The president dug into Pelosi at the raucous rally accusing her of trying to distract him during his State of the Union address last week by talking behind him. When he wrapped up his address, she ripped her copy his speech. "On Tuesday, I delivered my address on the State of the Union and I had somebody behind me who was mumbling terribly, mumbling," Trump said at the rally. "There was mumbling. Very distracting. Very dis-

tracting." Trump continued to pile on his criticism of Pelosi, who led his impeachment inquiry.

"I'm speaking and a woman is mumbling terribly behind me, angry. There was a little anger back there. We're the ones who should be angry, not them. We're the ones," he continued, as the crowd chanted 'Lock her up'.

Trump held nothing back in his attack on the Democrats on Monday, boasting that he was trying to 'shake

up the Dems a little bit' on the eve of the primary in New Hampshire.

He even toyed with the idea that his own party members could rig the election in his favour by voting in the Democratic primary for the weakest candidate. "We hear that there could be – because you have crossovers in primaries, don't you – so I hear a lot of Republicans tomorrow will vote for the weakest candidate possible of the Democrats." *Daily Mail*

BRIEFS

Officials 'removed' as death toll rises

WUHAN - China has 'removed' several senior officials over their handling of the coronavirus outbreak – as the death toll passed 1 000. The party secretary for the Hubei Health Commission, and the head of the commission, were among those who lost their jobs. They are the most senior officials to be demoted so far.

The deputy director of the local Red Cross was also removed for 'dereliction of duty' over "handling of donations". The two Hubei party officials will be replaced by a national figure – the deputy director of China's National Health Commission, Wang Hesheng.

BBC News

Sharp rise in brain injuries from raid

TEHRAN - The number of US troops suffering from traumatic brain injuries (TBI) after an Iranian attack on a US base in Iraq in January has risen to 109, according to US officials.

The figure is a significant increase from the 64 injured service members previously reported by the Pentagon. President Donald Trump initially said no Americans were injured in the raid.

The attack on 8 January came amid tensions over the US killing of an Iranian general. Nearly 70 per cent of the injured service members have returned to their duties, the Pentagon added in its statement. *CNN NEWS*

Pentagon budget bolsters nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump's \$740.5 billion defence budget request sent to Congress on Monday includes more money for nuclear weapons and a big boost to research and development spending to prepare for future warfare. The defence spending request contains the Pentagon's largest research and development budget in 70 years, a senior defence official said, as the military aims to build next generation capabilities to counter the growing strength of China and Russia. Within the Pentagon's competing priorities, the request for nuclear weapons modernisation funds rose 18 per cent compared to last year or \$29 billion extra dollars, a second senior defence official said. *Reuters*

Baby has his legs broken during delivery

MOSCOW - Russian doctors have attacked 'highly educated parents' who hire unqualified midwives for home births 'like showbiz stars' after a baby suffered broken legs during a nightmare delivery.

Shocking pictures show the boy's blue feet after both his legs were broken when two amateur midwives could not cope with the child in a breech position and initially failed to summon help. In this disturbing case in Voronezh city, the baby was feet-first and the two women assisting at the birth 'panicked' and delayed before rushing the mother to hospital. *AFP*

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

LESOTHO MURDER INTRIGUE 'TRAUMATISES' ALREADY VOLATILE KINGDOM

MASERU - Murder, mystery, suspense and political drama - the cocktail of events playing out in Lesotho belong in a best-selling thriller.

But it is the lived reality of a small southern African kingdom teetering on the brink.

Lesotho's picturesque mountains and ski resorts have earned it the moniker of Africa's Switzerland. But lately the country has been rocked by scandal, with the first family sucked into the long unresolved murder of the prime minister's previous wife.

In 2017, 58-year-old Lipolelo Thabane was gunned down near her home, just two days before Prime Minister Thomas Thabane was sworn into office.

The premier and his then wife were engaged in a bitter divorce at the time.

Two months after Thabane assumed office, he married Maesiah, now aged 43.

Last week, she was charged in connection with the murder of her rival.

Thabane's election had brought



VOLATILE: Thomas Thabane married his current wife some two months after his first wife Lipolelo's death.

hopes of stability to Lesotho, which has a long history of political turmoil.

Power

He first came to power in 2012 as the head of the country's first coalition government, formed after an inconclusive vote.

But the start of his second term was rocked by Lipolelo's murder, which sent shock waves through the tiny kingdom of 2.2 million people.

The now 80-year-old prime minister was also questioned last month after investigations revealed that communication records from

the day of the murder picked up his cell phone number.

"That put a personal crisis on top of a political crisis that had been going on for almost a year," said Nqosa Mahao, the deputy president of Thabane's ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC).

Mahao, who has been at odds with Thabane since he was elected deputy last year, has said Lipolelo's murder had 'foredoomed this government'.

A faction of the troubled party has since asked Thabane to resign. He agreed to go on the grounds of his advanced age, but has yet

Friend of murdered Lesotho's first lady fears for her life

MASERU - The survivor of the 2017 shooting in which Lesotho Prime Minister Tom Thabane's second wife Lipolelo was killed has filled court papers pushing back against the First Lady's release from custody.

Thato Sibolla is seeking protection in South Africa while she questioned the circumstances under which Maesiah Thabane was granted bail. Sibolla was in the car with Lipolelo when a gunman opened fire on them, three years ago. It's alleged Maesiah was the mastermind of the killing. Sibolla, who survived the ordeal, has told Eyewitness News she fears for her life and was in South Africa to apply for asylum. She is now a key witness in the murder case against Maesiah.

The prime minister's grandson, who carries the same name, is also an applicant, challenging the decision to grant the first lady bail.

EWN

to give a date for his departure.

It has been more than a decade since a prime minister served out a full five-year term in Lesotho.

Thabane has already fled the country once.

News24

Nurses in Zimbabwe probed over sale of ARVs on black market

HARARE - Some nurses and other hospital staff in Zimbabwe are diverting life-saving anti-retroviral drugs that are supposed to be dispensed for free by public health institutions, to the thriving black market, the state-owned The Herald newspaper reported.

A month's supply of ARV drugs costs around US\$10 on the illicit market, an amount many locals cannot afford.

The Herald said the large population of Zimbabweans living outside the southern African state, who return to their home country on holidays, are the main target for the unscrupulous ARV dealers.

A nurse at one of Zimbabwe's biggest health facilities, Parirenyatwa Hospital, is reportedly under internal investigation for selling the drugs after related WhatsApp chat messages were leaked to the authorities.

Last month the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission said it had started monitoring public hospitals and clinics in a bid to curb the theft of medicine at government health facilities for re-sale on the black market.

The commission, led by former high court judge Loice Matanda-Moyo, was last year given the power to arrest suspects.

African News Agency/ANA



Mozambique drops SA legal challenge for Chang's extradition

MAPUTO - Manuel Chang has been held in South Africa since December 2018 at the request of US authorities.

Mozambique withdrew a legal challenge in South Africa over competing bids to extradite its ex-finance minister who is wanted in the US and Maputo over a \$2 billion debt scandal.

Manuel Chang has been held in

South Africa since December 2018 at the request of US authorities over his alleged involvement in the huge fraudulent loans to Mozambique state firms that plunged the economy into crisis.

But Mozambique also accuses Chang of taking kickbacks and wants its former minister sent back to stand trial.

South Africa said last year it would

send Chang back to Mozambique, only to halt the plan.

Decision

Then in November the South African High Court ruled that Minister of Justice Ronald Lamola, should make the final decision over which country Chang should be extradited to.

Mozambique initially launched an appeal to that decision, but decid-

ed to drop its objections on Monday.

Attorney General Beatriz Buchili released a statement saying she "hopes that the withdrawal of the two appeals will help to speed up the outcome of the case, and that the additional pleas submitted, through the appropriate channels, will support the Minister of Justice in re-examining the request".

The charges against Chang relate

to loans taken out by the Mozambique government when he was finance minister between 2005 and 2015.

When the hidden debt was revealed, Mozambique — which relies on donor aid and is one of the world's poorest countries — was plunged into the worst financial crisis in its history.

The money from the loans was intended to purchase equipment for coastal protection and a tuna fishing fleet for Mozambique.

In the US, Chang faces charges of conspiracy to commit electronic fraud, financial security violations and money laundering.

The Citizen

BRIEFS

Militants burn to death motorists

ABUJA - Suspected militant Islamists have killed at least 30 people and abducted women and children in a raid in north-eastern Nigeria, officials say. Most of the victims were travellers who were burnt to death while sleeping in their vehicles during an overnight stop, officials added.

The attack took place in Auno town on a major highway in Borno State. Militant Islamist group Boko Haram and its offshoots have waged a brutal insurgency in Nigeria since 2009. About 35 000 people have been killed, more than two million have been left homeless and hundreds have been abducted in the conflict.

AFP

Sergeant sentenced to 20 years for incest

ACCRA - Ghanaian army sergeant has been sentenced to 20 years for incest by an Accra Circuit Court, it was reported. The Citi Newsroom (CNR) said that the man had started to abuse his daughter when she was nine-years-old. The abuse continued until the child was 15. He pleaded not guilty to charges of defilement and incest. In handing down the sentence, the presiding judge said that as a serving military officer, the father should have known better. "According to the court the convict was a threat to humanity and should be kept away to safeguard the future of girls, adding that his sentence was to serve as a deterrent to other likeminded people," CNR reported. **African News Agency**

Eight men jailed for homosexuality

NOUAKCHOTT - A Mauritanian court has jailed eight men for two years for 'committing indecent acts' after a video showed them at a gay birthday party, their lawyer and Human Rights Watch (HRW) said. The party at a restaurant in the capital Nouakchott on January 11 was initially described as the first 'gay wedding' in the history of semi-desert country, which bans homosexual behaviour between Muslim adults. Police later said the occasion was the birthday party "of a homosexual to which he invited only those like him".

Reuters

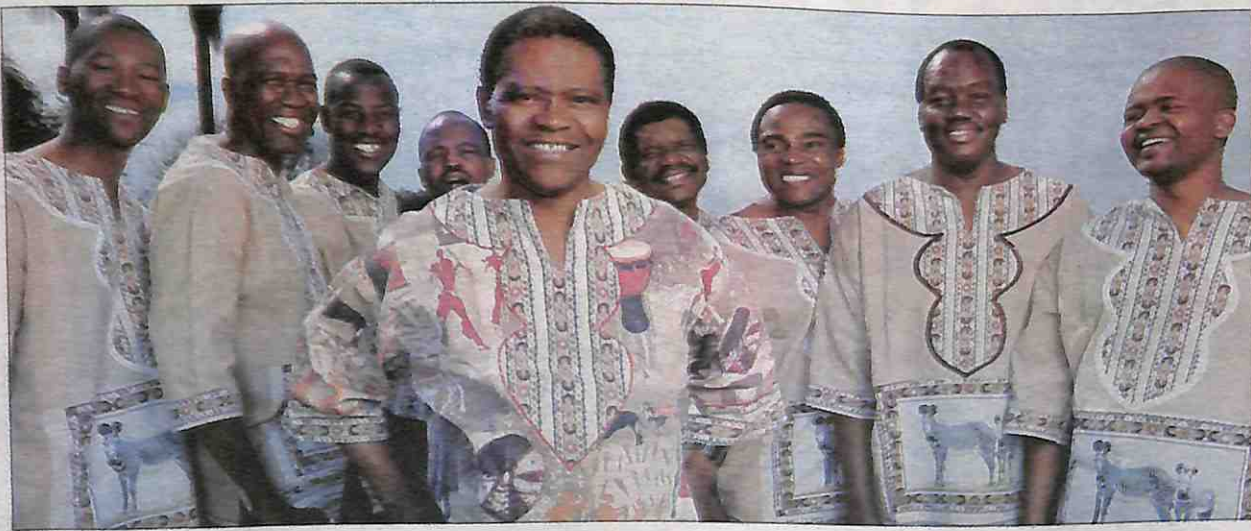
Court bans teacher over harassing pupils

CAIRO - An Egyptian court has upheld a teaching ban against an elementary school teacher accused of sexually harassing 120 female pupils, the education ministry said. The incidents date to 2013, when complaints were lodged against the maths teacher at a school in Alexandria, said the ministry's undersecretary Youssef al-Deeb. "The teacher was fired from the school back then," Deeb told AFP. The Supreme Administrative Court on Sunday rejected the teacher's appeal against a lower court's decision permanently banning him from teaching, he added. Elementary schools in Egypt teach children between the ages of six and 12. **DPA**

ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

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MTN BUSHFIRE, HOF MOURN SHABALALA

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

MTN Bushfire Festival and House on Fire have joined fans of Lady Smith Black Mambazo in mourning the death of founder of Grammy-winning award group Joseph Shabalala, who passed on at the age of 78 yesterday morning.

The group last performed at the MTN Bushfire in 2018, however, Shabalala was not part of that performance.

"We are honoured to have had the group on the MTN Bushfire stage. Shabalala consciously handed over the baton to his family and to the broader team."

"It's been a marvel to see his legacy grow and thrive through the existing talented members of this iconic group," said MTN Bushfire Festival Director Jiggs Thorne.

He said it had been an incredible privilege to work with Lady Smith Black Mambazo over the years as 2018 was the first year the country hosted the group.

"House On Fire and MTN Bushfire's relationship with LSBM is one that will importantly continue."

"We will continue to celebrate Joseph Shabalala's legacy and the inspiring impact that he's had on African music," Thorne said.

He said Shabalala introduced tradi-

... the group last performed in the country in 2018 at MTN Bushfire festival without the late founder



Jiggs Thorne and Joseph Shabalala.



tional Zulu music to the world.

"Their success on the international stage has been a reminder of the richness in cultural heritage and the importance of telling our own authentic stories and recognising our own worth," Jiggs added. For starters, Joseph Shabalala founded Ladysmith Black Mambazo in the 1960s and turned them into a Grammy-winning group.

Specialising in 'Isicathamiya', a harmony-focused Zulu style of acappella and offshoot of Mbube, they became known to pop audiences around the world when Paul Simon featured them on his 1986 album, Graceland.

His first musical experience, save for a bit of fooling around on the guitar, came with a choral group called the Blacks. Shabalala eventually took over

leadership of the group and became its main composer. The Blacks won the majority of the local vocal competitions and became the most popular Zulu vocal group.

When the Blacks refused to take part in Shabalala's experiments, he formed Ladysmith Black Mambazo. The group consisted of seven bass voices, an alto, a tenor and Shabalala singing lead. After signing with Gallo Record Company, their recording debut, Amabutho, arrived in 1973.

The combo began releasing albums at a staggering rate, creating a massive catalogue of vocal music. He retired from the group and handed over the reigns to his eldest son, although he did make appearances to some of the group's performances.

Chi Executive Lounge opens doors for artists

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

CHI Executive Lounge has opened doors to local artists by providing platforms, tools, facilities, and also creating an environment where they could be mentored and taught about business.

In an interview, owner Prosper Chiwenda stated that he wanted to assist the entertainment industry by grooming local artists to a level where they would be able to make money from their craft.

He said they were looking to expose young and upcoming artists.

"We recently hosted a successful comedy event and the brains behind it was celebrated local comedian Mdura."

"For us as Chi, this was a stepping stone in what we are hoping to achieve and we call on artists to approach us if they need any form of assistance."

"We strongly believe that we, as society, should always be part of the solution. We simply want to play our part in contributing to art. Be it performing arts, comedy, visual arts and music, just to mention a few," he said.

Furthermore, he stated that they would identify the specific programmes and institutions of charity to benefit from their efforts.

Chiwenda mentioned that they also wanted to partner with organisations/institutions in projects that



Chi Executive Lounge owner Prosper Chiwenda.

would support skills development for sustainability of chain-end beneficiaries.

He further said Chi also gives people a homely feel which is different to your normal club scene.

He invited all those who want to relax, network and socialise after a long day to join them at the new spot.

"As the name may suggest, we hope to capture a clientele hungry for relaxation. Day to day commitments have denied people the time to meet and socialise. Sometimes the answers are within us and a piece of mind is simply what we need."

"We are trying to remind people that slowing down for a short while is not a bad idea," he shared.

Another aspect that Chi hopes to explore is being a socially responsible and contributing member of society.

Wezzy drops Valentine's Day song

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

AS the Valentine's Day fever is now at its peak, Afro pop artist Wezzy has embraced it without doubt with his new release 'As We Grow'.

The single was released on Monday in the true spirit of celebrating love amongst couples.

"I dedicate this single to couples out there who are still holding on to their relationship even though challenges beset them. We cherish these couples who stick to their bond growing older with love and their relationship soaring," Wezzy said.

He was motivated by these couples who compliment and appreciate each other for the inimitable love they share.

"In part this single is dedicated to my fiancé Lindelwa Nkambule as despite having travelled this path (of love) for some time now with

her and overcame hitches at times, it still feels like yesterday. So I'm saying to the couples out there; keep it going guys. Never give up but go much deeper, we love it as observers," he added. The Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) student recently released his debut CD titled 'First of Fame' which has 12 tracks. Besides being an Afro pop artist, Wezzy is also into R&B, deep house, pop and gospel music.

"My fans out there; this is dope. Go out there, grab a copy for yourself and enjoy it as you celebrate Valentine's Day," closed the upcoming artist.

Wezzy is signed under Eswatini Arts Super Unity (ESWASU) managed by Immortal 7.



DROPS ALBUM: Wezzy.

Spotlight contestant Zinia clinches deal with WORDiS

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

THE Spotlight contestant Mbali 'Zinia' Gamedze has signed with WORDiS.

She has released her first single titled 'So Wrong'.

The song was released last month on SoundCloud, YouTube and can be downloaded on slikouronlife.co.za.

According to the stable founder, Velefini Mngomezulu, the song was to reintroduce her to the public after her participation on The Spotlight talent search

competition.

The song received 403 plays on SoundCloud within three days of its release.

The song was produced at Yati Studios and it was mixed and mastered by Mngomezulu.

The inspiration behind the song, according to Velefini, is a story of a love relationship where feelings are not mutual as one half of the relationship feels betrayed by the lack of love from the other part.

Mngomezulu said he spotted the singer during the competition.

"We saw her star quality at the WORDiS camp on her first audition in the MTN Spotlight competition. I remember going crazy after that and I told someone at the camp that we have to work with her no matter what and we have been locked in the studio ever since," said Mngomezulu.

Mngomezulu said he would produce a quality artist in terms of the music, performance and being professional.

"We do not look at her as an artist, but a brand that would go beyond just music but a brand that'll grow to other businesses in the industry and beyond," he said.

'Ngiyathandaza' reaches 40k views on YouTube

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

BARELY three weeks after its release, Sands' 'Ngiyathandaza' featuring Tsepo Tshola is sitting on 40 000 views on YouTube channel.

The video was shot in the Kingdom of Eswatini by a talented team from internationally acclaimed Sky Star Films.

Sands' Manager Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini said they were happy with the progress so far.

Sands was also humbled by the gesture. The pace has exceeded his wildest expectations as well as that of the whole team.

"We appreciate everyone who has watched and shared the music video with their friends and family. This is music for all ages and seasons - very spiritually uplifting. Special thanks to our partners Content Connect Africa as well the TV stations airing the video," Dlamini shared.

He shared that their target was to hit 100 000 mark before they release the second single music video which will also be shot in the beautiful Kingdom of Eswatini. "We have had numerous requests from Christian community music channels and our digital marketing team is working around the clock to make sure everyone has it," Dlamini said.



VIEWS: Sands' 'Ngiyathandaza' featuring Tsepo Tshola music video.

The main aim of the video, according to Dlamini, is to boost the tourism sector since it was taken mostly in mountain sites to show the beauty of the kingdom.

The song, according to Dlamini, was fully sponsored by Content Connect Africa who own Viva Nation TV. Content Connect Africa (Pty

Ltd (CCA) is an independently owned South African media and content business based in Johannesburg.

"It is one of Sands' best visual works so far and arguably could be the best visuals to be shot, produced and directed locally. *Ngiyathandaza* is the first single of his upcoming album," said Dlamini.

Sands and the legendary Tsepo Tsola last performed in the country last year at the Noja Festival where they created so many memories with other Swati artists, including Bholoja.

Their fans were happy and could not stop talking about how great the festival was and the duo's performance.

Swazi Jive most followed stable

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

SWAZI Jive is the most followed stable in the kingdom with 21 000 followers on their Facebook page alone.

Swazi Jive founder Sakhile Nkambule stated that this meant there was an ever increasing need and demand for Hipnotik.

He expressed his excitement and gratitude for his fans for always supporting him and making sure they were kept informed about Swazi Jive by following them on social media.

"It's such a blessing that after 11 years in the industry we are able to conjure up so much love and attention. I'm happy. We started out social media pages in 2008 but things really picked up after 2010 as headcount was getting more popular.

"I thank God that my platforms continue to inspire the best of the best to gather and we will be putting thought into the production and delivering. I think it's cool that in my own way I can continue the spirit of Hipnotik as we continue our brand management and repositioning to bring an important part of youth culture back," he said. Nkambule further said he had a number of projects he was working on that his fans would like. He had collaborated with corporates and institutions be announced in due course.

They would also be releasing new music under the Swazi Jive brand for people who are signed under the company and independent artists. Swazi Jive Entertainment is a record label founded in 2012.

The label has since grown and made brilliant progress on the local and South African music scene. The organisation does not only focus on music but also organises events such as Hipnotik.

Amapiano hit from The Scientists

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

OVER the past year, the amapiano genre has taken over dance floors countrywide.

Local duo The Scientists has released their own amapiano track titled 'Imphumelelo'.

This was revealed by one of the duo members Samkeliso Khumalo.

Khumalo said the song was about family support that the youth receive each and everyday.

He stated that working on the project was fun and exciting even though it took long to get to the final product.

"We took about six months working on this project, from beat production to recording vocals, arranging, mixing and mastering, getting the right artwork for it as well. Overall,

it was fun and technically vibey," he said.

He added that they would be soon releasing an EP with two sub-genres of afro house music.

"We went for more laid back but very groovy music. We also took a head so people can expect nothing but lovely technical music in this one," he said.

Furthermore, Khumalo revealed that the project would be released on Friday and be available on a number of digital platforms for people to stream, purchase and download such as Deezer, Spotify and Apple Music, to name a few.

"A big shout out to everyone who worked with us on this project and our fans for patiently waiting on us and persistently asking for more music. Expect many more projects this year, *kusatoba mnandzi*," he added.



Claiming Grounds working on Spotlight finalists projects

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

CLAIMING Grounds Records is working on producing MTN The Spotlight runner-ups Madoda and Nompandolo's albums.

This was confirmed by Claiming Grounds Records co-founder Muzi Ngwenya who stated that the albums would be out before the end of the year.

Ngwenya said it was an honour for their company to have been entrusted with the task of bringing to life the dreams of two The Spotlight runner-ups; Madoda and Nompandolo.

"I think more than anything, this confirms that our work in the industry is impressive as we were chosen over any other record label.

Excited

But more than that, this will ensure that now with our next phase, our company name will ring in many more boardrooms," he shared.

The Spotlight finalist, Madoda famously known as Oxygen, said he was excited about this because the team has shown how serious they were, not only about the project, but about him as a brand.

"I am hoping that this move brings me closer to being a globally recognised musician and judging by the quality of music, an example being the recently released sensational single 'Come Closer,' I appreciate Claiming Grounds Records," Oxygen said.

Nompandolo was equally very excited.



EXCITED: MTN The Spotlight finalist Madoda

"Claiming Grounds has played a huge role in uplifting careers of many artists in our kingdom and for me to have the opportunity to work with them is truly an honour.

"I'm getting the chance to work with really talented creative people who I trust to not only bring my ideas to life but enhance them.

In that way I'm sure my music will be an experience for my listeners and supporters, which is what I am all about.

"I'm hoping it'll give me the quality of work that will also take my music beyond the borders of our kingdom," Nompandolo added.



HONOURED: Nompandolo.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Anele Mdoda in awe from all that stargazing

TV and radio personality Anele Mdoda returned to the Oscars in Hollywood for a second consecutive year but her approach was different - less talking and more action.

Mdoda interviewed A-listers, including Charlize Theron, Regina King, James Corden and Janelle Monáe, for the red carpet special that aired on M-Net last night.

She told Sowetan that her heart was still racing although she was attending the biggest night in film for the second time.

"I can tell you the nerves are still the same. You don't know who you will get or if they will be in a good mood but we all love movies so that's always a great way to break the ice," Mdoda told Sowetan.

"Everything was different. The atmosphere was also very reserved this time around and there was less camaraderie amongst the journalists. It was every man for themselves. I love in-depth interviews and last year I went with that approach. This year I realised quickly that no one has time to answer loads of questions so just get quips, chirps, shout-outs and keep it moving."

"This year we were further down on the red carpet and by then the stars are tired of answering questions so we kept it tight," Mdoda said.

South Korean auteur Bong Joon-ho's *Parasite* made history by becoming the first film not in English to win Best Picture in 92 years of the Oscars.

Sowetan LIVE



JOSEPH SHABALALA CONTRIBUTED TO SA'S LIBERATION

PRETORIA - Condolences are pouring in for legendary musician Joseph Shabalala, who died yesterday morning.

Shabalala, the founder of Grammy Award-winning isicathamiya group Ladysmith Black Mambazo, died at the age of 78 at Life Eugene Marais hospital in Pretoria after a long illness, group manager Xolani Majozi confirmed.

The Jacob Zuma Foundation extended its condolences to the Shabalala family shortly after his death.

"Prof Shabalala has contributed to the liberation of this country in the form of arts and other ways some might not know. He played a very pivotal role in the shaping of the music industry in this country in particular," said Dudu Myeni, head of the foundation.

KwaZulu-Natal premier Sihle



Zikalala hailed Shabalala as a visionary music maestro who steered the group to unprecedented glory when it became the first African musical outfit to win a Grammy Award in 1987.

"This is indeed a very sad day in our country's history. Ubaba uMshengu was like no other. He was a unique and inimitable

artist whose musical brilliance helped him break new ground.

"Through his exploits, he flew the country's flag and indeed that of the continent very high, and helped inspire millions of people, showing them that if you work hard, anything is possible," Zikalala said. The premier is expected to visit the musician's family. **Times Live**

Ariana Grande kisses unknown dude at bar

HOLLYWOOD - Ariana Grande walks into a bar is how you'd start a good joke, but this time it's real and ends with our girl locking lips with a mystery man who might not even be all that famous.

The singer was spotted out late Saturday night at a place called Bar Louie in Northridge, CA which is in the San Fernando Valley, way on the outskirts of central L.A.

We're told she rolled into the gastropub around 1 am with a crew of friends in tow, including this gent you see here right next to her in the booth. They popped in, sat down for a bit, and besides the water we're told AG wanted, she was just all in on this guy's face.

As for who this fella might

be -- it's unclear. We're told he wasn't instantly recognisable though, which means he's not on Ariana's level (fame-wise, anyway). Now, eyewitnesses tell us the group only stayed for around 30 minutes, and while some of her friends ordered wine and other drinks, we're told Ariana wasn't boozing. She was, however, in a chatty mood. Our sources tell us there was a DJ nearby who was actually playing Ariana's song, "God is a Woman," right around the same time she was there. We're told AG asked the guy to switch up the tunes ... she didn't wanna hear her own song. A couple interesting things about this smooching sesh -- for one, it doesn't look like Social House singer Mikey Foster, who's been romantically linked to Grande of late, even though we'd been



told nothing's going on there. They hang out a lot, that's for darn sure.

The second thing, Ariana is apparently a regular in the Northridge area. She was interviewed there for a *Vogue* article in 2019 and has been seen out and about.

Keep your eyes peeled, valley peeps. AG is on the prowl in your neighborhood. **TMZ**

Blac Chyna blames racism for questions about her Oscars appearance

HOLLYWOOD - The confusion, or even contempt, over Blac Chyna being a guest at the Oscars proves the award show still has a big problem with people of color -- that's how she feels, anyway.

A rep for Chyna tells TMZ, what should have been a magical and dream-fulfilling moment for her has turned into a demeaning instance of 'black lash,' with multiple media outlets unfairly asking, "Why is SHE there?"

In Chyna's view, she more than deserved to be there not only because she contributes to the entertainment industry as star of her own reality show, but as a black woman who "finds

inspiration in supporting her friends, mentors, and other talent that has helped provide a blueprint for her career."

Chyna's rep says her Academy Awards attendance was no different from many other entertainment professionals who attended, despite not being nominated or involved in film in any way.

The biggest difference, according to Chyna's team, is her background and skin color.

"Whether it be the fact that she is a reality star, a single mother, or the inevitable reminder that she was a former stripper, it does nothing to change the narrative that just maybe the Oscars

indeed are 'so white,' says Chyna's rep.

The rep adds, all the buzz over Chyna's attendance "further highlights the fight that many African Americans in the Entertainment Industry face; yes, even during Black History Month." Ya get the point.

Chyna's incensed and feels she's the victim of systemic racism.

We're told she still feels it was worth it to take a stand and be a role model, showing young people of color what they can achieve. BTW, we're told she went with a music producer but secured her own invitation. **TMZ**

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Vho Masindi on Muvhango.



The Zungu children are split over their parent's separation. Thandi and Bongani are surprised by Ntwenhle's renewed friendship with Busi.



Lincoln remains in custody and in mortal danger. Nina sends her goons to rough up Cebisa. Marius makes an unexpected announcement.



Azwindini and Mulalo reach an unlikely decision, who would have thought. KK fixes all his past mistakes and he wants to go out in peace. Warona's decision may be a life time mistake, but Marang plans to save her.



Crazy J makes a startling discovery upon waking up... Fikile finds out for herself that the truth hurts. Will a bogus doctor with a drug addiction be able to sell the lie...?



The Khozas lose their ace in the hole putting their plans at risk. Goodness seems to be fighting a losing battle against Sonnyboy and the courts.



MaNgobco gets the details she needs, Gabisile doesn't get the desired reaction from Qhabanga, and Sbu fails to change Fikile's mind.



The businessman's plan is revealed and set in motion by his partner in crime.

MEME OF THE DAY

Stop forgiving your boyfriend, we also want you.

Follow Us @
No Chill in Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Working at home might be the answer for you today, Capricorn. You could be physically and mentally worn out from working too hard, but you still have important tasks to complete. You may operate better on your own territory right now, without having to fight traffic or parking problems. You tend to be very conscientious where work is concerned, sometimes to your own detriment.



in a quest for perfection that you stress yourself out.

Cancer June 22 – July 22

The establishment of a new business partnership could require a lot of paperwork today, Cancer. It might be really tedious trying to make sense of all the jargon involved, but it's important to you, so you're likely to be more persistent than usual. Someone more familiar with these matters could explain the ins and outs to you.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

News you may receive about your place of business or the people you work for might bring up some doubts about your future in this organization, Aquarius. You might feel that you aren't getting anywhere. You might be considering the possibility of changing jobs or even careers. Someone may put forth a type of opportunity that you've never considered before.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Legal documents that concern your business may need to be executed today, Leo. There might be a lot of paper to wade through, not to mention jargon that appears indecipherable. Don't get too impatient, however, as this is important. Instead, find someone more familiar with this sort of thing and get him or her to explain it all to you.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Paperwork involving money might seem a bit overwhelming today, Pisces, and you might ask a friend for advice or assistance. This person probably knows what it's all about, so listen even though you might not understand much of what he or she says! Financial benefits could be in the wind.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Today you might consider making an investment of time, energy, and perhaps a little money in a creative project of some kind, Virgo. This could also involve modern technology in some way. You could have several colleagues who want to work with you on this, and therefore the entire enterprise could be very exciting.



Aries March 21 – April 19

A rush of excess ambition could cause you to channel a lot of your physical and mental energy into whatever work you're doing right now, Aries. This might involve writing, teaching, or speaking in some way. As a result of your zeal, your body could be exhausted but your mind spinning like a top, even though the thoughts coming up may be scattered. It might be best to pace yourself now more than you're inclined to. Stay focused!



Libra September 23 – October 23

Visitors might come to your home today to discuss business of some kind, Libra, perhaps job related, perhaps about an enterprise you're developing on your own. If you aren't careful, however, you could get caught up in conversations that are more social than practical and thus lose sight of the reasons you got together. Stay focused on the matter at hand and you could be pleasantly surprised at the results.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Books, lectures, and other sources of information regarding spiritual, metaphysical, or religious matters could have your mind spinning, Taurus. What you read or hear is likely to be fascinating, but you might be too overwhelmed to make sense of it right now. Don't feel that you have to get it all together today. Do something else, let it all stew, and tomorrow its meaning could all appear to you in a rush.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

A rush of excess ambition could cause you to channel a lot of your physical and mental energy into whatever work you're doing right now, Scorpio. This might involve writing, teaching, or speaking in some way.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

A goal related to business or finance that is very important to you could require you to pay a lot of attention to paperwork today, Gemini. You're likely to spend most of the day on it since a deadline may be involved. Take care, however, that you don't get so caught up



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

An upcoming visit from someone close may have you working overtime in order to fix up your house, Sagittarius. Therefore, you could be tempted to go crazy buying decorative items. This is fine up to a point, but be careful! Some of the stuff that looks good in the store might not look quite the same once you get it home.



BABY BLUES



BLONDIE

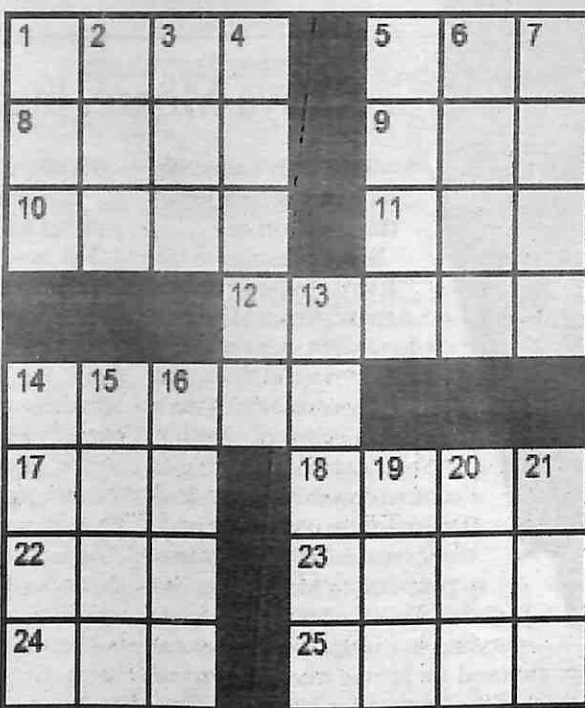


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Octo-Cross 02

Can you fit the words from the list correctly into the grid?



Down

1. Pouch
2. Chromaticity
3. Large vase
4. Snappy
5. Rind
6. Fruit
7. Eclat
13. Relating to a city
14. Location of something
15. Affirm
16. Sort
19. Anger
20. Prevarication
21. Boy or man

Across

1. Eschew
5. Young canine
8. Nimbus
9. Self
10. Coin
11. Type of tree
12. Bulbous plant
14. Woodland deity
17. Type of vine
18. Beak
22. Summit
23. Elaborate song for solo voice
24. Female sheep
25. Requirement



A Date

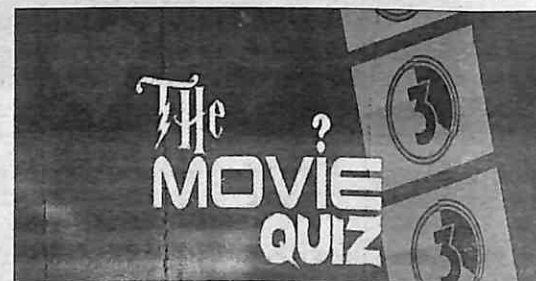
At a first date:
He: "I work with animals every day!"

She: "Oh how sweet!
What is it that you do?"
He: "I'm a butcher."

Did You Know

1. There's an entire town under a rock.
2. It is illegal to sell a "bounceless" pickle to somebody in Connecticut.
3. There's a world record—and a happy ending for the greatest distance thrown in a car accident.
4. You can sneeze faster than a cheetah can run

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Yesterday's Quiz

Which former Miss Israel plays Gisela in the Fast and Furious series of films?

Answer:
A. Gal Gadot

Today's Movie Quiz

1. Which American actor starred alongside Kim Basinger in the film 9½ Weeks?

Answers:
A. Ellen Rourke
B. Mickey



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



ALL THE OMG MOMENTS FROM 'THE BACHELOR SA' PREVIEW

IT hasn't started, but we're already into this new season of 'The Bachelor SA'.

The opening shot is wine, women and a tuxedo-clad Marc Buckner. Have we died and gone to sexy-people heaven?

There's lots to gasp at in the new Super Trailer for 'The Bachelor SA Season 2'. Here are our OMG moments.

When Marc Walks In

Look, we're already in agreement that Marc is fine, FINE. But did we anticipate a gorgeous tornado to blow into the mansion and

take our breath away? "Not I," said Fred. Everyone tried to keep it together, but look - that Marc man is so fine, imaginary pearls had to be clutched. We even saw someone take a big gulp of wine and almost sputter like a dead engine, because their throat couldn't handle anymore feels, mixed with wine. Same, girl. Same.

There's loads of kissing

Hold on to your wig and your chapstick, because it would seem Marc has chemistry with a LOT of the ladies. We tried to count the kisses but gave up eventually, because wow, bro! Last season, Kelly T scored the first kiss on the cutest ice cream date with South Africa's first Bachelor, Lee. Will it be first date snog vibes again? Who will beat the other ladies to it this time around? Also, exactly how many times will Marc pucker up?

There are lots of tears

'Rivers of tears' is an understatement. Try waterfalls, rivers AND the lakes that you're used to. We've never seen so many tears on television. Ever. It was so messy you'd think someone died. But like poet of our time Janet Jackson said that one time,



"That's the way love goes."

There's a *gasp* fight?

We dropped our coffee (two sugars), when we got to the part where some of the ladies (get to know them here) got snippy over the man of the hour. We want to know what's happening here because someone closes things off with "You would understand if you were invited to the wedding", while Nolo stews. Yikes. Looks like things get territorial from the get-go. Can't wait for context. Watch with us when 'The Bachelor' finally kicks off tomorrow at 19:00.

Marc is as hard as stone

Marc has rock-solid abs - and they were on full display when he rose out of the Atlantic Ocean (or is it Indian, since you know, Cape Town) in red shorts (could have

been shorter, if you ask us) like a sexy submarine of love (don't ask) in the first official 'The Bachelor SA Season 2' promo, which you can watch here. After watching this new trailer and rewinding the part where the man is shirtless many times (for research purposes, of course), we have come to this conclusion; we totally could bounce 50 Cent on those boulders Marc calls abs. 50 Cent the money, and also 50 Cent the rapper, because have you seen how strong? He totally wouldn't break or anything.

The ladies have Marc in a bind

Look, nobody said finding your one true love would be easy; and it looks like the ladies of 'The Bachelor SA Season 2' are not going to make this a walk in the park for our Bachelor.

Kenya Moore, husband working on marriage - RHOA

THE Daly's adorable tot has given them something to twirl on.

Since returning to the 'Real Housewives of Atlanta', Kenya Moore has done what viewers of the highest rated Housewives show know she would - she's shaken all kinds of tables.

She's stormed Marlo's hair conference with a marching band to promote her own organic product for natural hair, which clearly paid dust to Marlo's wig line event. She's fuelled the 'snakegate' storyline, in which a cast member was exposed for having recorded a private conversation between Cynthia and herself, and submitted the recording to Nene.

But perhaps the most noteworthy plot in her storyline is her troubled relationship with her husband, Marc Daly.

The two, who split at the end of 2019 after two years of marriage, have viewers shocked by the dynamics of their relationships whenever they are together on the show. Fans are worried that Marc isn't affectionate towards Kenya, and she has tearfully admitted that things aren't going well at all.

In new reports, however, the couple might be working to patch things up.

Apparently it all started when they joined forces for their birthday of their one-year-old daughter.

After organising the party, Kenya shared some snaps on Instagram, which featured Marc playing with their adorable 'miracle baby', Brooklyn Daly. She captioned it,

"...anything is possible..." This had many of her fans speculating that she's signalling a reunion with her husband.

And now Hollywood Life has confirmed the reports.

"They're in a good place after co-parenting Brooklyn's birthday together", said a source, who revealed to the publication exclusively that the Dalys might be on the mend.

"She just wants to make sure that any situation she puts Brooklyn in is a very positive one, so she's taking her time to figure everything out but Marc has been showing Kenya he's there for them, so she's open but they're taking everything day by day."

Will it work out? Keep an eye on our digital platforms for updates on the 'Real Housewives of Atlanta'.

Taye Diggs gets dating advice from his son! - All American

THE young Diggs is looking out for the seasoned actor.

Taye Diggs doesn't mind getting some romance advice from his 10-year-old son. The 'All American' actor recently revealed during a stop on the Ellen Show how his son told him to just "keep his eyes open!"

Perhaps young Walker Nathaniel

Diggs gets some of that insight from his father, who has remained grounded while sustaining and building a name for himself.

Way before landing a role on popular sports drama TV show 'All American', which currently airs on iMagic exclusively, the 49-year-old actor had already been winning

hearts with his performances and looks.

In fact, Diggs' big break in the silver screen came back in 1996, when he originated and starred in the role of landlord Benny in the film 'Rent'.

Roles began trickling in back to back for the actor, who's list of film

and TV shows include 'Wicked', 'Guiding Light', 'Go', 'The Wood', 'The Best', 'Private Practice', 'Will & Grace' and amongst others, 'Greys Anatomy'.

On All American, Diggs portrays the role of Billy Baker, the Beverly Hills American football team coach who recruits the show's lead, Spencer.

As in real life, Digg's role is pretty seasoned in the field, no pun intended. Much like Spencer, Baker had graduated from Crenshaw High and Beverly Hills High, and played in the NFL second round pick.

His dream to ascend in the sport were shattered when he suffered a devastating knee injury, which led him to leave the game.

Watch the wins and losses of two families on 'All American', Thursdays at 22:00 on iMagic, DStv channel 103!

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INDEX

- NOTICES
 - General Notices
 - Legal Notices
 - Church Notices
 - Announcements
 - Change of Surname
 - Sales & Foreclosure
 - General Items
 - Auctions
- BUSINESS SERVICES
 - Special Services
 - Business Opportunities
 - Restaurant, Catering & Office
 - Equipment
 - Garage sale
 - Other Business Items
 - Maintenance & Construction
 - Motoring and Transport
- JOBS or VACANCIES
- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Medical & Natural Healing
 - Tuition & Courses
- HEALTH & BEAUTY
- PETS & PET ACCESSORIES
 - Pets & Adoptions
 - Cats & Kittens
 - Dogs & Puppies
 - Birds & Poultry
 - Fish & Aquarium
 - Other Pet & Accessories
- ELECTRONICS
 - TV's, DVD Players, Decoders & Satellite
 - Household Appliances
 - Music Equipment, Amplifiers, Equalizers & Speakers
 - Mobile Devices, Smart Phones
 - Tablets
 - Computers, Laptops, Cameras
 - Optics
 - Games, Gaming Consoles & Software
- HOUSEHOLD
 - Domestic
 - Clothing
 - Baby and Kids
 - Furniture
 - Hobbies, Model Toys,
- Handcraft
- Wanted
- BUILDING, GARDENING & DIY
 - Woodworking
 - Machinery & Tools
 - Plumbing & Electrical
 - Other Building & DIY
 - Plants, Trees & Flowers
 - Garden Furniture & Appliances
 - Other Gardening
- FARMING EQUIPMENT
- SPARES
 - Car Spares or Parts
 - Bike Spares
 - Truck, Bus and Trailer Spares
 - Stripping for Spares
 - Farming Equipment & Machinery
 - Livestock
 - Other Farming
- LEISURE, SPORT & EVENTS
 - Fitness
 - Tennis & squash
 - Watersport
 - Karate, Boxing & Judo
 - Angling & Cycling
 - Other Sport
 - Caravans, Campers and Trailers
 - Leisure, Community and Events
 - Music and Instruments
 - Camping and Outdoor
- PROPERTY
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Farms and Vacant Plots
 - Holiday & Accommodation
 - Apartments / Flats / Houses to
- Rent
- VEHICLES
 - Cars
 - Bikes
 - Classics and Custom Builds
 - Trucks
 - Buses Farming
 - Trailers
 - Aircraft
- DEATH NOTICES

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RN169781 22 Jan, 29 Jan, 5 Feb, 12 Feb

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RN173703 5 Feb, 12 Feb, 19 Feb, 26 Feb

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Football legend Pele very sick

SAO PAULO - He received treatment for a urinary infection before flying back to his homeland in what the latest health scare for the former forward.

In 2014, he was placed in intensive care following a urinary tract infection following surgery to remove kidney stones and the following year he had prostate surgery.

He was also forced to withdraw from the opening of the 2016 Rio Olympics over his health and collapsed through exhaustion in 2017 ahead of the Football Writers' Association dinner in London.

Three-time World Cup-winner Pele needs a frame to walk as he continues to struggle with a replaced hip.

He needs a frame to support him when walking and has used a wheelchair for the majority of his recent public appearances.

Pele's son Edinho told Globo Esporte: "He is very sheepish, reclusive."

"Imagine, he's the King, he was always such an imposing figure and today he can't walk properly."

"He's embarrassed, he doesn't want to go out, be seen, or do practically anything that involves leaving the house. He's pretty fragile. He had a



SICK: Pele's son reveals 'reclusive' Brazil legend doesn't want to leave house as he cannot walk without help.

hip replacement and didn't have an adequate or ideal rehabilitation.

"So he has this problem with mobility and that has set off a kind of depression."

sion."

Pele's stunning tally of 1 281 goals in 1 363 appearances - including 77 in 91 for Brazil - across his career that spanned 21 years is a world record haul.

He burst on to the world stage at the 1958 World Cup aged 17, becoming the youngest goalscorer, youngest player to bag a hat-trick and the youngest player to appear, score and win the final in the tournament's history.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Pele and his Selecao teammates winning his third World Cup with arguably the greatest side in history.

The Sun Sports



Anthony Davis, Rajon Rondo turn on the style

LOS ANGELES - Anthony Davis' double-double and Rajon Rondo's season-high 23 points saw the Lakers duo steal the show in Los Angeles as their side defeated Phoenix Suns.

The Lakers had dropped three of their last four at Staples Center but didn't have any problems against the Suns in a 125-100 win.

Los Angeles put the game away in the second as Rondo scored 15 points in the quarter. It was only the fifth time in Rondo's 13-year career he has scored 15 or more in a period.

LeBron James had 17 points, nine

...as Los Angeles Lakers make light work of Phoenix Suns test

assists and eight rebounds in 30 minutes for the Lakers, who have won four of their last five. Davis posted a double-double with 25 points and 10 rebounds during Monday night's game.

Mikal Bridges scored 18 points for Phoenix, which has lost six of seven. Cheick Diallo added 15 points while Jevon Carter and Ricky Rubio scored 13 apiece. Both teams started out hot in the first quarter. The Lakers made 10 of their first 13 from the floor and the Suns were 9 of 13 as there were 18 lead changes and four ties in the first 12 minutes.

Los Angeles led 32-30 at the end of the first quarter before breaking it open in the second with an 18-4 run as they made eight of their first nine shots. Rondo scored the first eight points in the period, including a pair of 3-pointers.

The Suns trailed 61-52 at half-time and got within 63-57 early in the third quarter on Cameron Johnson's 3-pointer. The Lakers scored the next six points and went on to extend their lead to 27 during the fourth quarter.

Sports Mail

Tyson Fury's most bizarre statements as he prepares for Wilder rematch

LONDON - Tyson Fury has long been the king of the quote and that has not changed ahead of his rematch with Deontay Wilder.

Fury knows how to make headlines with what he says - even if he sometimes chooses to be more tongue in cheek than

others would be - and he has been having plenty of fun recently.

From strange methods of giving himself more punching power to supposed switches to fights inside the octagon, Fury is already winning the fight before the fight when it comes to having an impact in the press.

With that clash on February 22 on the horizon, Sportsmail has taken a look at Fury's best quotes and lines in the build-up to the Wilder clash.

On an imminent switch to mixed martial arts...

Fury has long suggested he could move into other sports. He did take part in a WWE match late last year

and has repeatedly hinted that he could take part in a mixed martial arts bout. In October, he suggested Conor McGregor would train him to take part in a clash inside the octagon. He said "You might see Tyson Fury have his MMA debut this year. It's different but, like I

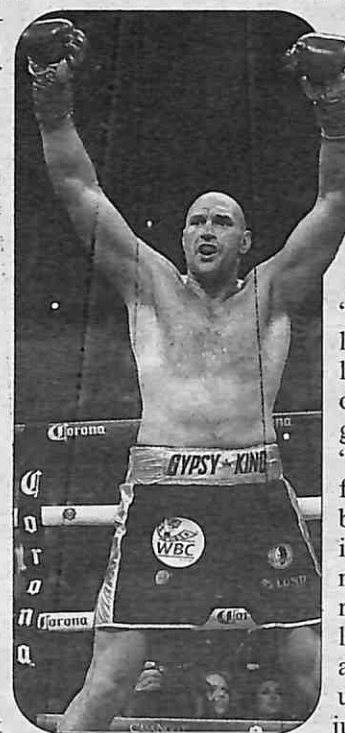
say, Tyson Fury [is] taking over. 'I've been speaking to Conor [McGregor] about it and he's willing to train me and it's going to be good.

"I come from a long line of bare knuckle boxing champions and getting hurt, getting bloodied.

"You saw in my last fight that there was blood everywhere, it's nothing new to me. It's all a part of my heritage. I would love to get in there and smash someone up. He [McGregor] just said 'any time you're ready, let's go.

Come over to Dublin and we'll start training'. I can't wait. I'm going to take him up on the offer."

Daily Mail



Bishop in charge of whipping England stars into shape

LONDON - Kyle Sinckler's gym guru Adam Bishop is Britain's strongest man who pulls 44-tonne planes and monster trucks in his spare time.

And the 23-stone Harlequins hulk, and former Saracens youth team player turned weight-lifting god, is also the ninth strongest bloke on the planet.

The 6ft 3in Twickenham titan is Quins' senior strength and conditioning coach with the job of making sure England stars Sinckler and Joe Marler are the most-powerful props in the country.

But Bishop, who converted a car barn into a gym at home, has not let Sinckler or Marler have a go on any of his ultra-heavy weights. Asked if he ever brings



down a lorry for the props to pull, 31-year-old Bishop laughed: "No! No way! 'Marler loves it and wants to do strongman stuff with me, but with the risk of injury with the strongman stuff it's just not worth it.

"I've torn my biceps off the bone before doing it. These guys are incredible rugby

players and if I injure one of them in the gym doing something stupid then the boss will be on my case.

"I've pulled a 44-tonne Hercules plane. Busses. I did two monster trucks at this year's World's Strongest Man and they were tough because of the huge wheels.

The Sun

Mallorca coach in racism storm

MADRID - Mallorca fitness coach Dani Pastor has been accused of making a racist gesture to attract the attention of Takefusa Kubo during the LaLiga game against Espanyol on Sunday.

Salva Sevilla suffered an injury during the game, with Mallorca electing to bring on Kubo, who is on loan from Real Madrid, to replace him.

While Kubo was warming up, footage showed Pastor whistling before appearing to make a slant-eyed gesture to attract the attention of the Japan international. Kubo replaced

Sevilla in the 65th minute but couldn't prevent his side from suffering a 1-0 defeat.

The 18-year-old joined Real Madrid from FC Tokyo last summer and signed a five-year deal with the Spanish club.

Kubo, who can play out wide or as an attacking midfielder, featured for Real in pre-season but the decision was taken to loan him out for the entirety of this season.

So far Kubo has made 21 appearances for Mallorca in all competitions, scoring once and providing two assists.

Daily Mail



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'His brain is obviously quicker than many others'

MANCHESTER - Manchester United Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has sung the praises of Bruno Fernandes, claiming his brain is 'quicker than many others'.

Fernandes has been settling into life at United this week during their training camp in Marbella after making his debut against Wolves in the Premier League goalless draw last time out.

The Portugal international impressed on his debut at Old Trafford and Solskjaer is expecting big things from his £68million signing, who he claims has 'brilliant' enthusiasm.

"Well, overall, he is a very, very good footballer and his brain is obviously quicker than many others," Solskjaer told United's official website.

"He has got loads of attributes that we are going to get used to. We will get used to him and he will get used to us.

"His passing range, his deliveries, his movements, I am just pleased to see him here enjoying himself.

"He trains and he trains and he trains, so his fitness levels and enthusiasm is brilliant."

Sports Mail

Mane hands Reds fitness boost

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool have been given a boost after Sadio Mane trained with his team-mates on Monday.

The star has been out for the last two Premier League games against West Ham and Southampton - with Liverpool winning both - after picking up a muscle tear against Wolves.

There had been concerns that Mane would spend an extended period on the sidelines with the injury.

But he has now been snapped taking part in training and looks ready to go for the return of Liverpool's Premier League campaign.

He was spotted taking part in drills with the likes of Trent Alexander-Arnold and trying to win the ball back from Andy Robertson.

It followed Mane uploading a video to his Instagram story showing off the fact that he is already back on the pitch and training again.

The Senegalese forward was spotted dribbling through cones on one of the pitches and firing a shot into the back of the net.

There seemed to be no issues for Mane as he then jogged back to the start to carry out the drill again.

Mane made the decision to stay at Melwood over the Premier League winter break and work hard to come back to full fitness. It could pay off for the 27-year-old, who might now hope to be involved when Liverpool take on Norwich on February 15.

His return would be a plus for Jurgen Klopp and his side - they will aim to win a 17th Premier League game on the trot in that clash.

ESPN



ARSENAL SHOULD LET AUBAMEYANG GO FOR FREE - GUNNERS LEGEND

LONDON - Arsenal should let Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang go for free after next season if his goals get them back in the Champions League, Paul Merson has said.

Striker Aubameyang, who has found the net 14 times this season, looks set to leave north London as his contract enters its last 12 months.

Barcelona have confirmed they are interested, and he could end up leaving for free if no extension is agreed before the end of the next campaign.

Pundit Merson thinks this would not be a bad thing

con-

sidering the Gabon international is 30.

But he said Mikel Arteta's side should challenge Aubameyang to see them into the Champions League before he leaves.

The Gunners currently sit in 10th and are 10 points off an automatic Champions League spot this term but Merson is looking further ahead.

Merson, who scored 78 goals in 327 appearances for Arsenal from 1985 to 1997, told Sky Sports: "I thought Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang would be about 31, 32 when he left, and if I was Arsenal I'd keep him in the summer.

"I'd keep him and say, you know what, give him what you can next year and get us into the Champions League and you can go for free. It's hard to buy goals, and he's a natural scorer.

"Gabriel Martinelli could be a top player and I like him, but if I keep Aubameyang I've got 15-20 goals, and that's some doing."

He added that asking 18-year-old Brazilian Martinelli to do that would be unfair.

Barcelona sporting director Eric Abidal confirmed last week the club was interested in the Gunners skipper.

The LaLiga champions were looking for a No 9 in the January transfer window, with Luis Suarez out until at least April.

Aubameyang was heavily linked with a move to the Nou Camp and although a deal did not materialise, Abidal said the club will look for a striker this summer and spoke highly of him.

"I know him (Aubameyang). He has a profile that has depth. He is important, and in his team he is decisive," Abidal told Spanish outlet Sport. "It is good to bring this profile of player who can be in the market and can help you. We'll see what will happen.

"It is logical that in summer a 'nine' will come. It is a necessity. We know that Suarez will come back strong, but you have to bring a top player in the summer.

"There is a list with players like [Olivier] Giroud, [Fernando] Llorente or Aubameyang, but for one thing or another we decided not to sign [someone in January].

The Guardian

'A few months ago, we didn't think it was possible'

LONDON - Everton captain Seamus Coleman admits the players did not think European qualification was even possible a few months ago but now it is their sole target.

Everton looked more likely to be tackling a relegation battle after they sacked Marco Silva with the club in the Premier League's bottom three at the beginning of December.

However, new boss Carlo Ancelotti has reinvigorated Everton with 17 points from eight matches - bettered only by near-neighbours and runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool (24) over

the same period - catapulting them to within five points of the top four.

While thoughts of Champions League football may be fanciful, the Toffees, with no cup involvement, are firmly in the race for the Europa League and that is something Coleman believes the club needs.

"We're trying to catch those European places. A few months ago, we probably didn't think that was possible," he told evertontv.

"But we're playing well now and just looking forward to every game.

"We've got to push for Europe. I think this club needs European football and we all want that.

"Where this football club wants to get in the next three, four, five years, it has to be wanting European football every year and if we can get it this year, that's a bonus."

Sports Mail



IT IS DOABLE: Everton captain Seamus Coleman.



South African SOCCER



SHOCK: Newly-signed midfielder Nkanyiso Zungu.

Zungu speaks on 'shock' move to Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - Newly-signed midfielder Nkanyiso Zungu says he comes from a family of Kaizer Chiefs supporters but the black and white Orlando Pirates colours hold a special place in his heart. Zungu joined Pirates from Stellenbosch FC on the last day of the January transfer window.

"Initially I was shocked, firstly because it came so unexpectedly as the window was about to close and secondly, the magnitude of the club that was interested in my services," Zungu told the Pirates website.

"Playing for Pirates has been a childhood dream of mine so you can imagine what went through my mind when the call came through. But having said that, joining is only the start, I need to work hard to build on this and make this opportunity count."

Zungu also revealed that he comes from a family that supports Pirates' rivals Kaizer Chiefs, but he grew up supporting Bucs.

"The interesting thing is that I come from a family of staunch Kaizer Chiefs supporters but as soon as I was old enough to make my own decisions, I went against the grain and chose the black and white of Pirates. I think I was mainly attracted to their style of play."

The Citizen

HERE TO STAY:
Kaizer Chiefs defender Siyabonga Ngezana.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR BUCS TO BOUNCE BACK

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates' Nedbank Cup loss to Bidvest Wits will test the club's mental resolve under coach Josef Zinnbauer, who has masterminded a dramatic turnaround at the club.

The Sea Robbers are unbeaten in the Absa Premiership under the German coach, who has brought renewed energy, a strong fighting spirit and belief to the club.

But even though they have been doing well under him, there were small cracks, especially in their fragile defence.

Those cracks were covered by the heart the team play with, as well as their free-scoring nature that has seen Gabadinho Mhango lead the top goalscorer's charts.

The instant success that Zinnbauer came with at the club also peppered on the opportunity to introspect, to look at how the club found themselves struggling in a season that was meant to be the one of delivery. But right now Pirates have been knocked out of every knockout competition.

"When you concede two goals, and then you come back and go

in front, normally you win this kind of game," Zinnbauer said. "But as I have been saying this for weeks, we need time. We have to learn, and we learned a lot of things in this game."

"When you are a little bit clever, you can win this game."

The lessons that Pirates have to learn is how to manage high-intensity matches.

They struggled to do that against Wits when the game was wrapped up at 3-2. Their defence was caught off guard and duly punished by Gift Motupa.

The biggest criticism for the club was how they didn't strengthen their central defence during the transfer window when they are thin in this department in terms of quality and quantity.

The positive in the loss to Wits was how the club didn't give up, but showed a strong resolve to come back from the dead and push the Clever Boys to extra-time.

"I am very proud of the team," Zinnbauer said. "When you have a chance to win against Wits, then you need all aspects in the game to be good." *IOL Sports*

Middendorp drops Khune hint

JOHANNESBURG - Could Itumeleng Khune overtake Daniel Akpeyi? Ernst Middendorp has given some insight into how he'll make his decision on Kaizer Chiefs' number one goalkeeper.

Khune made his long-awaited return to action over the weekend as he managed to keep a clean sheet against GladAfrica Championship side, Royal Eagles, with the shot-stopper making his first appearance since back in September.

Daniel Akpeyi has come on leaps and bounds in Amakhosi colours since joining from Chippa United, and few expected him to be keeping Khune on the bench at this point in the season, let alone with the Glamour Boys sitting on top of the Absa Premiership table.

Now, having given Khune a chance against Eagles in the Nedbank Cup, Middendorp says he will chat to his technical team before making a decision on who will start against Maritzburg United this weekend as they return to league action on Saturday evening.

Speaking to the club's official website, the German said, "We have good goalies... All of them qualified to do the job for us. Let's hear what



HINT: Itumeleng Khune.

the technical team says, I will be guided by their advice. Akpeyi has done well for us, saving us in certain situations. Maybe Khune will be back in goals soon."

Akpeyi has established himself as Chiefs' num-

ber one over the past few months, putting in a number of impressive performances – and earning individual recognition for his form – so is expected to be back between the sticks against the Team of Choice this weekend.

Reported 'Downs target set to stay at Chiefs

JOHANNESBURG - Following rumours linking him with a possible move to Mamelodi Sundowns, a source close to Kaizer Chiefs defender Siyabonga Ngezana has revealed that the Vaal-born player doesn't see himself playing for another team at the moment and wants to make a successful career at Amakhosi.

"Those rumours are laughable because knowing him and what he has planned, he won't leave Chiefs, especially now. He is just one of those players that feels like he owes the club a lot looking at what they have done in terms of developing him. He might leave the club one day, but not

anytime soon," said the source.

Chiefs announced that they will appeal the sentence set down by 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.

The Citizen





Neymar.

Mestre backs club to re-sign Neymar

BARCELONA - Former Barcelona chief Jordi Mestre has called for the club to re-sign Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain - but admits the manner of his world-record £200million departure in 2017 still stinks.

Mestre also insisted that the winger would

need to apologise for his exit and live a 'monastic life' should he return to the Nou Camp.

Barcelona were close to a reunion with Neymar last summer, but were unable to finalise a move for the 27-year-old.

Mestre told Mundo Deportivo: "From the emotional point of view for how he left, no. From a sporting point of view, yes. In my opinion, it provides a bonus that very few players have, it is the one-

on-one talent and holds a lot of goal.

"Something we need in many games where the opponent is locked back. Yes, sports would sign him if, of course we could afford it.

"For a securities issue? If we want to fool ourselves, go ahead, in the end we are so used to winning titles that we talk about values, which is also very good, of course.

"But in the end what interests are the

results. If we value above all values, then let's dedicate ourselves to rugby, which values ??far exceed football.

"If we didn't win anything, we would sign Neymar and whoever was needed."

Disagreements

Mestre, who served as vice-president between 2014 and July 2019 before departing over disagreements with the board, also reiterated his belief that Neymar must mend many fences before any return is finalised.

Sports Mail

I missed chance to become the best - Emery

PARIS - Unai Emery believes he would have been the world's best manager if VAR had been in place during his time at Paris Saint-Germain.

The out-of-work tactician, who worked in the French capital for two years between 2016 and 2018, has blamed the lack of video technology for him failing to lead PSG to their first ever Champions League triumph.

Emery's PSG squandered a 4-0 first-leg win in the last 16 against Barcelona in his first season in charge, with the Catalans winning the reverse fixture 6-1.

And the former Arsenal boss is blaming the defeat on refereeing decisions rather than his side's embarrassing capitulation at the Nou Camp with Barcelona's second penalty among the contentious decisions.

Luis Suarez, a Layvin Kurzawa own goal and a penalty by Lionel Messi put Barcelona 3-0 up before Edinson Cavani looked to have scored a crucial away goal.

However, Neymar, then with Barcelona, scored two in two minutes to give his side hope of qualifying before Sergi Roberto netted Barcelona's sixth goal in the 95th minute to send the Catalans through.

"In Paris, I missed the chance to become the best coach in the world," he told France Football.

"I won the league, four domestic cups and two Trophees des Champions. But the ultimate goal was the Champions League.

"The first year, in the round-of-16 against Barcelona, we played a really high-level first leg. In the return leg, we were knocked out because VAR didn't yet exist.

Knocked

We were very clearly knocked out by refereeing decisions.

"The second year, against Real Madrid, we bowed to a team who recorded an historic hat-trick and, again, in the first leg, we could find fault with the officiating.

"To conclude: we lost the first time on refereeing decisions, and the second against the defending and future champions."

Emery, who left Parc des Princes with a year left to run on his contract, won the league title, the French Cup twice and the French League Cup twice.

He was sacked by Arsenal in November after just 18 months in charge of the north London outfit.

SuperSports



McNamara rushed to hospital

GLASGOW - Celtic extended their 'thoughts and prayers' to Jackie McNamara after their former captain was rushed to hospital.

McNamara collapsed outside his home in York, with former team-mate John Hartson revealing that he had suffered 'a bleed on the brain.'

The 46-year-old is understood to have been transferred from a hospital in York to another in Hull where he was on Monday due to undergo surgery.

Friends, colleagues and supporters across Scottish football were last night hoping that McNamara makes a full recovery, with a number taking to social media to offer their best wishes.

Welsh striker Hartson played alongside McNamara during the last four years of the former Scotland international full-back's decade-long stint at Parkhead.

He tweeted: "Worried sick for my former team-mate and great friend Jackie McNamara, who collapsed at home Saturday with a bleed on the brain.

"My thoughts are with his wife Samantha and the children."

A number of his other former Parkhead team-mates also sent messages of support last night.

Chris Sutton said: "Thoughts and prayers for Jackie and Sam and the family."

Stiliyan Petrov added: "Keep fighting Jackie Bhoys you've always been a fighter. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Sam and the children."

Murdo MacLeod was assistant manager at Celtic when McNamara helped the club win the 1998 league title, which stopped Old Firm rivals Rangers from completing ten-in-a-row. "All our thoughts and prayers (are) with Jackie McNamara and his family," said MacLeod. "He is a fighter."

The Scottish champions wrote on Twitter: "The thoughts and prayers of everyone at Celtic FC are with Jackie and his family."

Other clubs who employed McNamara as a player or manager, including Aberdeen, Dundee United, Partick Thistle, Falkirk and Wolves, joined Celtic in sending supportive statements to his family.

McNamara's own Twitter account later issued a message from his daughter.

It read: "This is Jackie's daughter. Thank you all for your kind words and support." *Daily Mail*

Jackie McNamara.



Dimitrov edges out eighth seed Denis Shapovalov

LONDON - Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov edged out Canadian eighth seed Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 in a scrappy first round encounter at the Rotterdam Open on Monday night.

The world No 22 admitted he never hit top gear but that did not stop him from setting up a last 16 meeting with either Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime and Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff.

"There was not a lot of rhythm," said Dimitrov, who was beaten by Roger Federer in the 2018 final. "There were not too many rallies, but I was able to stay in control.

"I was calm in the important moments and came to the net when I had to."

Roberto Bautista Agut and Pablo Carreno Busta survived three-set

Grigor Dimitrov.



marathons in their respective first round encounters to set up an all-Spanish last-16 clash.

Bautista Agut came back from a set down to beat Hungarian qualifier Marton Fucsovics 4-6, 7-6, 6-

1. Fucsovics was close to claiming the biggest win of his career in the second set before Bautista Agut forced a tiebreak.

The third set was plain sailing for the Spaniard and a double fault at

5-1 gave Bautista Agut a second match point, which he converted with a sliced backhand after an engrossing rally at the net.

Fucsovics hit 40 winners but the 41 unforced errors proved to be his downfall.

"Next round is going to be a Spanish round against Pablo,"

Bautista Agut said after the win.

"Hopefully one of us can take the title." In the other encounter, Carreno Busta needed two hours and 45 minutes to dispatch Frenchman Adrian Mannarino, winning 7-5, 6-7, 6-4. *Sports Mail*

REGIONAL 100

STANDINGS

By Colisile Socolo

MTN Premier League

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Young Buffaloes	16	13	2	1	42	8	34	41
2 Mbabane Swallows	16	9	6	1	25	7	18	33
3 Royal Leopards	16	9	4	3	21	10	11	31
4 Mweni Pirates	16	8	4	4	23	14	9	28
5 Green Mamba	16	7	3	6	24	13	11	24
6 Mb. Highlanders	16	4	10	2	12	10	2	22
7 Denver Sundowns	16	5	6	5	16	18	-2	21
8 Miling Hotspurs	16	4	6	6	13	20	-7	18
9 Tambuli	16	3	9	4	20	28	-8	18
10 Manzini Wanderers	16	4	5	7	18	27	-9	17
11 Sea Birds	16	4	4	8	16	23	-7	16
12 Mhlume Peacemakers	16	3	4	9	14	24	-10	13
13 Malanti Chiefs	6	4	0	12	12	27	-15	12
14 Black Swallows	16	3	1	12	16	38	-22	10

MTN National First Division

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Callies	15	12	2	1	29	7	22	38
2 Tinyosi	15	10	4	1	24	8	16	34
3 Ilovo	15	8	4	3	18	8	10	28
4 Madlenya	14	9	1	4	19	10	9	28
5 Seven Dreams	14	7	3	4	30	22	8	24
6 Tycoons	15	7	2	6	24	27	-3	23
7 Vovovo	15	6	3	6	14	17	-3	21
8 Citizens	15	4	4	7	18	16	2	16
9 Killers	15	3	3	9	12	20	-8	12
10 Movers	15	3	1	11	19	34	-15	10
11 Rangers	15	1	4	10	17	31	-14	7
12 Umbelebele	15	1	3	11	9	32	-23	6

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League E77 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Community	14	10	2	2	29	13	16	32
2 H. Shooting Stars	13	10	1	2	39	15	24	31
3 Billy Ocean	14	7	3	4	16	11	5	24
4 Junior Stars	13	6	3	4	22	18	4	21
5 Emajukujuku	14	5	5	4	16	13	3	20
6 L. Sunrise	14	5	4	5	16	15	1	19
7 Swazi Sun	14	5	3	6	19	26	-7	18
8 Sidwashini Utd	13	5	3	5	14	23	-9	18
9 Imbumba	14	5	2	7	17	24	-7	17
10 Burning Spear	14	2	7	5	11	13	-2	13
11 Corporation	13	2	2	9	12	26	-14	8

Northern Zone

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Mvuma Hotspurs	13	8	2	3	24	15	9	26
2 Manchester	13	7	3	3	31	19	12	24
3 Kappa Kappa	13	7	1	5	25	21	4	22
4 Mshweni	13	6	4	3	16	14	2	22
5 Stone Breakers	13	7	0	6	21	22	-1	21
6 Khanjani Rovers	13	6	2	5	22	18	4	20
7 Horo Spinners	13	6	2	5	14	14	0	20
8 Vultures	13	5	3	5	23	20	3	18
9 PP. Rangers	13	5	3	5	26	25	1	18
10 Sigodlo	13	4	1	8	14	18	-4	13
11 Seven Stars	13	3	4	6	10	21	-11	13
12 Machibini Rovers	13	1	1	11	13	32	-19	4

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League E70 000

Promotion								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Interstars	20	15	3	2	51	17	34	48
2 Amawele	18	12	3	3	57	23	34	39
3 White City	20	10	6	4	44	33	11	36
4 Sandia	19	10	4	5	39	28	11	34
5 Mbabane Celtics	18	9	5	4	38	22	16	32
6 Freestyle	20	9	4	7	36	35	1	31
7 Pot O' Gold	19	7	8	4	45	33	12	29
8 PG Dribbling Stars	19	8	4	7	34	26	8	28
9 Mwakwelitje	20	8	3	9	32	32	0	27
10 Real Tec	19	5	9	5	38	32	6	24
11 Multi Classic	19	6	4	9	34	37	-3	22
12 Mpolonjeni Y Stars	5	6	9	31	41	-10	21	
13 FC Vaal Stars	6	1	13	31	70	-39	19	
14 Double Action	19	4	5	10	37	64	-27	17
15 Mbabane D Wizards	20	3	6	11	24	41	-17	15
16 Village Stars	20	1	3	16	18	55	-37	6

B. Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Royal Dynamos	19	18	1	0	91	18	73	55
2 Hurricane	19	14	4	1	60	23	37	46
3 Dangerous Darkies	18	12	4	2	41	21	20	40
4 Mbabane United	19	12	3	4	38	24	14	39
5 Red Stars	18	10	3	5	46	26	20	33
6 Veni Cosmos	19	10	2	7	44	27	17	32
7 Junction Stars	19	7	2	10	35	37	-2	23
8 Real Stars United	19	6	6	7	26	33	-7	21
9 Mangwanani	19	6	6	7	51	10	41	21
10 Mpolonjeni Y. Fighters	19	2	2	15	41	57	-16	20
11 Mantsholo United	18	3	3	12	39	51	-12	18
12 Mphalati	18	3	3	12	22	45	-23	18
13 Mantsholo FC	18	3	6	9	26	48	-22	15
14 Mbabane Movers	17	3	4	10	31	48	-15	13
15 Lusoti	19	3	3	13	28	53	-25	12
16 National Rangers	18	3	2	13	21	61	-40	11

Futis Nkhaba Regional League E30 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ngwenya Utd	24	21	3	0	72	14	58	66
2 Majotini	23	17	3	3	58	22	36	54
3 Crocodiles	24	16	4	4	63	30	33	52
4 Atletico	24	15	4	5	77	18	59	49
5 White Rhinos	23	15	4	4	51	14	37	49
6 Nkoyoyo Utd	23	14	5	3	52	22	30	47
7 Majotini Rebels	24	13	6	5	45	19	26	45
8 Motshane Very Good	23	12	5	6	50	32	18	41
9 Fast Movers	24	13	1	10	49	39	10	40
10 Kasie XI	24	10	2	12	45	47	-2	32
11 Lubhedze	23	9	3	11	51	46	5	30
12 Super Stars	23	8	6	9	41	37	4	30
13 Manyisa Utd	24	8	6	10	33	35	-2	30
14 Nkoyoyo Jnr	24	9	3	12	47	56	-9	30
15 Dribbling Stars	24	8	4	12	39	61	-22	28
16 Barcelona	22	7	5	10	36	43	-7	26
17 Mhlosheni Celtics	23	6	5	12	46	67	-21	23
18 Bafana	23	7	2	16	35	59	-24	23
19 Hawane Arsenal	24	5	5	14	23	49	-26	20
20 Mahangeni Cosmos	23	3	1	19	29	95	-66	10

Pots Construction Sigangeni League E30 000

Promotion	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bhunya Black Aces	16	12	4	0	47	7	40	40
2 Sibovini	16	12	3	1	40	16	24	39
3 Ntsetse Flyers	15	12	2	1	44	10	34	38
4 Kupheleni	16	9	4	3	29	13	16	31
5 Real United	16	10	1	5	31	19	12	31
6 Mhlane United	16	7	5	4	22	20	2	26
7 Real Touch	16	5	4	7	24	24	0	19
8 Usushwana Eagles	16	4	6	6	21	21	0	18
9 Sigangeni	16	4	6	6	23	31	-8	18
10 Lusushwana Nationals	15	3	7	19	27	8	18	
11 Mighty Chiefs	15	5	2	8	20	32	-12	17
12 Total XI	16	5	1	10	14	30	-16	16
13 Kangaroo	15	4	3	8	18	30	-12	15
14 Villa Sport	16	3	4	9	22	35	-13	13
15 Manzanzima Celtics	16	2	1	13	16	44	-28	7
16 Young Fighters	16	2	1	13	16	47	-31	7

Bakhanyisele & Gongz Maphalaleni League E50 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Young Lovers	18	14	2	2	50	15	35	44
2 Professionals	19	13	4	2	64	17	47	43
3 XI Experience	18	14	1	3	49	14	35	43
4 Manchester United	18	13	3	2	34	11	23	42
5 Blue Birds	18	12	1	5	42	23	19	37
6 Rangers	18	8	5	5	37	22	15	29
7 Hot Spurs	19	8	4	7	35	35	0	28
8 Young Stars	17	7	6	4	34	25	9	27
9 Thuluzobana	18	6	5	7	23	29	-6	23
10 Umkhokha	18	6	1	11	31	51	-20	19
11 Khulungwane	18	4	3	11	26	45	-19	15
12 Stone Breakers	19	3	3	13	26	58	-32	12
13 Killers	19	2	2	15	12	42	-30	8
14 Barcelona	18	1	5	12	10	50	-40	8
15 Liselesele	17	1	3	13	17	53	-36	6

Western Stream

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Lunkanka	15	10	2	3	36	18	18	32
2 Happy Fighters	14	9	3	2	33	17	16	30
3 Jubukweni	14	8	5	1	26	12	14	29
4 Happy Tigers	14	7	5	2	34	14	20	26
5 Sunrise	14	7	5	2	22	13	9	26
6 Love & Peace	14	7	4	3	30	9	21	25
7 Hill Stars	14	6	5	3	21	13	8	23
8 Academy	14	5	6	3	19	15	4	21
9 Mighty Birds	14	4	1	9	26	31	-5	13
10 Top Classic	14	1	1	12	12	33	-21	4
11 Rollers	15	1	1	13	15	44	-29	4
12 Young Aces	14	1	0	13	8	53	-45	3

South Star Mzimba Regional League E65 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 N Cosmos	16	10	5	1	28	11	17	35
2 Timbungulu	16	10	2	4	34	20	14	32
3 Mzimba Achievers	16	7	6	3	23	12	11	27
4 Sibuyeni	16	7	6	3	21	14	7	27
5 Kasiko	16	7	5	4	21	15	6	26
6 Mzimba Rhinos	14	7	4	3	25	19	6	25
7 Green Sea	16	7	3	6	21	18	3	24
8 Vusweni Killers	15	5	5	5	22	32	-10	20
9 Real Monaco	16	4	7	5	18	17	1	19
10 Nisintsa Rebels	16	4	5	7	27	23	4	17
11 Young Chiefs	16	4	5	7	18	23	-5	17
12 Amacabane	16	4	4	8	19	24	-5	16
13 Young Swallows	16	3	7	6	14	19	-5	16
14 Mzimba Arsenal	15	4	4	7	16	27	-11	16
15 Rangers	16	2	8	6	17	20	-3	14

MY GAME

'AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF SPORTS ISSUES'
WITH: COMFORT JELE
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DOMINIC Kunene, the newly hired Sihlangu seMnikati coach and his technical bench are faced with a mammoth task as they endeavour to change the fortunes of the national squad.

As we welcome the former Young Buffaloes gaffer to the hotseat, this column feels duty bound to enlighten them about the task at hand as they assume the challenging position. When considering the performance of the squad under the tutelage of Serbian mentor Kostadin Papic in the past year, it goes without saying that a lot is expected from Kunene and company. We are glad that both Kunene and his assistant Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini are from the national junior squad, where their capabilities have been seen. Kunene was doing well with the Under 20s

and so was Dlamini with the Under 17s. Their performance with the juniors made them a cut above the rest in this Kingdom of Eswatini. Without looking down upon some of the good coaches in this country, I

MAMMOTH TASK AHEAD FOR DOMINIC & CO

have the belief that the duo has what it takes to improve the performance of the squad. I am one of those who believe in local coaches

the duo has been given the big job, it is their responsibility to ensure that they deliver and bring back the lost hope for Emaswati. This is a real test which they have to pass, not only for them but for the entire local coaching fraternity, which at times feel neglected when it comes to such assignments. And of course their test comes in form of prestigious competitions lined up this year. The African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers slated next month is one of the biggest tasks faced by the

is a lot to play for the locals other than competing for a place in the AFCON.

Playing games of this magnitude comes with a lot of exposure for both the technical bench and playing staff.

There is a lot we should gain from these matches. We might not be expecting the squad to perform miracles and qualify for the tournament, but something positive must come out from such high profile games. The COSAFA Cup is also one of the tournaments we expect the squad to make an impact and probably bring it home. This is a tournament that has eluded us since its inception back in 1997. By now we should have claimed at least one title of the COSAFA but lo and behold, we are still dreaming about it. The only best achievement was when we finished third placed in the 2016 edition of the regional tournament, under the guidance of another home grown mentor Harries 'Madze' Bulunga. As the search for glory continues, I am made to believe that Kunene and his team are eager to break the record to make history not only for themselves, but for the country. The nation has high hopes on their capabilities and it is time the coach take up the challenge by bringing happiness.

Congratulations Highlanders, Green Mamba!

SO Mbabane Highlanders and Green Mamba are the two teams to play in the Ingwenyama Cup final.

The capital city giants were able to edge their tricky opponents Tambankhulu Callies in the semi-finals on Sunday, while the correctional services side came from behind to beat Moneni Pirates. It is without any semblance of doubt that football followers are waiting with bated breath for the clash between the two sides.

This is a final which has a potential of being a thriller. There is a lot at stake for the two teams other than the prize money, and surely we are looking forward to a great final. And we say congratulations 'Nkunz'emnyama' and 'Inyoka Eluhlazana'. Buckle Up. It's game on!

SPORTS MEDICINE SOLUTIONS

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SITSI BayetheWena Waphakathi.

A dream final has presented itself, Mbabane Highlanders against Green Mamba, how nice.

That's Ingwenyama Cup final. Today let's look at foot injuries. Football is one of the most popular sports in the world and one in which the feet are most exposed to injury. Of these injuries, we most commonly find sprains, fractures and torn ligaments as well as various blows and bruises. The type of foot is considered to be an intrinsic factor when taking the injury into consideration, while at the same time the football boot is considered an extrinsic factor. A higher proportion of foot injuries in football occur as the result of foul play and involve direct contact with the injured foot. The majority of foot injuries are caused by tackles from the side involving lateral or medial forces on the foot that create an inversion or eversion force. The weight-bearing status of the injured foot is an important consideration. The severity of injury where the athlete is weight-bearing is generally higher than that observed for the non-weight-bearing foot. Considering the surface on which

FOOT INJURIES



football is played – grass – it is no surprise that footballers suffer so many foot injuries.

The foot has to adapt to smooth, hard, dry, (un)stable or synthetic surfaces. The characteristics of the football boot also need to be modified to accommodate this. Although the classic foot lesions that are encountered in football are mainly linked with trauma, the ambient environment and the relative hygiene of some players can be equally important factors.

Mechanism of the injury

It is important to ascertain whether there was a traumatic precipitant – and how significant the trauma was. Many

causes of foot pain are related to overuse/overload rather than direct trauma which are stress fractures, plantar fascia and neuromas. Others are directly related to an acute event turf toe, Lisfranc injury and fractures.

Pain

The location and severity of the pain are important considerations. Is it related to the hindfoot plantar fascia pain, midfoot Lisfranc injury or forefoot turf toe?

Remember that some causes can produce very diffuse pain (navicular stress fracture). One should also consider the aggravating factors. Is the pain made worse by activity or after rest

(plantar fascia pain is often worse in the mornings).

Footwear

Foot pathology can often be made substantially worse/better depending on the footwear the athlete uses. Ask about what boots/shoes they are using – as well as whether there have been any recent changes. Also ask about orthotic use.

Examination

The footballer's foot can be divided into the hindfoot, the midfoot and the forefoot.

To complete a thorough foot examination, it is important to understand the anatomy, bony landmarks and the individual clinical examination techniques.

Understanding the movements and actions of the foot muscles is important when taking the athlete through manual testing.

Hindfoot

The hindfoot consists of the talus and the calcaneus that compose the subtalar joint. Palpation of the hindfoot includes careful evaluation of this talus and calcaneus. When asking the

footballer player to point the foot inwards and outwards respectively, the subtalar joint provides inversion and eversion to the hindfoot.

Midfoot

The midfoot is composed of five bones: the cuboid laterally, the navicular medially and the three cuneiforms. Tenderness over the superior surface of the navicular bone (the so-called 'N spot') can indicate a navicular stress fracture. The same applies to the cuboid with tenderness over the lateral side.

Forefoot

The forefoot includes five toes and five long metatarsal bones. Palpation of the forefoot includes all bony and soft tissue surfaces.

Any swelling or redness over the dorsum of the foot should raise concern about a stress or metatarsal fracture.

On the plantar side, the subcutaneous layer and skin are thicker to function as a cushion during ambulation and sport. Finally, as team medics let's examine our athletes well, especially hindfoot, midfoot and forefoot when they report pain. Till next week, God bless you all.

ESWATINIBANK CUP 'IDLALA KAMNANDZI'

LAUNCH



SPONSOR: EswatiniBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele delivers his speech during the official launch of EswatiniBank Cup 'Idlala Kamnandzi' tournament at Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



FILL THE STADIUMS: Therisian members blowing vuvuzelas.



DRAW: The EswatiniBank Cup tournament management committee conducting the draw.



BOSSES: Mhlume Peacemakers Director Sibusiso 'Scorpion' Nxumalo with Mbabane Highlanders Director Ally Kgomongwe at the launch.



FIRST TABLE: Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga flanked by Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President Adam Bomber Mtsetfwa and the EswatiniBank MD.



GUEST: Minister Bulunga makes his remarks.



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: The EswatiniBank Senior legal advisor directing the proceedings.



WE THANK YOU: EFA President Adam Bomber Mtsetfwa was among the speakers.



FOCUS: Pigg's Peak Black Swallows Chairman Charles Matsebula with Mbabane Swallows Manager Sandile Dlamini and Logistic Manager Sandile Zwane at the event.



WATCHING: EswatiniBank Senior Legal Advisor Sifiso Mdluli and Executive Manager Marketing Lindiwe Shongwe in full concentration.



IN CHARGE: EswatiniBank Cup Management Committee members following the proceedings.



FACE THE CAMERA: Mneni Pirates PRO Mlungisi Simelane, Young Buffaloes CEO Sandile Gwebu, Royal Leopard CEO Frank Hurube and Mbabane Highlanders PRO Paul 'Magidza' Masilela in a conversation.



ESWATINIBANK CUP		
TINYOSI F.C.	Vs	YOUNG BUFFALOES F.C.
SIDONKE F.C.	Vs	MBABANE SWALLOWS F.C.
MONGIZINI HOTSPURS F.C.	Vs	ROYAL LEOPARD F.C.
HLATIKHULU TYCOONS F.C.	Vs	MONENI PIRATES F.C.
UMDELEDE F.C.	Vs	GREEN MAMBA F.C.
PLAY OFF 2	Vs	MBABANE HIGHLANDERS F.C.
MBABANE CITIZENS F.C.	Vs	DENVER SUNDOWN F.C.
TP MAZEMBE F.C.	Vs	MILLING HOT SPURS F.C.
SEVEN DREAMS F.C.	Vs	TAMBUKI F.C.
RAIL UNITED F.C.	Vs	MANZINI WANDERERS F.C.
PLAY OFF 1	Vs	MANZINI SEA BIRDS F.C.
ILLOVO F.C.	Vs	MHLUME PEACEMAKERS F.C.
LOUIS XIV F.C.	Vs	MAZANI CHIEFS F.C.
LUDZELUDZE KILLERS F.C.	Vs	PIGG'S PEAK BLACK SWALLOWS F.C.
MAGWANYANE F.C.	Vs	TABANKULU CALLIES F.C.
VOVOVO F.C.	Vs	MALENYA F.C.

FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL News

● Juventus are planning a move for Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola and will allow the 49-year-old Spaniard to name his terms. (Sun)

● Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho, 27, has been told he can leave Barcelona for a cut-price £77m this summer, with Manchester United, Chelsea, Manchester City, Tottenham and former club Liverpool all interested. (Express)



● Manchester City are considering Borussia Dortmund and Norway striker Erling Braut Haaland, 19, as a long-term replacement for Argentina striker Sergio Aguero, 31. (90min.com)

● Tottenham Manager Jose Mourinho wants to sign Bournemouth and Netherlands centre-back Nathan Ake, 24, and Benfica and Portugal defender Ruben Dias, 22, in the summer. (Express)

● Arsenal Manager Mikel Arteta has refused to rule out a place in the Premier League's top four - despite being 10 points behind fourth-placed Chelsea. (Evening Standard)

● Armenia midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan, 31, will return to Arsenal this summer from his loan spell at Roma unless the Gunners lower his £20m price tag. (Sun)



● Watford's French midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure, 27, wants to play in the Champions League and claims the Hornets will not stand in his way. (Mail)

● Chelsea, Aston Villa and Newcastle United are all interested in signing Wigan left-back Antonee Robinson after the 22-year-old United States international saw a transfer deadline-day move to AC Milan fall through. (Mirror)



● Former Arsenal boss Unai Emery said the club was on a 'downward slope' when he arrived and accused some players of not having the right attitude. (France Football - in French)

● Manchester United's 2020-21 pre-season plans are on hold because of the coronavirus after the club had originally planned to spend some time in China. (ESPN)

● Manchester United have requested permission to introduce safe standing at Old Trafford. (Mail)

● Former Tottenham midfielder Christian Eriksen, 27, now with Inter, says he never experienced an atmosphere like the Milan derby in the Premier League. (Goal)

SPORTS SHOULD BE COMPULSORY IN SCHOOL - SIPHO ZWANE

STORIES BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCKER - SENIOR Inspector of Schools Siphso Zwane says teachers should involve every pupil in sports.

He said this yesterday during Qatar National Sport Day held at Royal Swazi Spa Hotel.

The Qatar National Sports Day is hosted with the main objective of promoting a healthy lifestyle nationwide.

The Qatar Embassy to the Kingdom of Eswatini embraces this holiday through special physical activities and festive programming that combine the objectives of sports day with the commitment to promote the existing strong bilateral relations between the two countries.

Zwane said teachers should not focus on high performance level on games but involve every pupil in



KEEPING HEALTHY: Participants posing for a group picture during the Qatar National Sport Day held at Royal Swazi Spa yesterday. (Pic: Colisile Sacolo)

sports to promote an active lifestyle among the learners.

"In most schools they select a team to represent the school and only target those on high performance, forgetting the other pupils."

What is important is the health of the pupil and fitness as it is not a matter of being talented to that certain sport but having healthy pupils in the schools."

He said in other schools every learner was involved in sports and

that helped them stay away from bad habits such as drugs during their free time.

Zwane urged every school to take sports seriously and make sure every learner was involved.

He also encouraged parents to make sure that their children were involved in sports so they stayed healthy.

Ministry of Sports US Nhlanhla Motsa said the ministry was very happy to be part of the initiative by

Qatar.

He said as the ministry they would be happy to see a number of Eswatini taking part in the Qatar National Sports Day hosted every year.

"Sports are developing in the country and we are happy to note that Eswatini are also benefiting from Qatar in terms of sports."

"It is also our wish to have a national sport day too as this will not only help the ministry but the entire nation."

... 'We want to develop sport world wide'

SPORTS - QATAR Embassy Media Officer Elham Ibrahim said the main purpose of the sports days was to promote and develop sport worldwide.

He said they wanted to see everyone living a healthy lifestyle.

She said this day was celebrated by everyone in Qatar, including the royal family.

"The most important thing about this day is that it helps promote healthy living." He then thanked all Eswatini who participated in

the event. Senator Leckinah Magagula said this day was very important because it promoted sports in the country. Magagula said it would be a good thing to also have a national sports day as Eswatini. She said this would help

in seeing the nation taking part in different sporting activities.

"I wish to see all sectors, departments and organisations among others organising themselves for a sports day."

A healthy nation is a productive one. If the body is tired and sick, the mind will not function well, so taking part in sports is important."

Ncamiso Matse wins Dups Leg of Lamb

BY COLISILE SACOLO

GOLF - FAST improving golfer Ncamiso Matse was on Friday crowned the winner of the recently-introduced Dups Leg of Lamb competition hosted by Manzini Golf Club.

Matse snatched the prize with 19 points and was followed by the Manzini Golf Club vice-captain Wakie Lawrence with 18 points. On third position with 17 points was Dumisani Hlatshwayo, who was on the previous week crowned champion of the inaugural edition of this Leg of Lamb competition.

Occupying the fourth position with 16 points was Manzini-based senior lawyer Ben J. Simelane. The better of the last two winners of the



day was Robert Mgcina on a count-back with 15 points, ahead of Bambo Kunene.

Dups Executive Manager Bongani Simelane congratulated the winners for emerging tops in the competition which attracted a total of

22 golfers.

Judging by the enthusiasm shown by the Manzini golfers, Simelane predicted that the tournament had the propensity of growing even bigger in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Wakie Lawrence, an

influential member of the Manzini Golf Club, humorously declared that locally their stable was hosting the best Leg of Lamb competition every Friday.

He thanked his fellow golfers for turning up in their numbers and further advised them to support the sponsor so that it is encouraged to back the club even in the future.

Lawrence reminded the members that golf was more about socialising and consolidating one's network of friends and acquaintances.

Interestingly, the golfers were after the prize presentation treated to some therapeutic medicinal nips from the Dups Herbal Shop and they were enthralled.

Dups Herbal Shop Manager Nelson Mamba captivated the golfers' attention with a well-articulated presentation on a variety of medicinal refreshers for ailments that are common in grown-ups.

ESRIC Golf Business League games today

BY COLISILE SACOLO

GOLF - THE Mbabane Golf Club will host the ESRIC Business League games today.

The event will start at 11am and the tee-off time is 11:30am.

This was revealed by Mbabane Golf Club captain Kenneth Nkambule yesterday. Nkambule said this year's league is sponsored by ESRIC and the package would be announced at a date yet to be revealed.

Team Amadi are the defending

champions after winning last year's edition. "We will be launching the new league in the next few weeks but the games are going ahead. Teams are encouraged to keep time."

He said 14 teams would be participating today and he further thanked ESRIC for the continued support ever since the Business League started.

CHAMPIONS: Business League defending champions posing for a group photo.



E175 000 for 'Idlala Kamnandzi' Women's Cup

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - ESWATINIBANK has pumped in E175 000 for this year's edition of the Women's Cup.

This was revealed by Eswatini Bank Managing (MD) Director Zakhele Lukhele during the official launch of the 17th edition of the tournament at Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday.

The new sponsorship of E175 000 shows an increase of E25 000 from last year's E150 000.

The MD said the ladies knockout added a significant dimension to the tournament.

"As a bank, we are committed to contribute towards the development



REVEALED: Eswatini Bank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele.

of football; in all dimensions - regional, youth, ladies and elite divisions," he said.

The tournament starts on the weekend of February 22-23.

A draw was also conducted during the launch where Kappa Ladies were drawn against Southern Divas. Mbabane Swallows will face-off with Shiselweni Roses at a venue yet to be confirmed. Illovo will take on Madelezini while Green Mamba will play against AS Interladies.

The tournament will be staged under the 'Idlala Kamnandzi' banner with 32 teams participating in the men's tournament.

EswatiniBank Cup Chairman Johannes 'Ace' Sibozza said they were happy that the women's tournament would be staged even this year.

"We want to thank EswatiniBank MD Zakhele Lukhele for the bank's continued support to the development of football in the country."

Big guns avoid each other in EswatiniBank Cup

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER - BIG guns avoided each other in the last 32 of the EswatiniBank Cup that will kick-off next Friday.

Champions for this year tournament 'Idlala Kamnandzi' will walk away with E1.2 million.

Eswatini Bank Cup Chairman Johannes 'Ace' Sibozza urged teams to familiarise themselves with the rules of the tournament. He added that the grand opening would be on Sunday.

"We will meet as a committee and decide which games to feature during the grand opening."

Giants

Defending champions Young Buffaloes will face National First Division side Tinyosi FC while last year's runners-up Royal Leopard come up against Nsingizini Hotspurs.

Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows have a date with Manzini Super League outfit Sisonkhe FC.

Mbabane Highlanders will know their fate tomorrow after the play-offs match between Hawane Shooting

Stars and Mvuma Hotspurs.

Manzini Sea Birds will face the winner between Young Movers and Rangers.

Hub giants Manzini Wanderers were drawn against Lubombo Super League outfit Rail United.

While the big giants were not pitted against each other, there are mouth-watering clashes to look forward to as National First Division outfit Illovo FC will face-off with Mhlume Peacemakers while Vovovo will clash with Madlenya.

THE FULL DRAW:

Tinyosi	vs	Young Buffaloes
Sisonkhe	vs	Mbabane Swallows
Nsingizini Hotspurs	vs	Royal Leopard
Hlathikhulu Tycoons	vs	Moneni Pirates
Umbebebe	vs	Green Mamba
Play-off 2	vs	Mbabane Highlanders
Mbabane Citizens	vs	Denver Sundowns
TP Mazembe	vs	Milling Hotspurs
Seven Dreams	vs	Tambuti FC
Rail United FC	vs	Manzini Wanderers
Play-off 1	vs	Manzini Sea Birds
Illovo FC	vs	Mhlume Peacemakers
Lous XIV FC	vs	Malanti Chiefs
Ludzeludze Killers	vs	PPK Black Swallows
Mgwanyana FC	vs	Tabankulu Callies
Vovovo FC	vs	Madlenya

Play-offs to be played tomorrow

Young Movers	vs	Rangers
Hawane Shooting Stars	vs	Mvuma Hotspurs

'Madze' applauds EswatiniBank for sponsorship increment

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - MINISTER of Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga has applauded EswatiniBank MD Zakhele Lukhele for the sponsorship increment of E500 000.

The minister was speaking during the launch of the EswatiniBank Cup yesterday.

"I want to thank the bank for the historic total prize money of E3.4 million. When I heard these figures yesterday I thought they were a mistake. Indeed, an increment of E500 000 is almost unimaginable in these challenging economic conditions and yet the bank saw it fit to go this extra mile for the benefit of football. Words cannot describe how grateful we are and we humbly request that you relay this same message to the board and the entire EswatiniBank management and staff," he said. Bulunga thanked the bank on behalf of His Majesty's Government for once again partnering with football and by also continuously investing in the juniors' tournament (U-20) and the Women's Cup.

"The bank has aligned itself with government's goal of making sport accessible to all members of society, known as 'sport for all'. It is hugely appreciated to see the bank not just focusing on senior men's football alone but also throwing proper investment in the way of the U-20s and women's football, allowing these critical sectors to also get the opportunity to showcase their massive talents."

He also highlighted that there had been considerable growth in both the juniors' and women's editions as evidenced by the hugely entertaining finals. "We promise to continue to work towards creating an environment that will allow for this industry to blossom. This we will do through enacting the necessary legislation to regulate the industry which will in turn also ensure that better resource mechanisms are put in place." The minister urged all participating clubs, management committee, officials, supporters and every stakeholder to put in such effort that would match the E3.4 million investment EswatiniBank had injected in the tournament. "I urge teams to compete in the true spirit of the game - fair play. Let us accept results as they are. It is therefore our collective responsibility to ensure that the 2020 EswatiniBank Cup is violence free," he said.

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - MINISTER of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga says they are working tirelessly to refurbish Somhlolo National Stadium.

This comes after the country's soccer Mecca was declared a health hazard by CAF in March last year.

Bulunga said government, through the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs, would undertake the rehabilitation programme for the stadium which would be implemented by Micro-Projects.

"I am pleased to share with you that serious progress has been made with the Sports Bill and the draft is now being prepared for Cabinet approval.

I also wish to assure you that we

SPORTS MINISTRY TO REFURBISH SOMHLOLO

are tirelessly working on finalising logistics on the rehabilitation of the Somhlolo National Stadium, a venue that is extremely critical in the playing of this tournament," he said.

Bulunga stated that these were part of government's efforts in creating an environment that would allow for sport to grow and eventually turn professional in the country.

Investing

"At the end of the day, key stakeholders like the EswatiniBank will benefit from investing in a properly regulated and managed sector. The ministry needs at least E8 million to make it possible to undertake the project.

The refurbishment of the national stadium will be carried out in phas-

es and the E8 million will cover the first phase.

The ministry previously disclosed the shortage of the funds when it tabled its first quarter performance report in Parliament.

According to report, the ministry was allocated an annual budget of E55 138 427 for the current financial year 2019/2020.

Of this amount, E45 138 427 was allocated for recurrent expenditure and E10 million for a capital project (Somhlolo revamp).

"On the capital budget outlook, the ministry has also been allocated a budget of E10 million against a budget request of E15 million for the refurbishment of the Somhlolo National Stadium.

The project is implemented by Micro-Projects.

Tenders 233/1201/04199/GS1299 in respect of electrical and electronics installation as well as rehabilitation of the Somhlolo National Stadium have already been issued.

Estimated

But undertaking this project with the available allocation is not feasible because the estimated cost of the project stands at about E18 million for the current phase," reads the report in part.

It further states that the recurrent budget of E19 650 109 has been released to the ministry in the period under review and E9 477 332 has been expended by the end of the first quarter.

'We will not underestimate small teams'

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - MTN Premier League teams' directors have come out to say that they will not underestimate the small teams in the EswatiniBank Cup last 32 games.

They said this during the launch and draw of the 17th edition of the EswatiniBank Cup at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday.

This is what they said:

SIBUSISO 'SCORPION' NXUMALO - MHLUME PEACEMAKERS

"It's a Lubombo derby as we will be playing against Illovo. We will not take them lightly, we have played against them before and we won.

However, that does not mean we will relax as we want to go to the next stage of the

tournament. We have reassembled the team and we will fight in every game.

ALLY KGOMONGWE - MBABANE HIGHLANDERS

"I do not promise anything, but we have to go to the finals."

SANDILE ZWANE - MBABANE SWALLOWS

"This is a knockout tournament and we will be all out against Sisonkhe. We will prepare well for them. I think it is time we wipe our fans' tears. I can tell you now that our aim is to go all the way and win this tournament.

The whole nation is worried about Mbabane

Swallows' slump. We want to win the tournament and bring back the glory days."

SANDILE GWEBU - YOUNG BUFFALOES

"This is a new tournament and everything is new. Yes, we are the defending champions but that will count for nothing inside the field of play. We will prepare thoroughly as we usually do. We are looking forward to our game against Tinyosi. We want to defend the cup."

STHEMBISO 'NGUDZE' MAMBA - TAMBANKULU CALLIES

"I think we are ready for the tournament. The boys are now confident as they gained experience during the Ingwenyama Cup games. We want to go to the finals."





E3.4 MILLION FOR ESWATINI BANK CUP

- E500 0000 increment from last year's package
- Champions will walk away with E1.2 million
- Last 32 games this weekend

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER-'Idlala Kamnandzi'.

True to its new slogan, the EswatiniBank Cup is here to stay and indeed 'Idlala Kamnandzi' as it is E3.4 million for the 17th edition of the prestigious tournament.

This was announced by EswatiniBank MD Zakhele Lukhele during this year's competition launch at a glittering ceremony held at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre in Ezulwini yesterday, where high ranking officials in the local football fraternity were in attendance. They were led by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and Eswatini Football Association President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa.

The new sponsorship has shown an increment of E500 000 from last year's E2.9 million.

Another notable change in this year's sponsorship is that the champions will walk away with E1.2 million. The tournament kicks off on Friday.

In the ladies tournament, the bank with a heart pumped in E175 000, which is an increment of E25 00 from last year's E150 000.

The 32 teams that have qualified for this year's edition will receive first round money of E10 000 in advance.

In his speech, Lukhele said

the bank was proud to be associated with local football, which explained why it was consistently sponsoring the competition for the past 16 years. He assured that this year's edition would be big and exciting, like all previous editions.

"It is once again that time of the year in our football calendar when this tournament is played. Today we launch the 17th edition of the tournament and the third edition of the ladies tournament. I am pleased to announce that this year's sponsorship is E3.4 million, an increase from last year's E2.9 million," he said.

Lukhele further mentioned that the bank had also lined up promotions that would benefit

PRIZES BREAKDOWN:

Champions - E1.2 Million
 Runners-up - E500 000
 Semi-finalists - E130 000
 Quarterfinalists - E30 000
 Second round losers - E12 500 each
 First round losers - E10 000 each

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Top Goal Scorer - E10 000
 Player of the series - E15 000
 Coach of the tournament - E10 000
 Player of the match - E2000 each
 Media Awards - E40 000
 Referee of the tournament - E2500x4
 Best PRO - E7000

PRODUCT PROMOTIONS

1st prize - E2 000
 2nd Prize - E1 500
 3rd Prize - E1000

individuals who would stand a chance to win a share of E 4 500 every fortnight.

Minister Harries 'Madze' Bulunga thanked EswatiniBank for its continued support of local football. He said without the bank's commitment to the tournament, the country wouldn't have this iconic competition, whose popularity and importance transcend beyond the borders of the kingdom.

EswatiniBank Cup draw:

Tinyosi	vs	Young Buffaloes
Sisonkhe	vs	Mbabane Swallows
Nsingizini Hotspurs	vs	Royal Leopard
Hlathikhulu Tycoons	vs	Moneni Pirates
Umbelebele	vs	Green Mamba
Play-off 2	vs	Highlanders
Mbabane Citizens	vs	Denver Sundowns
TP Mazembe	vs	Milling Hotspurs
Seven Dreams	vs	Tambuli FC
Rail United FC	vs	Manzini Wanderers
Play-off 1	vs	Manzini Sea Birds
Ilovo FC	vs	Peacemakers
Loius XIV FC	vs	Malanti Chiefs
Ludzeludze Killers	vs	Black Swallows
Mgwanyana FC	vs	Tabankulu Callies
Vovovo FC	vs	Madlenya
Play-offs to be played tomorrow		
Young Movers	vs	Rangers
Hawane Shooting Stars	vs	Mvuma Hotspurs

Melusi Dlamini new Bull CEO

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - CAPITAL city giants Mbabane Highlanders have appointed Melusi Dlamini as their new chief executive officer.

This change has also seen General Manager Josiah 'Digger' Dlamini and Communications Officer Bhekisisa Dlamini relieved of their duties.

The new changes were announced by team patron Benson Dlamini at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday. He said the old MC was acting on a temporal basis and explained that the outgoing communications officer's (Bhekisisa Dlamini) work place was far hence he was unable to follow the team's activities on a daily basis. He then announced the former Lozitha Spurs director (Melusi Dlamini) as the team's new chief executive officer while Paul 'Magidz'eludzekeni' Masilela would continue to be radio spokesperson. "You will remember that the old executive committee was in office on a temporal basis, and after our meeting on Monday night, I have been sent by the team director, Ally Kgomongwe, to announce new changes in the management committee structure. We have appointed Melusi Dlamini because we believe he will be able to know what is happening in the team on daily basis since he stays along the Mbabane-Manzini corridor."

Benson added that Manager Clement Dlamini was indisposed. On another note, Benson said their mission was to participate in the CAF tournaments next season.

The new look MC

Chief Executive Officer - Melusi Dlamini
 Secretary/treasury - Simisio Jele
 Manager - Clement Dlamini
 Radio PRO - Paul 'Magidzeludzekeni' Masilela



ATTENTIVE: Mbabane Highlanders patron Benson Dlamini, CEO Melusi Dlamini and Paul 'Magidza' Masilela.