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THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2020

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INAUGURATION:
Prime Minister
Ambrose Dlamini
in a conversation
with
Mozambique
President Filipe
Nyusi. The PM is
in Mozambique
representing His
Majesty King
Mswati III at the
inauguration of
President Nyusi.
(Pic: Simon
Shabangu) **MORE
PICTURES ON
PAGES 4-5**



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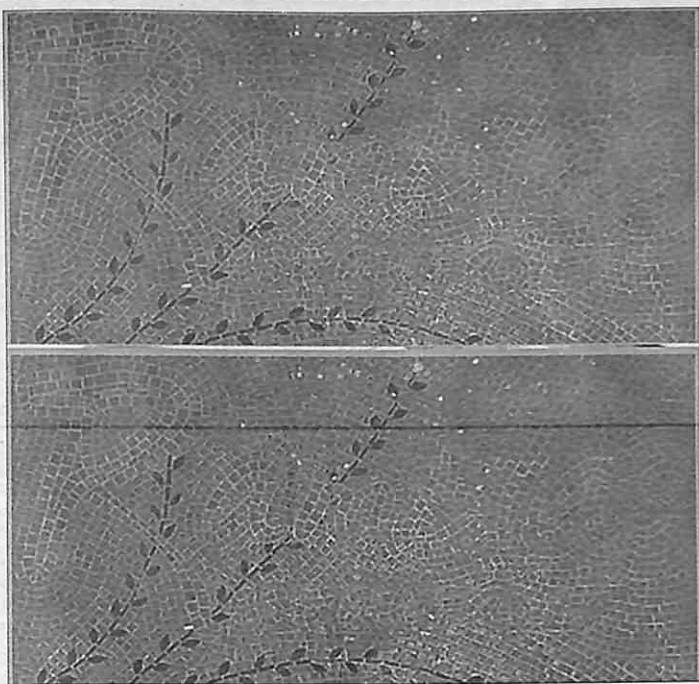
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EX-RAMBLAS EMPLOYEE FINGERED IN ROBBERY

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

A former Ramblas Restaurant employee has been identified as one of the three suspects who robbed the eatery money and valuable items.

This was confirmed by Ramblers restaurant owner Jordi Soler. He said the former employee's name is Thami Mandela Ndlovu from Msunduzi.

Companion

When relating what happened, Solar said Ndlovu, together with his companion, came to the restaurant and found his wife with other employees counting money.

The two went to the table where the money was being counted and stashed it into a plastic dustbin and ran away.

They are said to have been wearing balaclavas which made it hard for the staff to recognise them at

that moment.

After they took the E20 000 cash, a laptop and a cell phone they ran away and Ramblas staff started chasing them. They ran towards the traffic circle where a Honda fit was waiting for them.

Investigations

Before Ndlovu got into the car, Soler said he took off his balaclava and the employees were able to identify him.

The driver of the car has been arrested and he confessed that he was hired by the two to drive them to Ramblas and after the robbery, he drove them back to Eveni.

Police got a tip off from the members of the public who gave them the car's registration numbers which the police used to trace and arrest the driver on Tuesday.

The two are still at large.

Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said investigations were ongoing.

WOMAN SEDUCES MAN INTO SEX, LATER OPENS RAPE CASE

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
High Court

A man who was seduced into sex by a 24-year-old woman learnt the hard way to have self-control as he ended being arrested for rape.

Sanele Boyboy Simelane of Mdzimba was arrested by Lobamba police and charged with Contravening Section 3(1) of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 15/2018.

According to the charge sheet, it is alleged that the accused person unlawfully and intentionally had sexual intercourse with the complainant, without her consent.

On December 27, Simelane made his

first court appearance before Mbabane Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi. The accused was remanded back into police custody and he spent the festive holidays behind bars.

He was advised to move his bail application at the High Court. Simelane, in his affidavit, denied raping the complainant. He stated that the sexual intercourse was consensual. In fact the complainant was the one who initiated the sex. Simelane, submitted that his continued incarceration will have serious and negative repercussions to him since he is a farmer who earns a living through crops and vegetables farming. He said when he was arrested he had already cultivated his maize fields and same was prone to fail as no one was taking

care of the crops.

Furthermore, Simelane stated that he is a father of two children, with the eldest being four years and about to go to pre-school.

The accused argued that there is no one who would pay for his daughter's school fees while he is incarcerated as his girlfriend is unemployed.

He stated that he possesses a passport and wishes to surrender same to the relevant authorities and will not use illegal exit points but remain in Eswatini.

Simelane appeared before Judge Mzwandile Fakudze yesterday and he was granted bail fixed at E15 000. He was ordered to pay E2 000 cash and provide surety to the amount of E13 000.

SUICIDE PUPIL DELETES ALL MESSAGES ON WHATSAPP

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

THE Form Four pupil who committed suicide after discovering that she was pregnant deleted all WhatsApp messages from her mobile phone hours before her death.

The deceased, Nolwazi Constance Mnisi, a former pupil of Mgobodzi High School, committed suicide by ingesting weevil tablets at her homestead at Ngowane on Tuesday. Nolwazi, who was the youngest of five siblings, was discovered unconscious inside her bedroom by her mother Nomsa Mnisi.

The shocked Mnisi phoned the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) who rushed the deceased to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital where she was certified dead.

Speaking yesterday, the mother of the



Ekhaya Funeral Services premises where the body of Nolwazi Mnisi was taken. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

deceased said Nolwazi had deleted all her WhatsApp messages on her phone hours before her suicide.

"Due to my age, I am unable to use the modern phones, so I asked one of the elder daughters' to access Nolwazi's phone and read any messages to me. When my daughter unlocked the phone, she told me that Nolwazi had deleted all her messages on WhatsApp.

"That was strange because Nolwazi was always on WhatsApp," she said. The mother added that Nolwazi had a

few male friends.

"We suspect that Nolwazi was in a relationship with an older man but that is still speculation because she had a few male friends. As a family we are still confused," she added.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that the matter was finally reported to the police.

"We will wait for a post-mortem to determine the cause of death," Vilakati said.

DPM DECLARES ASSETS

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

DEPUTY Prime Minister Themba Masuku yesterday declared his assets and liabilities to the Human Rights and Integrity Commission.

The exercise was conducted by Human Rights and Integrity Commission Deputy Commissioner Duduzile Dlamini at the DPM's Office.

Other commissioners present to witness the declaration were the Commission's Chairman, Sabelo Masuku, who happens to be the DPM's son, Chief Masuku Dlamini and the commission's staff members.

The declaration of assets, liabilities and gifts received during the course of their work as politicians is in compliance with Section 241 of the Kingdom of Eswatini's Constitution.

The DPM said this exercise was just meant to show transparency because people are always suspicious of what they have and if it was acquired through rightful means.

"It is this kind of exercise that is going to put people at ease. People are always suspicious of where you got your assets and how," said Masuku.

He said it was important that as leaders in

government they conduct their business honestly and transparently.

"We are holding public positions and acquire assets. People will always have questions whether whatever we acquired is through rightful means and not through corrupt practices. We are thankful to the Human Rights Commission for this. These records will help us even when we acquire new assets as it can be corroborated with the information we submitted," continued Masuku.

In closing, the DPM said they are also in positions where they sometimes receive gifts from people and they have to declare those gifts because some of these presents maybe wrapped with hidden agendas in the form of favours. He said declaring the gifts would help them keep track of people who might want to bribe them.

Human Rights Commission Chairman Sabelo Masuku concurred with the DPM and said this exercise was to monitor them, adding that for it to be successful they depended on the honesty of the people declaring the assets.

"For this whole process to be done we solely depend on the honesty of the people. We will not be going around investigating people what assets they have, it is up to them to be trans-



HAND OVER: Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku declared his assets and liabilities to the Human Rights and Integrity Commission Deputy Commissioner Duduzile Dlamini at his office yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

parent," explained Sabelo.

Sabelo said if people feel there maybe assets hidden from the commission, they are free to approach the court for an order to check if indeed all the assets were declared. The declaring of assets is an exercise that is done at the beginning of the term of public officers and

two years after that and when they leave office.

"On the issue of making the assets public, we are still waiting for the Parliament to advise on that. But until then, a person who wants to know what the assets are, can file for a court order," said the commission's chairman.

BOY (14) TRAGICALLY HANGS TO DEATH

STORIES BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO

A 14-year-old boy accidentally hanged himself while playing with his friend in his bedroom last Thursday.

The incident took place at Mpolonjeni, Siteki. Wandile Silindza was a pupil at St Augustine Primary School doing Grade 4. The teen was with his 14-year-old friend acting like they do in movie scenes when they tied the rope to the roof top.

They loved acting scenes they had seen in soapies and their favourite at the moment is the South African series, Uzalo.

Information gathered suggests that before Silindza hanged himself, the friend did it first and complained that it was sore. Silindza then told his friend "let me do it," and asked him what he would do if he were to die for real.

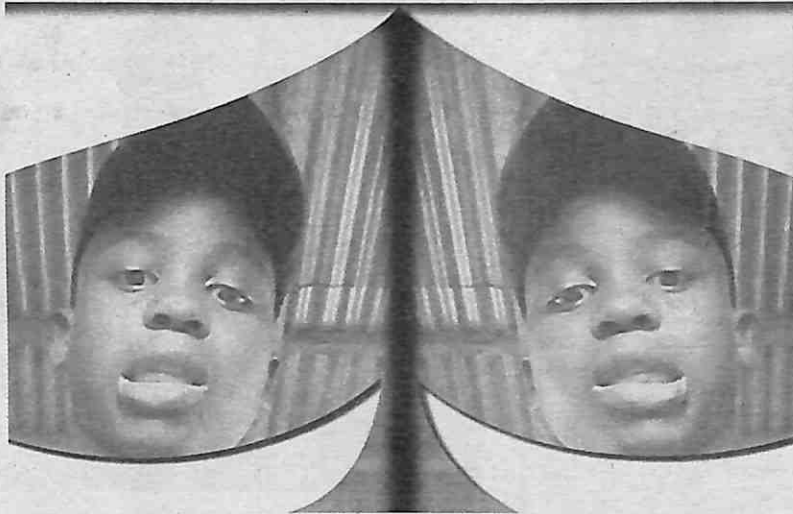
"We were told the friend said he would call out for help," a close family member revealed.

The deceased is said to have climbed on top of a bucket they had placed and tied the rope around his neck. Whilst he was doing that, the friend left him as he had to attend to a call from outside.

It is said his friend left him alone as he had to attend to residents who had come for water.

When the friend returned, he said Silindza was quiet but still hanging.

The friend said he tried to shake Silindza but



THE LATE: Smally Wandile Silindza (14) who accidentally died while playing with his friend. (R) Mourners who had come to offer condolences.

he did not respond.

The friend also poured water on Silindza and that too failed as he did not respond.

The friend then went to get panga and cut off the rope.

Silindza fell to the floor and his friend tried several times to wake him up and after all his efforts were unsuccessful, he cried and called out to the neighbours.

Upon seeing that the 14-year-old was dead, the neighbours called his elder brother, Lucky.

The brother said when he got home and found

his brother laying on the ground, he was too emotional but gathered himself and called his parents to tell them the news.

"Our parents were in Big Bend running some errands when I contacted them. They hurried back home and we called the police who came and collected his body," said Lucky.

Lucky said the incident shocked to everyone and a lot of people have been coming the Silindza family to offer condolences.

He said they were currently busy arranging for his burial as he will be laid to rest this week-

end.

"It has been very hard arranging for the funeral but we have managed to get some tents which will be used during the night vigil and we have already paid for the casket.

"We are, although, still struggling with buying food, so we will welcome any form of assistance," said Lucky.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that the case had been indeed reported.



KASI: An aerial view of Msunduzi location in Mbabane.

FIVE TEENAGE GIRLS LIVE ALONE, WORRY RESIDENTS

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO

ABOUT five young girls living at Mncitsini, Msunduzi location in Mbabane have been forced to fend for themselves after being neglected by their parents.

After the passing of their grandfather early last year, the five girls found refuge at their grandfather's house where they are living alone.

According to sources, the girls are wild and their behaviour is wayward. They are usually spotted roaming the streets of Msunduzi at night.

One source revealed that she knows the girls through her 14-year-old daughter who used to socialise with them.

The source said she told her daughter to stop socialising with the girls because she believed they were of bad influence to her and others after she had heard that they hanged out with boys in the area.

"On the 24th of December last year, I saw one of them carrying booze roaming the streets with boys. I felt like they took this behaviour after their mother who neglected them," said the source.

The source further said the girls would some-

times bring boys to the house as there was no elder living with them.

She added that one of the girls is suspected to be pregnant.

The source took the newspaper to the home-stand and upon arrival, all the girls were home. They live in a back room that is surrounded by several flats.

What was gathered from speaking to them is that three of the girls are aged 15 and had started their Form One but dropped out due to lack of funds and two who are the 14 years, dropped out at Grade Seven. Four of the girls share a mother. Two of the girl's father works and resides in South Africa and the other left home to live with their sisters after their father brought a girlfriend home. The other girl is just a friend. She initially lived with her father because her mother had passed on.

Her father is married now and lives in Ngculwini. She claims she left home because her step-mother forced her father to stop paying for her school fees.

When questioned how they make ends meet, the girls said they get E400 rent money plus E200 for electricity and water from the three tenants that occupy the flats.

However, they mentioned that sometimes the

tenants default paying rent and they have to ask from neighbouring residents for rice or pap.

"We then go out and pick *imbuya* (greens) or *ligusha* and we cook that," said one of the girls.

Despite their circumstances, all the girls asked for one thing, to be taken back to school. Some asked to be given the chance to re-do their birth certificates. Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Themba Masuku warned parents against neglecting their children, stating that every person who brought a child into this world had a responsibility to take care of them.

"Parenting is a responsibility and if there are people who are found to be neglecting their responsibilities, we will take action against them. They will, therefore, answer before the court of law," said Masuku.

The DPM said parents should know that before they decide to bring a child into this world, they should know they will be accountable for everything that happens to that child.

He said the Children's Act does not allow parents to abandon their children and those who do that must face drastic consequences for it.

Masuku said the social welfare office will investigate the matter, adding that the parents would be traced down and action taken against them.

Teenage suicide real – Ndo

CLINICAL psychologist Ndo Mdlalose said the number of teenage suicide cases in the country is seemingly increasing.

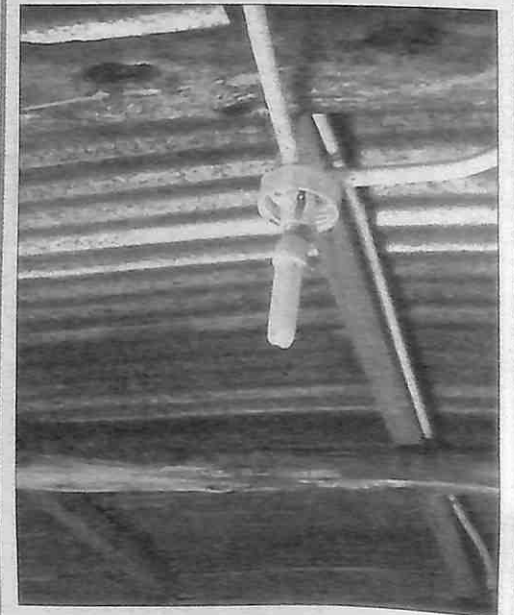
She said in this particular incident, she suspects the children did not understand that these scenes from the movies were fiction and when you do that in real life you die.

Mdlalose added that the teens were not mature enough to understand how these scenes are played and that they are not real.

"Let us not take suicide lightly. This is a serious, issue and parents need to make their children understand that when they are found playing with things like these, they will be seriously punished," said Mdlalose.

She further stated that parents should talk to their children about such issues.

"Shows like WWE are now accompanied with warnings that kids should not try these at home and they should take that seriously. Let's learn and be able to address such things in our homes," she said.



The rafters where the deceased hanged himself.

ARRIVES: Prime Minister Ambrose 'Mandvulo' Dlamini with his wife Portia. The prime minister is in Mozambique where he is representing His Majesty King Mswati III in the inauguration of that country's President, Filipe Nyusi (Pics Simon Shabangu)



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Gordhan must step down - NUM, NUMSA

JOHANNESBURG - The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the National Union of Metalworkers South Africa (NUMSA) yesterday picketed outside Eskom's Megawatt Park's headquarters in Johannesburg in opposition to the privatisation and unbundling of the troubled utility.

The two unions also called for the removal of Pravin Gordhan from his cabinet position as Minister of Public Enterprises, the government department which plays an oversight role on Eskom.

News24

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MOST WELCOME: The PM shaking hands with a Mozambican official.



PROCEEDINGS: The premier and his wife following the proceedings of the event.



GIFT: The head of government handing over a gift to one of the officials in Mozambique.



ESCORTED: PM and his wife being ushered to his seat.



ENJOYING: Minister Dladla upon arrival at the event.

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BRADLOWS

List of private schools approved by govt

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

THE list of private schools expected to operate in Eswatini this year has been released.

These include pre-schools, primary and high schools. Out of 216 schools only three have no authority to operate, 24 were full closed and the rest either have full or provisional author-

ity.

Director of Education in the Ministry of Education and Training Dr. Lenhle Dlamini warned parents to be wary of non-registered private schools.

She said parents had a right to request a letter from the ministry approving or authorising a school to operate whenever they look for space in schools.

Dlamini added that should parents fail to get space for their children, they could engage the regional education

offices (REOs) for assistance.

"We don't have the list of non-complying schools as yet because the school calendar starts next Tuesday, we can only rely on what we had last year.

Surprised

"Only then will we be able to check if all the schools have met the minimal standards. The REOs will have the information. I was surprised when I came back from Lesotho to find that

there was a list published supposedly endorsed by me," she said.

Adding, she said it was a crime for any school to operate without being authorised by the ministry.

"Should any school be found to have flouted the rules, necessary measures stipulated by the ministry will be taken against that school, she said.

Dr. Dlamini further mentioned that the minimum requirements include toilets that have been approved for

usage, water, fencing around the school, classrooms, qualified teachers the determined curriculum, feeding schemes arrangement in primary schools and laboratories in high schools.

"At times we give what is called provisional licence which is valid for a year while we finalise processes with that particular school.

"We plead with the nation to alert us should they suspect a school to be operating illegally," she said.

LIST OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS – 2020

Name of School	Region	Full Authority	Provisional Authority	No Authority	Closed	Name of School	Region	Full Authority	Provisional Authority	No Authority	Close
HHOHO REGION SCHOOLS						Usutu High	Manzini	X			
Hlanganani Primary	Hhohho	X				Grace Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Little School Primary	Hhohho	X				Grace Primary	Manzini	X			
Bayabonga Day Care and Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Khanyisile Primary	Manzini	X			
Bayabonga Primary	Hhohho	X				New Hope Centre Pre-Primary	Manzini	X			
New Dawn Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Shosholozu Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Checkers Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Discovery Junction Pre-School	Manzini	X			
ABC Pre-School	Hhohho	X				FEA Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Mpumelelo High	Hhohho	X				FEA Primary	Manzini	X			
Impumelelo High	Hhohho	X				FEA Training & Development Centre	Manzini	X			
Brilliant Star Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Siyafundza Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Mbabane Evangelical Pre-Primary	Hhohho	X				Siyafundza Primary	Manzini	X			
Mbabane Evangelical Primary	Hhohho	X				Excelsior's Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Annandale Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Excelsior's Private Primary	Manzini	X			
Annandale Primary School	Hhohho	X				Buhlebaya Academy Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Bulembu Christian Primary	Hhohho	X				Step-Up Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Bulembu Academy High	Hhohho	X				St John Bosco Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Waterford KaMhlaba World College	Hhohho	X				Ekudzeni Pre-School	Manzini	X			
Educare Child Care	Hhohho	X				Mangwanyane Primary	Manzini	X			
Kobe Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy	Hhohho	X				Seventh Day Adventist Primary	Manzini	X			
Jacaranda Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Morning Star International Lower Primary	Manzini	X			
Siyakhula Primary	Hhohho	X				Project Canaan Pre	Manzini	X			
Premier Independence Primary	Hhohho	X				Project Canaan Primary	Manzini	X			
Montessori Pre-School	Hhohho	X				New Life Christian Academy Inter. Primary	Hhohho		X		
Montessori Primary School	Hhohho	X				New Life Christian Academy Inter. High	Hhohho		X		
Sandla Pre School	Hhohho	X				Nkosingiphendule Play Centre	Manzini		X		
Mother Touch Learning Centre	Hhohho	X				Bright Beginning Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Jabulile Primary School	Hhohho	X				Rehoboth Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Evergreen Learning Centre	Hhohho	X				Care Bears Play School	Manzini		X		
Lam Pre-School	Hhohho	X				Mobeni Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Learning Tree Pre-School	Hhohho		X			Pilot International Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Trinity Primary School	Hhohho		X			Inkhanyeti Nursery/Pre-School	Manzini		X		
The Light Primary	Hhohho		X			Inkhanyeti Primary	Manzini		X		
Embo Community Pre-School	Hhohho		X			Inkhanyeti High	Manzini		X		
Sunbeam Pre-School	Hhohho		X			Zakhali Primary	Manzini		X		
Lilima High Montessori	Hhohho		X			Zakhali High	Manzini		X		
New Life Christian Academy Inter. High	Hhohho		X			Ekukhuleni Primary	Manzini		X		
Pips Pre-School	Hhohho		X			Enjabulweni Orphanage	Manzini		X		
Sibetsamoya High	Hhohho			X		Ursel Primary	Manzini		X		
Little School Pre-School	Hhohho			X		Tiny Tots Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Lingiwe Pre-School	Hhohho			X		Alnoor International Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Wisdom Academy	Hhohho				X	Alnoor International Primary	Manzini		X		
New Life Christian Academy Inter. Primary	Hhohho				X	Ray of Hope	Manzini		X		
Cornerstone Christian Academy Pre-School	Hhohho				X	Siphosethu Pre-School	Manzini		X		
St Gabriel's Svd Independent Pri. School	Hhohho				X	Mountain View High	Manzini		X		
Progressive Remedial Centre	Hhohho				X	SOHO Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Eaglesvale Primary	Hhohho				X	Hillside Private	Manzini		X		
Emmanuel Khayaletu	Hhohho					Blessed Avenue Academy Pre-Primary	Manzini		X		
MANZINI REGION SCHOOLS						Thembela Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Jabez Pre-School	Manzini	X				Praise High School	Manzini		X		
Jabez Primary	Manzini	X				Tokumbo Private School	Manzini		X		
Jabez High	Manzini	X				Lusundvu Academy Private School	Manzini		X		
Apex High	Manzini	X				Lwati International Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Little Eisten Lower Primary	Manzini	X				Tiny Angels Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Little Eisten Pre-School and Educare	Manzini	X				Buhlebaya Primary School	Manzini		X		
Mbalenhle Primary	Manzini	X				Buhlebaya High School	Manzini		X		
Mbalenhle Christian Academy High	Manzini	X				Valley Orchard Primary	Manzini		X		
Future Primary	Manzini	X				Sitsabile Kids Pre-Primary School	Manzini		X		
Future High	Manzini	X				Holyland High School	Manzini		X		
KaShali Pro-Learning High	Manzini	X				Glad-Mary Pre-School	Manzini		X		
Tubungu Primary	Manzini	X				Bethlehem High School	Manzini		X		
Tubungu High	Manzini	X				Guide Me Primary	Manzini				X
Phumelele High	Manzini	X				Prestige Palanari School	Manzini				X
Letchwelight Primary	Manzini	X				Emmanuel Private High	Manzini				X
Letchwelight High	Manzini	X				Goshen Academy	Manzini				X
Khanyisile Primary	Manzini	X				Praise High	Manzini				X
Bayandza Primary	Manzini	X				Lethu High	Manzini				X
Enjabulweni Primary	Manzini	X				Cornerstone Help Centre	Manzini				X
Enjabulweni High	Manzini	X				Roads Park High	Manzini				X
Mizpah Primary	Manzini	X				E.S.I. Primary	Manzini				X
WEM High	Manzini	X				Optimum High	Manzini				X
Living Waters Pre-School	Manzini	X				Labone Complex	Manzini				X
Living Waters Primary	Manzini	X				Polex High	Manzini				X
Peacefield International School	Manzini	X				Harvard International High	Manzini				X
Little Academy Pre-School	Manzini	X				LUBOMBO REGION SCHOOLS					
Little Academy Primary	Manzini	X				Sisekelo High	Lubombo	X			
Achievers Primary	Manzini	X				Ubombo Primary	Lubombo	X			
Ntabamhloshana Primary	Manzini	X				Purity High	Lubombo	X			
Elethu Pre-School Correctional Services	Manzini	X				Thembelisha Preparatory	Lubombo	X			
Usutu Primary	Manzini	X				Mananga College/Metropolitan	Lubombo	X			

Drug shortages:

Ministry changes logistics management system

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Mbabane

- Minister says shortages will persist until new system is put in place
- Nurses tell govt to procure drugs first

APART from the delayed payment of suppliers, the ministry of health believes the drug shortages in hospitals are caused by the discrepancies in the supply chain management system.

In a bid to address the shortages of drugs in hospitals and health centres, the ministry is in the process of replacing the current logistic management system (Commodity Tracking System) with a new system called the electronic Logistics Management System (eLMS). Nurses, on the other hand, believe that the new system will not resolve the shortages unless government pays suppliers.

Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi said until the system had been overhauled and a new one put in place, the shortages would persist.

For this reason, the ministry is currently engaging a consultant to assess how best to install an electronic system that will allow the Central Medical Stores (CMS) and entire supply chain management stakeholders to see the stock in real time.

"We are working on it; there are people on the ground doing a research into our supply chain management system. We want to eliminate the hiccups

and find a wayforward.

"Systems are improved all the time. The one we are using also needs to be improved. The researchers are looking into the changes that could be made.

"Until we have a system where we can all see how much stock each facility has in real time, the shortages will continue," she said.

The minister said the assessment is expected to be completed by January 22 (next Wednesday). Information gathered suggests that the system has already been piloted and may be linked to the client management system.

Opposed

The current shortages are believed to be partly caused by the fact that the current inventory management system at the Central Medical Stores is not synced to those of the facilities. As a result, it takes a month for the CMS to get data on the amount of stock in each facility as opposed to the real time or on a daily basis.

Sources close to the matter said the CMS was currently relying on the reports and orders made by the facilities on a monthly basis, whereas the new system is expected to be linked to the facilities and thus report immediately when the drugs are dispensed to clients.



Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi.

"The system that will be installed will immediately allow the CMS to monitor the drugs online and in real time.

"Where there is poor internet connection, the information would be updated on the next day," a source revealed.

The source stated that the rolling out of the new system might take a while as there were several processes involved, including the training of the officers and the consideration of the recommendations of the team that is carrying out the assessment.

The Swaziland Nurses Association

(SNA), on the other hand, emphasised that government should settle its arrears as they believe that the shortage of drugs has nothing to do with dispensing challenges, but it has to do with the health care financing model as government was owing suppliers.

SNA President Bheki Mamba said the notion that the drug shortages resulted from the logistics management system was a fallacy as the real cause was the late payment of suppliers, which the ministry also admitted in its reports.

"There are no drugs in hospitals because government owes suppliers hence they no longer supply drugs.

The allegations that the medicines are stolen are unfounded. Why are the people stealing them not arrested? Are they in all the facilities?

"The introduction of a new system will not help as there are no drugs to be monitored. We are at a point where we do not have money to procure medicines. Government has admitted to owing suppliers to the region of E400 million," he said.

The ministry has always listed the shortage of drugs as one of its major challenges, which was attributed to the late payment of suppliers, according to the ministry of health quarterly report.

"Among the major challenges faced by the ministry is the shortage of drugs, delayed payment of service providers, frequent shortages of fuel and breakdown of facility transport and shortages in human resources," reads the report.

The shortage of drugs had been reported to be a national challenge for the ministry as all the health facilities have reported frequent drug stock-outs.

"While most patients were negatively affected, highly impacted patients were those on psychiatric medication, which stocked out for longer periods and those taking anti-hypertensive treatment.

The main cause for the stock-outs is failure to pay suppliers on time due to the fiscal challenges faced by government," further reads the 2019 first quarter.

Delayed

On the other hand, the delay in the payment of service providers also saw most of the health facilities running out of supplies as well as companies withdrawing their services.

Most facilities have been negatively affected by the delayed payment and subsequent withdrawal of services by service providers.

"This includes catering, security, servicing of medical equipment, immunisation, external referrals, CMIS roll-out, cleaning materials, protective supplies, etc. This has negatively affected the provision of health services thus reducing the quality of patient stay at facilities.

"Some of the most affected facilities are Mbabane Government Hospital and Nhlalanga Health Centre, particularly with regards to catering and security," further reads the report.

LIST OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS – 2020

Name of School	Region	Full Authority	Provisional Authority	No Authority	Close
Ubombo School Trust	Lubombo	X			
Kuyasa Primary School	Lubombo	X			
Stan Academy	Lubombo	X			
Busiswa Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Little Lambs Playschool	Lubombo		X		
ABM English Medium Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Umtombo Wekuphila Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Angels Academy Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Jack & Jill Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Little Angels Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Inkosiinathi Christian Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Learners Corner Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Garfield Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Phuzumoya Charity Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Siyakhula Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Kuyasa Primary	Lubombo		X		
Khetsiwe Primary	Lubombo		X		
Imbuyiselo Academy Private Primary	Lubombo		X		
Edu-Care Centre Big Bend	Lubombo		X		
Global Revival Primary/Mphumalanga	Lubombo		X		
Shewula Assemblise of God Pre School	Lubombo		X		
Early Bird Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Grace Christian Academy Primary School	Lubombo		X		
Angel Academy Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Elibusisweni Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Divide Destines Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Precious Stones Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Imphumelelo Pre School	Lubombo		X		
Emthonjeni English Medium Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Bumble Bees/Huggles Pre-School	Lubombo		X		
Sibusisiwe New Private Primary School	Lubombo		X		
Stundu Simango Combined School	Lubombo		X		
Project Canaan Academy	Lubombo				X
Tshaneni Milestone Academy Private	Lubombo				X
Malindza Education Centre (Lawini)					
SHISELWENI REGION SCHOOLS					
Engcongwaneni Pre-School	Shiselweni	X			
Evangelical Church Primary	Shiselweni	X			
University Science Primary	Shiselweni	X			
Yong Tong Primary	Shiselweni	X			
New Life Primary	Shiselweni	X			
Khanyisa Christian Academy High	Shiselweni	X			
Shining Stars Christian Pre-School	Shiselweni	X			
Pemisa Pre-School	Shiselweni				X
Centre of Continuing Education School	Shiselweni				X
Costeried Study Centre					

SITEKI SUSPECT SERIAL RAPIST TO PLEAD GUILTY TO EIGHT COUNTS

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

NKOSINATHI Alucious Nkonyane (39), who stands accused of committing a string of rape cases around Siteki, has told the court that he will be pleading guilty to all the charges.

Nkonyane faces eight charges ranging from rape, robbery and house-breaking.

He was apprehended by members of the public, who responded to an alarm raised by one of the survivors on November 27, 2019.

Contravening

The accused person made his second appearance before Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula yesterday. Amongst the charges he faces is that of contravening Section 3 of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2018.

He is alleged to have committed an unlawful sexual act upon a 30-year-old woman. The charge is accompanied with aggravating factors in that the accused person threatened to stab the complainant with a knife if she resisted



to his demand.

On another count, the suspect allegedly committed an unlawful sexual act on a 12-year-old girl. The accused person is alleged to have strangled the girl as he committed the offence.

On two other counts, the accused person is alleged to have attempted to rape two women on separate incidents. He is said to have strangled the women and ordered them to undress.

Luckily, the women managed to escape after raising an alarm.

On another count, the accused person is charged with robbery.

He is alleged to have wrong-

fully and unlawfully robbed a woman of Moyeni of her items valued at E950.

The accused person is said to have strangled the complainant and further threatened to stab her if she resisted to the robbery.

During his court appearance yesterday, the accused person was asked how he intended to plead to the charges and he stated that he would plead guilty.

The accused person, however, asked the court to give him time so that he could get the services of an attorney. The matter was, therefore, postponed to next Monday, pending setting of a date of trial.

40 schools now accept payment of fees through MTN Mobile Money

BY NCCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

THE ministry of education and training has released a list of schools where parents can use MTN Mobile Money to pay for their children's school fees on top of other payment options.

The payment of school fees through Mobile Money was started on a pilot basis three years ago. So far, this payment option has proved to be safe and convenient for parents who can settle their children's school fees at the convenience of their homes.

According to Eswatini MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Laphondvo, for three years now, St. Theresa's High is among the latest list of schools drawn across all the regions that allow parents to pay for their children's school fees through MTN Mobile Money.

He mentioned that at the start of this project, one of the participating schools were able to collect over E110 000 in school fees through MTN Mobile, and registered no challenges experienced with the use of this payment system.

"The payment of school fees through



Eswatini MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Laphondvo.

MTN Mobile Money is not limited to the first term of the year. Even in subsequent terms, parents may still use MTN MoMo to pay school fees. In the event of questions regarding the opening of MoMo account for schools is 7808 1001. Our customers can then select option 4 for Mobile Money," he added. Laphondvo further mentioned that some of the schools that allow the payment of school fees through MTN Mobile Money include, but are not limited to the following:

• Bhunya Usuthu High

- Ekukhanyeni High
- Emvimbeko High
- Ngwane Central High
- Ekuphakameni Community High
- Esandleni High
- Kalamdladla High
- Lamawandla High
- Florence Christian High
- Nkhungwini High
- Ka-Shiele High
- Lobamba High
- Franson Christian High
- Hillside High
- Hosea High
- Madlangempisi High
- Matsanjeni Community High
- Nduyithini High
- Elulakeni High
- Qomintaba Secondary
- Mbekelweni Lutheran High
- Sibovu High
- Nzongomane High
- Osuthu Methodist High
- Zombodze National High
- Nyamane High
- St Joseph's High
- Zandonzo High
- Nhlanguano Central High
- Sigombeni High
- St Theresa's High

Police warn against shortcuts in school fees payment

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

WITH schools opening next Tuesday, parents have been advised to be vigilant in order to avoid being scammed as they rush to pay fees and purchase materials for their children.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati warned the public to avoid short cuts in a bid to avoid being defrauded. She said they were grateful that the ministry of education and training and other relevant stakeholders are constantly engaging means to improve accessibility and efficiency in payment methods for school fees.

She mentioned the methods and agents used for paying fees have been improved to avoid scams and fraud.

She said parents and guardians have been offered new methods of payment to avoid queuing in banks as they could now pay at post offices which has reduced the queues in banks.

She added there were other areas where



parents were forced to queue in long lines in order to be able to pay the fees. She however warned that criminal's usually took advantage of the situation and stole as well as defrauded innocent people.

"They usually draw them in and promise to assist them to speed up the process only to end up taking their hard earned money," she said.

She said the same applied with exercise books and uniforms where they were promised cheaper and efficient services that were not credible.

She added besides school opening, this month was characterised by employment opportunities which fraudsters and scammers took advantage of.

She said in Manzini and Shiselweni there was a new scam where people were filling envelopes with papers and notes on the outside to give the impression that there was money and scam mobile money vendors.

She also urged transport operators to take care of their passengers especially pupils by dropping them at designated crossing points to avoid accidents.

Getaway Magazine dubs Eswatini an adventurer's paradise

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

CAPE Town-based travel and lifestyle magazine, Getaway has shown immense love for Eswatini in an elaborate 2 000-word article on their magazine and website, labelling the kingdom an adventurer's paradise.

The magazine featured Eswatini on their January edition as one of the most pleasurable places to visit in autumn. The article was posted on January 9, 2020 and titled 'Flying blind - adventure in Eswatini'.

A team of two, comprising of writer and photographer Matthew Sterne and his childhood friend MJ Judge represented the magazine.

Sterne comes with expert knowledge and vast experience as he is also an established writer at world-renowned website, Hiking South Africa. Getaway had signed up for anything that would get their adrenalin going and possibly cleanse them of the festive season residue.

"A five-day jaunt in Eswatini in search of adrenalin dishes up an 'extreme hike', adventure caving and even a little mysticism," wrote Sterne.

The team was hosted by Swazi Trails and some of their tours were facilitated by owner Darron Raw who also received positive reviews. Raw was described as one who satisfied all their specifications like the adventure expert he was.

Raw is also a volunteer snake handler, has done more than 200 paragliding flights and is a local councillor. At the end of the trip, Sterne, who did not know what to expect initially finally wrote: "...And, sometimes, you drive beyond Mpumalanga, to the far side of the



ETA Acting Marketing Manager Chunky Mdluli-Dlamini.

highveld and visit an adventurer's paradise."

Meanwhile, the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) Acting Marketing Manager Chunky Mdluli-Dlamini said they were ecstatic about the positive review so early in the year and it would play a pivotal role in drawing in the numbers for the rest of the year.

"Being dubbed an adventurer's paradise adds to our being known as the ultimate culture hub, and this article will do a lot in terms of tourists we expect this year, especially from South Africa," said Mdluli-Dlamini.

She further thanked Swazi Trails and local establishments for offering excellent service and upholding international standards and ultimately attracting such good publicity.

The team visited Malolotja National Park, Sibebe Rock, Gobholo, Lusutfu River, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, Execution Rock, Mantenga Craft and Lifestyle Centre, Malandela's Restaurant, Shewula Mountain Camp. Their itinerary covered horse riding, extreme hiking, white water rafting, consulting a sangoma, zip lining, mountain biking and cave exploring.

About Getaway Magazine:

- Getaway inspires, advises and amazes South African travellers by providing must-read travel information on must-see destinations and must-do activities.
- After more than 25 years, Getaway is the largest English travel media in South Africa. A household name with an audience of more than 700 000, Getaway offers advice on where and

how to relax in a huge variety of destinations in Southern Africa and beyond.

• They have developed into an all-round multimedia platform that includes Getaway Magazine, the Cape Getaway Show, the Gauteng Getaway Show, the Getaway Website, Getaway Events and Getaway Travel.

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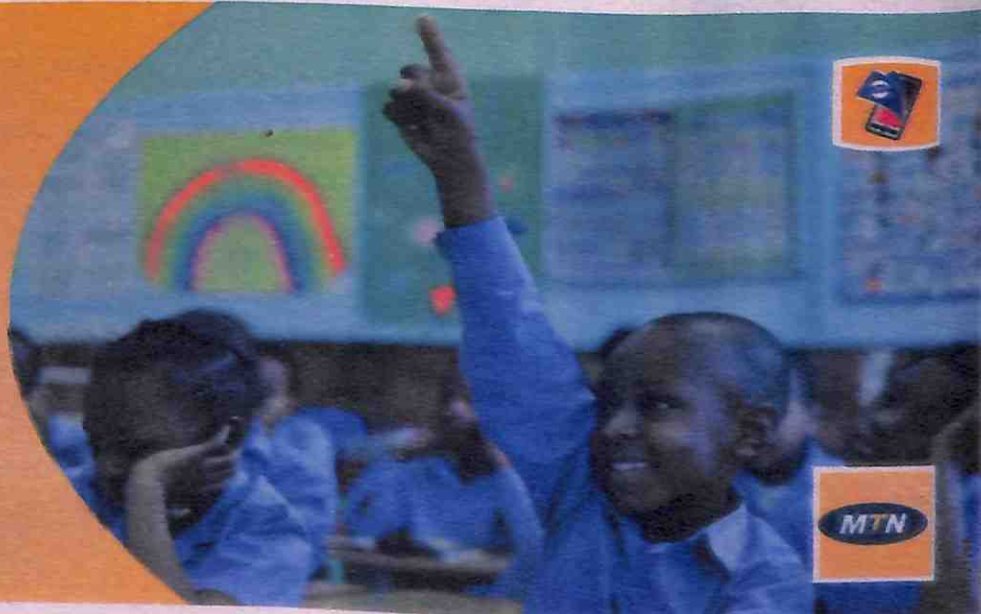
With January's hassles, we want to make things just a little simpler for you. Pay your child's school fees via MTN MoMo the quick, safe and easy way because MTN MoMo is life.



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Ts & Cs apply.





EEC CELEBRATES OVER 21 YEARS OF MOTRACO EXISTENCE

The Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) has a more reason to celebrate in 2020 having completed 20 years as a partner in the Mozambique Transmission Company (MOTRACO) and also settling a E212.7 equity loan with the European Investment Bank (EIB).

MOTRACO is a joint venture between Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC), Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM), and Eskom of South Africa. The principal objective of the joint venture was to establish a 400kV power transmission system in order to facilitate the wheeling of electricity from South Africa to the Mozal Aluminium Smelter in Maputo, Mozambique.

It has been more than 20 years already since MOTRACO was established. This transmission project was conceived at a time when EEC was still battling with several challenges including, but not limited to, frequent power outages at transmission level, transmission constraints and general voltage drops that were being experienced in the power supply system. Several options were considered by the company at that

...and settlement of E212.7 Million loan facility

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT

EEC Managing Director Meshack Kunene stated that this achievement is one of the company's greatest milestones over the past two decades, particularly considering the potential risk of default bearing on this loan facility.

"We are very proud to have finally settled this long-standing obligation despite facing some difficult challenges over the past 20 years," Kunene said.

He mentioned that the drought experienced over the years compounded with persistent harsh economic conditions had a huge impact on EEC's profitability and this could have easily affected the company's ability to maintain its obligation in relation to the sinking fund.

Kunene further stated that the conditions of the loan were that EEC would have to make a single payment at the end of the maturity of the loan.

"The sinking fund established in 2014 has proven to be an effective financial strategy for EEC as adequate cash reserves were accumulated to meet the EIB MOTRACO Equity loan obligation when it matured in June 2019," Kunene said.

Kunene further explained that the variable portion of the loan obligation was determinable based on the equity valuation of MOTRACO. The purpose of the valuation was to establish the post-acquisition value of the company's equity in June 2019 of which EIB was contractually entitled to share 50% of the portion attributable to EEC.

"After a series of engagements and negotiations, EIB finally accepted a valuation report of MOTRACO and on the basis thereof further accepted a sum of Eur4.5 Million in full and final settlement of the variable portion of the loan obligation. Effectively, this then brought the total amount paid to EIB to Eur12.7 Million," Kunene said. He added that the EEC Board was satisfied with arrangements made to mitigate

the payment and gave management a green light to work on finalising the loan obligation.

Kunene expressed his appreciation to Government as EEC's shareholder for the vision and foresight displayed by endorsing this initiative, which has already proven to be a good investment for both EEC and the country.

"The establishment of the MOTRACO 400kV network has positively impacted the economy of Eswatini through improved reliability and quality of supply. The country has also greatly benefited over the years from the generosity of the MOTRACO CSI programme, which include significant contribution to the construction and rehabilitation of various schools," Kunene said.

EEC's performance on this loan facility is also celebrated by EIB who, according to Kunene, have extended appreciation to EEC for the fruitful cooperation and support to the successful implementation of this strategic project.

In addition, to the principal amount advanced, EEC was expected to pay to EIB 50% of its share of the post-acquisition growth of the MOTRACO equity on the maturity of the facility. The value of this portion was to be determinable from an independent valuation of the MOTRACO equity at the end of the 20 years.

LOAN SETTLEMENT

While EEC was to pay nothing until the maturity of the loan facility in 20 years, there was always a lingering risk of default owing to the bullet nature of the repayment. The company adopted a sinking fund strategy for purposes of accumulating the required foreign currency amount to redeem the loan when it fell due.

This arrangement was necessary in order to proactively manage the default risk on maturity of the loan facility which the financier would not tolerate. Twenty years later (June 2019), the EIB loan facility matured, the sinking had accumulated adequate resources to extinguish the loan. EEC paid to EIB a total of E212.7 million (EUR12.7 million) in full redemption of both the principal amount and the variable obligation as determinable from the MOTRACO equity valuation report. This is one single payment that

this company has made since its establishment in 1963 and this achievement is undoubtedly worth celebrating.



Motraco General Manager Higino Fabio pictured officiating during a hand-over ceremony for a computer laboratory sponsored by EEC and Motraco in 2018.

time to reinforce the network and ensure that it was sufficient robust to carry the projected load growth and satisfy the country's power demand.

According to the joint-venture agreement, the shareholding was split equally between the three investing parties. Each company then had to contrib-

ute one-third of the USD39.5 million required equity to acquire its stake on the project.

EEC was also to benefit immensely from the establishment of this transmission infrastructure. The benefits of the project that were envisaged at the inception of the project included the following:

- Financial benefit arising from the share of profits to accrue from the investment;
- Improved reliability and quality of supply in the country as the high voltage (400kV) transmission network would boost and reinforce the supply network; and

- Provide inter-connection with other utilities in the region and thus enable EEC's participation in the Southern African Power Pool power trading platforms.

Financing

EEC was required to contribute USD10.1 million towards the acquisition of her 33% stake in the equity of (MOTRACO). However, the company did not have re required

EEC Managing Director Meshack Kunene.



EEC OFFICIAL SHAREHOLDER IN MOTRACO

The Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) is an official shareholder in the Mozambique Transmission Company (MOTRACO) having successfully cleared a E212.7 Million equity loan with the European Investment Bank (EIB).

MOTRACO was founded in 1998 as a joint venture between three companies of electricity from Mozambique, South Africa and Eswatini in particular, Electricidade de Moçambique

(EDM), Eskom of South Africa and Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC), respectively.

The aim of this joint venture is to provide efficient energy transmission and services to business and ensure acceptable returns for its shareholders. MOTRACO therefore imports energy for direct sales to Mozal on behalf of EDM, EEC and Eskom through a 400kV line that cuts across the shareholder countries.

According to EEC General Manager Operations Vusi Gama, who is also a MOTRACO Board Member, the avail-

ability of the MOTRACO 400kV line has benefited EEC immensely in that it provides an inter connector with the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

"I can safely say this was a very good investment for our country. Through the MOTRACO line, we are able to purchase electricity within the Southern African region even as far as the Democratic Republic of Congo," Gama said.

He mentioned that apart from providing a reliable power supply, the 400kV line also serves as a backbone for our electricity grid.

ABOUT MOTRACO:

- Formed as a special purpose vehicle consisting of 3 utilities (Eskom, EDM and EEC) with the sole purpose to wheel energy to the Mozal Aluminium Smelter
- Each of the three utilities has 33,33% shares
- It is financed by debt and equity
- Its revenues are solely derived from payment for the wheeling
- Where surplus capacity is created, this is utilised by wheeling to EDM and EEC

Significant achievements include:

- It is a model of regional co-operation
- Quality and reliability of supply to Mozal is of world standards
- The financing of the port 2 expansion was the first "project finance" transaction in the electricity industry in Southern Africa
- Through the reliable supply of energy to Mozal, it has played a catalytic role resulting in significant economic growth in Mozambique.



BIRTH REGISTRATION A MUST FOR EVERY CHILD - WORLD VISION

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

AS the year has begun and school opening preparations are underway, World Vision Eswatini is pleading with every parent or guardian to ensure that all children have birth certificates.

World Vision Communications and Campaigns Manager Nontobeko Mbuyane said this was a matter of urgency and had been largely a huge problem to children in the past year. It was for this reason that they called on each and every parent to ensure that children are properly registered within the government system.

"As an organisation and other stakeholders we have noted the high number of their children without birth certificates and how this has affected the children in being registered for school," Mbuyane stated. She further stated that the lack of birth certificates had detrimental effects on children as it further limited so many opportunities of the child that the government might have in place.

She said this was clearly a child protection



MUST: World Vision Communications and Campaigns Manager Nontobeko Mbuyane.
(Pic: Nokuzola Thwala)

matter. They could not turn a blind eye on it as at the end of the day some of the children's futures were destroyed, parents and guardians

needed to take responsibility and ensure that children had birth certificates.

Adding, Mbuyane said they noted some of the challenges parents faced with regards to birth registration as some of the birth registration offices might not be closer to them so they needed to travel long distances to ensure they register children.

Structures

"We are engaging the relevant structures in that regard and looking at what supportive role the organisation can play in solving this challenge," she said.

Mbuyane also stated that there seemed to be another challenge on the rise this time of the year, that of parents fighting over the paternity of children with no resolve of children and eventually leading to the minors suffering the consequences as they are left with no birth certificates.

She pleaded for peace among parents and putting the best interest of the child first. She said as much as there might be domestic squabbles, they strongly advocated for peace and the children's welfare taking priority at all times.

Seek assistance on birth registration - Mbuyane

ON the other hand Mbuyane implored all those facing challenges with birth registration of children to seek support and assistance from the relevant government offices as they will be assisted.

She asked parents who might be going through domestic issues to resolve such and seek assistance at the social welfare offices in the country.

The campaigns manager said children should never at any point lack such pertinent documentation just because parents were fighting or did not see eye-to-eye.

"That is wrong and very unfair to children. We also call on parents to be registered themselves so that in turn they can register the children.

This is an issue that has affected so many children for so long in the country and we cannot let our children down, thus we call for responsible parenting at such a time.

No child should not be at school because they have been deprived the relevant documentation by either parents or guardians,"

EDUCATION ACCESS FOR ALL

MBUYANE urged schools to ensure that all children access education and not be discriminated based on their results, especially those who have just recently had their Standard Five and Form Three results.

She pleaded that all children be given a chance to access education in the country's schools. She said it would be unfair and unjust to have children lacking school places just because they passed with a Third Class.

Stay

"Therefore it is our plea as an organisation that no child should stay at home because of lack of school space," Mbuyane stated.

Mbuyane further reminded the teachers, parents and nation at large that all had an obligation to protect children against sexual violence.

"Once again as schools open, we are aware that children are vulnerable in so many ways and we ask parents to be very vigilant and report any

form of abuse against children.

Teachers are also warned against having any kind of sexual relationships with learners and make schools a safe space for all children," she said.

Mbuyane reminded the nation that the campaign protecting children against sexual violence was still ongoing and everyone has a role to play.

Cases

She said cases of sexual violence should be reported. She warned all perpetrators of sexual violence against children that they will suffer the consequences should they violate children.

"Nalo lilahle emhlane kuwe nawuhlukubeta. We appreciate all stakeholders and partners who contributed by taking part in this national campaign.

The war is not yet over but continues until our children are free from sexual violence," the manager emphasised.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN:

'IT Takes Eswatini to end sexual violence against children' is a national campaign that seeks to totally eradicate the incidences of sexual violence against children in the country.

It is a national campaign led by World Vision on behalf of the government and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The campaign has seen the nation coming

together to fight this social ill against children.

Its highlights were predominately experienced in places like the Manzini Bus Rank, where bus conductors and drivers played an active role in child protection and removing the stigma associated with the rank of being notorious in perpetrating violence against children and women.

This campaign has made such a space a very child friendly and



Bus fare hikes to hit us hardest - vendors

BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

VENDORS have cried foul over the bus fare hikes set to commence on Monday, saying this would hit them where it hurts the most.

Some of the street vendors interviewed yesterday said the bus fare hikes would negatively affect them as they also rely on public transport. They said as it is the buying power of customers had been eroded due to the economic challenges faced by the country. With the imminent bus fare hikes, it meant their businesses would suffer too.

One of the vendors Nomthandazo Sibiyi said it is always hard to do business, especially when the economy is not doing well so the bus fare hikes would make matters worse.

Mentioned

She also mentioned that it is not only the bus fare hikes that would affect them but also the soaring prices of commodities such as bread and fuel.

"While we were still coming to terms with the tough economic situation, we now have to contend with bus fare hikes. Government must do something about it," she added.

In the same vein, Canaan Shongwe said they had no choice but to consider other means of doing business and how to survive under such circumstances.

He said experience in business had taught him that the country was headed for worst times in its history.

Members of the public also voiced their concerns, saying the country could be the next Zimbabwe if nothing is done to salvage the situation.

They called for collaboration between development partners and government for lasting solutions.

Some even went to the extent of saying that government has failed the nation on many areas. It was high time government prioritised the people's needs, they stated.

"Now it is hard to buy grocery to last the whole month because even the working class is struggling with getting a salary increment while costs of basic commodities are ever soaring," a member of the public said.

Now it is hard to buy grocery to last the whole month because even the working class is struggling with getting a salary increment while costs of basic commodities are ever soaring.

Man survives violent robbery

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man is lucky to have survived a robbery unscathed after the perpetrator threatened to stab him for

his belongings.

When John Magagula left the Maduma Complex, he did not expect that another male will accost and threaten to stab him if he refused to the taking of his items.

19-year-old Monti Mkoko has since been arrested and charged with the

robbery after Magagula reported the matter to Mbabane Police Station as his valuables were taken.

Records

According to court records, Mkoko on December 1, 2019 at Maduma Complex threatened Magagula that if he resisted to the taking of his items,

he would be stabbed.

Mkoko then placed a knife to Magagula's throat and robbed him of a navy blue hat valued at E100 and E300 in cash.

The total value of items taken from Magagula was E400.

In his appearance before court, Mkoko was admitted to E2 000 bail after the prosecution moved an application for him to be remanded back into custody until tomorrow for his trial.





IN THE HIGH COURT OF ESWATINI - FIRST SESSION DRAFT ROLL 2020



MATTERS BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP J. MAGAGULA CIVIL MATTERS

1. CASE NO. 719/15
MTN
Vs
Lungile Ntuli
2. CASE NO. 541/17
Samukelisiwe Masebela
Vs
The National Commissioner of Police
3. CASE NO. 175/17
William Investments
Vs
Swaziland Electricity Company

CRIMINAL MATTERS

4. CASE NO. 214/10
Rex
Vs
Gobele Dlamini
5. CASE NO. 35/13
Rex
Vs
Sifiso Sihlongonyane
6. CASE NO. 264/16
Rex
Vs
Khanyisile Amelia Mbuyisa
7. CASE NO. 141/13
Rex
Vs
Bongwe Lindokuhle Dladla
8. CASE NO. 233/13
Rex
Vs
Bongani Musa Dlamini
7. CASE NO. 177/14
Rex
Vs
Sabelo Quality Gama
9. CASE NO. 266/13
Rex
Vs
Moondisi S. Mkhaphi
10. CASE NO. 122/13
Rex
Vs
Sibongile Bongwe Mamba
11. CASE NO. 38/13
Rex
Vs
Sizwe Cyril Magongo
12. CASE NO. 416/13
Rex
Vs
Nomsa Busisiwe Nzima
13. CASE NO. 196/13
Rex
Vs
Sikhumbuzo Fohlahloha Khumalo
14. CASE NO. 82/13
Rex
Vs
Bheki Myeza
15. CASE NO. 299/13
Rex
Vs
Sikhumbuzo Dlamini
16. CASE NO. 378/13
Rex
Vs
Musa Fundizwe Matsenjwa
17. CASE NO. 438/13
Rex
Vs
Mmeli Mzikayitani Matsenjwa
18. CASE NO. 46/17
Rex
Vs
Vusi Absalom Maseko
19. CASE NO. 171/13
Rex
Vs
Sifiso Ntobeko Dlamini
20. CASE NO. 321/13
Rex
Vs
Bongani Musa Dlamini
21. CASE NO. 225/13
Rex
Vs
Emmanuel V. Mngometulu
22. CASE NO. 37/13
Rex
Vs
Wonderboy Dlamini
23. CASE NO. 71/13
Rex
Vs
Nhlantla Maseko
24. CASE NO. 406/13
Rex
Vs
Nhlantla Beckam Dlamini
25. CASE NO. 477/13
Rex
Vs
Siboniso Sribu Mavimbela
26. CASE NO. 412/13
Rex
Vs
Moebisi Tsabedze
27. CASE NO. 75/13
Rex
Vs
Neliswa S. Matse
28. CASE NO. 405/13
Rex
Vs
Bheki Maswazi Maphalala
29. CASE NO. 400/13
Rex
Vs
Charles Mzingo & 2 Others

MATTERS BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP C. MAPHANGA CIVIL MATTERS

1. CASE NO. 1036/14
Lucky Shabangu
Vs
Dudu Dlamini
2. CASE NO. 2768/10
Sydney Shongwe
Vs
Musa Ndlangamandla & 2 Others
3. CASE NO. 222/18
Intellepek LM (Pty) Ltd
Vs
Municipal Council of Manzini & 2 Others
4. CASE NO. 1398/17
SNPF
Vs
Estel (Pty) Ltd
5. CASE NO. 38/17
Sinenkosi Ginindza
Vs
Chakazile Ndlangamandla
6. CASE NO. 672/17
Jeffrey Siphon Simelane
Vs
Swaziland Building Society
7. CASE NO. 1800/17
Frank Thando Groening
Vs
Swaziland Government
8. CASE NO. 624/17
Jeremiah Madzela Ngcamphalala
Vs
Swaziland Government
9. CASE NO. 141/17
Fortune Nxumalo
Vs
Gcinaphi S. Nxumalo & 2 Others

CRIMINAL MATTERS

10. CASE NO. 496/15
Rex
Vs
Senzo Matsenjwa & 3 Others
11. CASE NO. 200/13
Rex
Vs
Nomfundo Dvuba
12. CASE NO. 302/12
Rex
Vs
Morris Matututu Dlamini & 15 Others
13. CASE NO. 386/12
Rex
Vs
Muzi M. Mabuza & Others
14. CASE NO. 57/13
Rex
Vs
Sabelo Tars Dlamini & Colani Dlamini
15. CASE NO. 295/13
Rex
Vs
Ayanda Zulu
16. CASE NO. 98/08
Rex
Vs
Zanele Agnes Vilakati & Another
17. CASE NO. 402/18
Rex
Vs
Nhlabutwa Shongwe
18. CASE NO. 113/12
Rex
Vs
Khetsiwe Portia Mdluli
19. CASE NO. 83/13
Rex
Vs
Mzwandile Dlamini & Others
20. CASE NO. 354/13
Rex
Vs
Douglas D. Tsela
21. CASE NO. 424/13
Rex
Vs
Mlungisi Mshelavu Dlamini & 3 Others
22. CASE NO. 307/13
Rex
Vs
Lusendo M. Shabangu
23. CASE NO. 408/13
Rex
Vs
Thokozani Cyprian Mbingo
24. CASE NO. 22/13
Rex
Vs
Simon Msibi
25. CASE NO. 144/12
Rex
Vs
Fana Ncamiso Dlamini
26. CASE NO. 130/13
Rex
Vs
Sidumo Malinga & Another
27. CASE NO. 87/13
Rex
Vs
Bheki N. Mnisi
28. CASE NO. 180/13
Rex
Vs
Mfanawenkosi Mthali & Another
29. CASE NO. 445/14
Rex
Vs
Wakhile W. Fakudze
30. CASE NO. 381/13
Rex
Vs
Lindiwe Dube & Another

MATTERS BEFORE HER LADYSHIP D. T. SHABALALA CIVIL MATTERS

1. CASE NO. 3518/09
ibusiso E. Dlamini
Vs
Mpendulo Socks Dlamini
2. CASE NO. 1059/14
Thandiwe Joy Dlamini
Vs
Mthandazo Dlamini
3. CASE NO. 781/16
Thandeka Salehwako
Vs
Swazi Observer
4. CASE NO. 230/18
Jennifer R. Pieterse
Vs
Clayton S. Fraser
5. CASE NO. 174/18
Ndleka Charity Mdluli
Vs
Zandile Nsimbini
6. CASE NO. 109/18
Phangathi Investments (Pty) Ltd
Vs
Bambanani Miliba Farmers Ltd
7. CASE NO. 1050/18
Mabandla Manyatsi
Vs
Mhlopheki Malinga
8. CASE NO. 236/18
Mlobi Investments (Pty) Ltd
Vs
Reckon Transportation Solutions
9. CASE NO. 24/18
Zwelithini Bheki Dlamini
Vs
National Commissioner of Police
10. CASE NO. 123/18
Homeboy Construction (Pty) Ltd
Vs
Luphiko Emaphikweni Inv. (Pty) Ltd

CRIMINAL MATTERS

11. CASE NO. 55/14
Rex
Vs
Mbongiseni Tununu Mndzebele
12. CASE NO. 439/14
Rex
Vs
Muzi Sikhumkane Hadebe
13. CASE NO. 337/14
Rex
Vs
Mashado Siphamandla Mkhwanazi
14. CASE NO. 386/14
Rex
Vs
Mthunzi Makhosonke Mabuza
15. CASE NO. 20/14
Rex
Vs
Msongelwa Mlungu Maseko
16. CASE NO. 213/14
Rex
Vs
Lucky Mthenene Kunene
17. CASE NO. 367/14
Rex
Vs
Wandile C. Vilakati & Another
18. CASE NO. 442/14
Rex
Vs
Nhlantla Mngometulu & 2 Others
19. CASE NO. 15/13
Rex
Vs
Mbongeni Simelane & Another
20. CASE NO. 132/14
Rex
Vs
Mfanawenkosi Khumalo
21. CASE NO. 173/14
Rex
Vs
Sithembiso Mbongiseni Fakudze
22. CASE NO. 84/14
Rex
Vs
Xolani Sibusiso Bababa Dlamini & 4 Others
23. CASE NO. 487/15
Rex
Vs
Sibusiso Dunn
24. CASE NO. 349/13
Rex
Vs
Bongani Dlamini & Another
25. CASE NO. 276/14
Rex
Vs
Phiwa Mhlangu & Others
26. CASE NO. 431/14
Rex
Vs
Muzi Dlamini
27. CASE NO. 185/18
Rex
Vs
Siboniso Manyatsi
28. CASE NO. 77/14
Rex
Vs
Sifiso Mthethwa & 2 Others
29. CASE NO. 328/14
Rex
Vs
Mduduzi M. Shabangu
30. CASE NO. 48/14
Rex
Vs
Senzokuhle Jele & 6 Others

MATTER BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP JUSTICE N. MASEKO CIVIL MATTERS

1. CASE NO. 559/14
Bokies Construction & Civil Eng.
Vs
Dr Delsile Maseko- Magongo
2. CASE NO. 1641/17
Kashgar (PTY) Ltd
Vs
Ministry of Public Works & Trans
3. CASE NO. 727/15
Joshua B. Mkhonta
Vs
Sincephetelo MVA Fund
4. CASE NO. 955/15
Dumsani Zikalala
Vs
Royal Swazi Sun International Pty Ltd
5. CASE NO. 90/2016
Wandile Dlamini
Vs
Bilego Investments Ltd
6. CASE NO. 1790/16
Mankhona Muzi Minisi
Vs
Dimakatso Debra Vilane
7. CASE NO. 3590/08
Derrick Hlanze
Vs
Trans National (Pty) Ltd T/A Zeemans Transport & Another
8. CASE NO. 710/15
Macey Phyllis Groening
Vs
Rejoice Thwala Suzman
9. CASE NO. 1453/14
Themba Magagula
Vs
Samuel Duma Mndzebele
10. CASE NO. 293/14
Eswatini Government
Vs
Malinga & Malinga
11. CASE NO. 1271/15
Bongani Gamedze
Vs
SWSC
12. CASE NO. 1354/15
Business X-Tract Enterprises
Vs
Celiwe Precious Maziya
13. CASE NO. 1481/14
Connie Shabangu
Vs
Theresa Mathunjwa
14. CASE NO. 1969/15
UNESWA
Vs
Pedro Alilio Mia Mlambo
15. CASE NO. 1793/15
Jabulile Beauty Dlamini
Vs
Phinda Sibonginkosi & Another
16. CASE NO. 175/17
William Investments
Vs
SEC
17. CASE NO. 22/18
Lucky Boy Mthethwa
Vs
African Echo (Pty) Ltd
18. CASE NO. 166/18
Meshack Dube
Vs
National Commissioner of Police & Another
19. CASE NO. 249/18
Albertus Jacobus Johannes Van Rensburg
Vs
National Commissioner of Police
20. CASE NO. 417/18
Elite Motors (Pty) Ltd
Vs
Mormond Electrical Contractors & Another
21. CASE NO. 1417/18
Bhekithemba Dlamini
Vs
Sifiso Sompisi Magagula
22. CASE NO. 1602/18
Hlangiwe Hlatshwako
Vs
Attorney General
23. CASE NO. 617/18
Patrick Mgodololu Mthali
Vs
NATCOM Police & 3 Others
24. CASE NO. 461/18
Per Sonne Noddeboe
Vs
Amanda Jane Noddeboe
25. CASE NO. 1780/18
Talos Investments T/A Swazi Aluminium
Vs
Wimo Construction
26. CASE NO. 1743/18
Muzikababa Benedict Sibiya
Vs
Minister of Finance & 2 Others
27. CASE NO. 1895/17
Altech Netstar (Pty) Ltd
Vs
The Luke Commission - Compassionate Medicine
28. CASE NO. 516/17
Simo Mthethwa
Vs
Mumcy Vilakati

CRIMINAL MATTERS

29. CASE NO.
Rex
Vs
Siphon Shongwe
30. CASE NO.
Rex
Vs
Goodwill Sibiya

...CONTINUES TOMORROW

SPEED UP ESTABLISHMENT OF DISABILITY COUNCIL - FODSWA

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

THE Federation of Disabled People in Eswatini (FODSWA) has urged government to speed up the process of setting up a National Disability Council.

FODSWA President Sipho Dlamini said the council should have been appointed by now as the National Disability Act was passed in August 2018.

He said there were programmes that need to be unpacked in the Act and without the council it is very hard to do that.

Dlamini said the council would look into all issues of disabled people such as their rights,

grants and other socio-economic aspects.

He said currently, there was no specific structure dealing with those issues and it is government's role to set up the council.

"It has been long over-due and we urge the government to act swiftly in appointing the National Disability Council which is outlined in the National Disability Plan of Action," Dlamini said.

He added that without the council, a lot of programmes had fallen behind and this is making it difficult for the stakeholders to carry out their duties.

He said it was also hard for his organisation to diligently carry out its various initiatives of empowering people with disability.

He added that the council will have the power

to solicit funds on behalf of the disabled people, mobilise resources and work hand-in-hand with the relevant stakeholders such as FODSWA and other bodies.

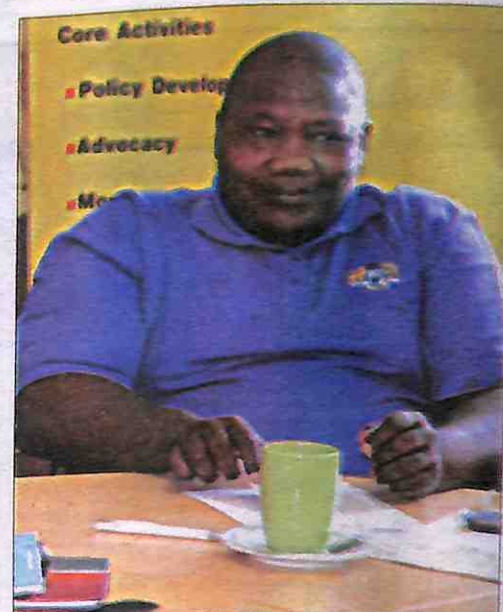
"Not only that, the council will work closely with the ministry of finance when crafting the budget for disabled people," he said.

On another note, Dlamini said currently, there was confusion on the grants received by disabled people.

He said disabled people are not getting disability grants but social grants. This is because issues for disability are handled by the social welfare department within the deputy prime minister's office.

The DPM's office Under Secretary Hlobisile Dlamini said the council could have long been established but the problem was the financial challenges facing the country.

"Once the ministry of finance gives us enough money, the council can be set up," she said.



LONG OVERDUE: FODSWA President Sipho Dlamini.

However, Dlamini mentioned that the office of the deputy prime minister presently works with associations and other structures that deal with issues of disability.

SANU SRC RUNS TO COURT

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

WITH the prolonged delay to conclude a disciplinary hearing for Southern African Nazarene University (SANU) Student Representative Council (SRC) executive, the president and secretary general have sought the court's intervention.

The SRC's Tholumuzi 'Gubevu' Simelane and Colani the President and Secretary General, respectively, have filed an urgent application in court seeking an order for SANU to set aside the suspension imposed on them and another student who is not a member of the SRC, Sibusiso Nkwanyana.

The application was filed yesterday at the High Court. Simelane, Maseko and Nkwanyana were the first, second and third applicants while the university and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Winnie Nhlengethwa were cited as first and second respondents, respectively.

The trio was suspended from the university on November 11, 2019 along other members of the SRC.

The rest of the SRC members had been called

for a hearing before the tribunal and the verdict was issued on December 17, 2019 where they were all found not guilty of the charges levelled against them.

However, to date Simelane, Maseko and Nkwanyana have not yet been informed of their disciplinary hearing date.

Nkwanyana's hearing was set for January 9, but it was later postponed. Since their suspension was indefinite, the three students missed the final examination of their first semester written in December.

Also, the students said with their academic calendar having resumed yesterday, they pleaded with the court to allow them to return to class.

Further, the students prayed that the vice-chancellor allows them to write all class tests and first semester examinations they missed during the period of their suspension.

In December, the trio, through their lawyer Theminkosi Xaba of Xaba Attorneys requested SANU in writing, to allow them to register for the second semester which begins today.

The letter also stated that the institution should respond in writing before December 31, 2019. SANU was expected to respond to the present application by close of business yesterday.

Toddler swallows E5 coin, maid fired

STORIES BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

EMPLOYED as a nanny, a woman has been fired from work after a toddler she was looking after swallowed a E5 coin.

The four-year old toddler was rushed to hospital after the incident which happened at Mbangweni in Mbabane.

"Aphelele was playing outside and I'm sure there were no objects around him since I always look out for those."

"But after sometime I realised there was something wrong when he had a dry cough and when I went to check on him his eyes were red and that is when I knew he had swallowed a foreign object," said Glory Mtsetfwa, the nanny.

It was a human error - association

THE Eswatini Association of Maids who from time to time meet to address their welfare has come out to state that this was a human error.

The association is of the view that anyone can make a mistake in life and since they are humans too, an error can occur at any time. "We are not miracle performers, we are humans

The toddler is said to have mumbled in between the coughs that he swallowed money, and in an attempt to help him Mtsetfwa gave him water and milk.

She also tried hitting him on the back which did not help, hence he was rushed to hospital, where she met the boy's mother.

and are bound to make mistakes from time to time. This was a grievous mistake that could have happened to anyone," said Nqobile Mashaba, Chairperson of the association. She argued that it appears their employers want them to perform miracles when looking after their children, an impossible call.

She said after the treatment of the baby, her employer told her to pack her things and leave first thing the following morning, which she duly did.

Meanwhile, the mother of the baby said she could not risk her child's life any further since the baby could have died due to Mtsetfwa's alleged negligence.

BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES

MANZINI BRANCH: Former Indali Furnitures Building, Opp. Liphaga Flats
Contact BONGANI: 7612 8651, THANDO: 7652 7264, or Tel/Fax: 2505 9454 / 2505 9002

SERVICE KITS FOR LOCALS & IMPORTS

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Toyota Hilux D4D.....	E599.00
Nissan Almera/Sunny/Primera.....	E523.00
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Golf 4.....	E612.00
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Mazda Demio.....	E523.00
Mazda 3.....	E523.00
Vitz / Yaris.....	E523.00
AE110 Corolla.....	E643.00

* oil included *



REGISTRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PURSUING MEDICINE DENTISTRY AND ALLIED HEALTH CARE

(STUDENT INDEXING)

From 1st of January 2020, Eswatini/Swaziland Medical and Dental Council (SMDC) will maintain registers of all undergraduate students pursuing Medicine/ Dentistry and Allied health care degrees.

The purpose of this exercise is to advise the undergraduates accordingly about the universities and degrees they have applied for and to inform the relevant authorities to prepare plans for proper internship and employment opportunities.

Therefore if you are an undergraduate student / or about to start university, studying any of the above mentioned courses please register with us.

All universities in Eswatini engaged in training health care professionals are kindly requested to submit their under graduate student lists.

The registration forms are available at the office
Contact details; Office 16, Checkers Business Park, Checkers Road, Mbabane
Phone; + 268 2404 4980
E mail; swdmdc@swazi.net

REGISTRAR

DOC-21013

Drastic changes in autistic children

Parents experiences

The case of Sandile Mabilisa, who has an autistic child aged five, said it started when his son had just turned two and had a seizure.

"It was the first time it had happened but it later stopped. It only came back when he was three years old as he suffered more seizures forcing him out of school," he said. Mabilisa added they took their son to several hospitals and the seizures stopped for a while and at this point, his son looked physically and mentally confused.

He stated that they heard of the Autism Programme that Desiree Alexander had and took him there and since then they have seen quite a drastic improvement in their son as the seizure attacks are now less.

As a Christian, Mabilisa said they have taken their son to pastors for prayer and that too has helped them, but he strongly believes that the therapy Desiree provides is impressive.

Another parent who preferred to remain anonymous, said their seven-year old boy was able to speak but had challenges in writing and being generally sociable. The parent noted that ever since they signed him up at the school their son has also improved such that he will be going back again this year.

"Desiree is very good with the children, she treats them with extra care and I would encourage every parent who has an autistic child to take them there as they will not regret it. All parents who feel like they have lost all hope should just take the chance and just try her out," advised the parent.

Another parent concurred, saying her five-year old boy has also improved drastically. "My son was still on a nappy when he turned five but after I took him to Montessori he stopped using it and responded very well to the sessions," said the proud parent.

One of the teachers assisting Alexander, Phumlile Mkoko said what they basically do was to rewire the children's brains so that they are able to go back to school.

Mkoko said in the three years she has been at Montessori, she has seen so many children improve, especially in their speech.

Autism centre almost ready

BRINGING up a child with autism can be challenging for parents, especially when other people do not understand the issues.

The Manzini Municipality has therefore built a centre that aims at assisting both autistic children and their parents.

Situated in Manzini, Fairview just past KaMthunyelewa Complex, the centre will deliver on support services that parents were unable to get easily.

Public Relations Officer for the Manzini Municipality, Mathokoza Thwala said the centre will provide Autism Spectrum Disorder therapy services for children suffering from the disorder, as well as counselling services for their parents as it can be stressful raising a child with the disorder.

"The Autism Centre is not yet operational. We're still tying up a few loose ends but are hoping that it will be operational soon," said Thwala.

STORIES BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

DESIREE Alexander, who works at Panorama Montessori in Mbabane offers a programme for Autistic children.

Alexander, who has a Diploma in Speech and Language and a Diploma in Good Practice and understanding Autism and Interventions, said autism spectrum disorder conditions affect social interaction, communication, and behaviour. The impact can range from mild to severe.

It mostly appears in early childhood, and normally continues into adulthood. Some people with autism spectrum disorder are highly gifted in a specific field.

Alexander said the programme offered at Montessori, combines the therapeutic value of listening and sound therapy with specific visu-

als and balance activities, the combination trains the brain to process and manage multi-sensory input, and unlocks hidden physical and mental abilities.

"The programme improves the concentration, cognitive skills such as reading, writing, auditory processing movements and coordination, process speed, energy, confidence, mood, behavior, reduces stress and anxiety, organisation and speech," she said.

According to Alexander the programme used basically raises fine hairs in the ear, it is research based and scientifically proven. Some children recover up to 70 per cent depending on how soon they were diagnosed and brought in for therapy and interventions.

"So depending when a child starts with the intensive intervention, we cannot say how long they will progress or recover. We have, however seen some children show significant improve-

ment within a month.

"Sleep patterns improve dramatically, outburst and meltdowns start to disappear, calmness replaces anxiety. Only then can any form of learning (academics) start to take place," said Alexander. She advised that learning should never be rushed particularly at pre-school going age and added that best results are seen when the child learns through playing. Alexander claims children learn through a lot of indoor and outdoor playing, not teacher directed.

The good news is that the situation for children with autism and their parents is slowly changing, thanks to increasing awareness about the disorder, complemented by the efforts of affected families to band together to share information and experiences. A few parents who have seen quite an improvement in their children have spoken up and would like to encourage other parents as well to not lose hope.

NEW

DUNKED
BURGER

MEAL
61.90

BURGER
39.90

INDVUNA YENKHUNDLA IN LAND DISPUTE

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

MASEYISINI Indvuna Yenkhundla Sisho Khumalo is embroiled in a bitter land row with neighbours who are accusing him of having over-stretched boundaries on his land to those of other neighbours.

Members of a Msibi family at Ndubazi area want him to remove the fence he erected saying it was within their land, something which Khumalo is disputing.

The dispute is now being handled by the inner council of Mbilaneni Umphakatsi.

Mlaba Msibi, one of the elders said Khumalo should know that by over-stretching his boundaries, it was no dif-



FEUD: Maseyisini Indvuna Yenkhundla Sisho Khumalo.

ferent from stealing.

He said for a long time now, they have

been advising Khumalo to remove the fence he erected and he has not done that.

"We know where the boundaries end, all he is doing is encroaching which we won't allow as a family, we feel this is provocation," Msibi said.

On the other hand, Khumalo said he was not ready to comment on the issue as it was now being handled by the area's authorities.

He, however, wondered why Msibi was making this an issue since he (Khumalo) settled in the area 40 years ago and also felt that all he (Msibi) was doing was to tarnish his image since he is a politician as *indvuna yenkhundla*.

Headman of Mbilaneni Umphakatsi Boyzen Shabalala said the matter was reported and was still being deliberated by the inner council.

'Do not inscribe children's names on school backpacks'

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

As schools opening is nigh, parents have been warned against inscribing names of their children on the outside of their backpacks as this may expose them to kidnapping and more likely human trafficking.

The warning that has been circulating on social media states that when the names of the children are clearly inscribed on the backpacks, kidnappers, rapists and murderers may easily lure the children into believing that perpetrators know them as they may call them by their names after noticing it from their backpacks. Parents, according to the warning have been advised to write the names of their children in the inside of their backpacks.

"Please do not write the names of your children at the back of their school bags as these inno-

cent souls may respond positively when called by perpetrators with the hope that the criminals know them please relay the message to other parents and save our children," reads the warning.

When sought for comment as regards the matter, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO) Superintendent, Phindile Vilakati said this was true and sternly advised parents against writing their children's names on their back packs.

"With schools opening, most children will be wearing backpacks. Never put your child's name on their backpack where a stranger can see it, children may be attracted in going with someone if they know their names," said Vilakati.

She further advised parents to be cautious when sending children to school by telling their children not to speak to any strangers for them not to fall prey to perpetrators of such crime.

We were lured into soldier's house - Suspect

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

Three women have been arrested for breaking into a house and stealing items valued at over E14 000.

The trio is said to have broken into UEDF member Futhi Dlamini's house at Elangeni and went away with the items while she was at work.

Dlamini got the shock of her life when she received a phone call from her boyfriend, stating that her house at Elangeni had been burgled.

What she did not expect, was that her sister Zandile was the master mind behind the break-in.

"After receiving the call from Menzi Masango, I left the army barracks and rushed home and dis-

covered that the lock on the door had been tampered with, when I walked into the house, I noticed that most of my electronic appliances had been stolen. That was when I approached the Lobamba Police Station to report the matter," Futhi stated.

Exempt

However, in a dramatic turn of events, when Zandile, along with Siphesihle Madzinane and Nomfundo Sihlongonyane were nabbed for the housebreaking, Sihlongonyane decided to turn against her accomplices and turned accomplice witness and testified against Madzinane and Zandile. An accomplice witness is an accused person who is a participant in a alleged crime before, during, or after its commission, and is exempt from prosecution for the offense committed. Sihlongonyane

told the court that Madzinane approached them the previous night, with Futhi's house keys in her hand. "She invited us to go into Make Futhi's house and take her valuables. She promised each of us that we would get a share of the takings and we obliged.

Anxious

"After several attempts to insert the key, we managed to enter the house. We took items ranging from a KIC fridge, television set, microwave, kettle, toaster and even bedding. If we could have taken Make Futhi's bed, we would have.

"We then loaded the items into Madzinane's boyfriend's van, which seemed to have appeared out of nowhere," Sihlongonyane claimed.

Sihlongonyane recalled that after they had loaded the items, Madzinane told them that she would be taking

the fridge and television set and nine cases of beer, and Ncane Zandile and I could pick what was left. However, I decided not to take the items, as I was anxious about being found in possession of the goods by police officers," she stated. After their arrest, it was discovered that the trio had stolen various items including a KIC fridge worth E3 500, television (E4 500), 15 frozen chickens (E600), nine cases of beer valued at E1 300 and other items. The total value of the items stolen by the trio amounted to E14 195.

Bizarrely, an amount of E2 000 in cash was said to have been one of the items stolen from Futhi's house, which all the suspects stated they were not aware of. The matter continues as the prosecution is to make its closing submissions at a later date.

Minister warns principals against selective admissions

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

As schools reopens the Minister Of Education And Training Lady-Howard Mabuza has expressed concern over the number of pupils left wondering where to secure spaces to pursue their studies due to schools that do not accept them for their low pass marks.

"Pupils should not be left wondering because of their pass marks or failures," Minister Howard-Mabuza said.

Mabuza said over the years they have been dealing with the issue of children begin victimised by teachers based on their pass marks and called for this to stop, stating that regardless of what marks the pupils have attained, a third class is also a pass.

The minister mentioned that it is not all the time that a child under performs in their academics because they are slow learners, urging teachers to consider the background of the child.

She went on to state that over the years they have seen parents wondering around with their children looking for schools, due to the fact that some schools have certain requirements when it comes to admission.

The minister of the crown noted that this type of attitude goes as far, as building a certain approach for the child towards their academics which could ruin their future in the long run.



CONCERNED: Minister of education and training Lady-Howard Mabuza.

Best performing school flooded by parents

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

WITH the school having produced two best performing pupils in the 2019 Junior Certificate exams, there is high demand for spaces at Ebenezer High School.

According to the Principal Dumnisani Shabangu, parents have been flooding the school in search of spaces for their children especially in Forms One and Four.

He said as a school, the prediction was that the enrolment is set to be higher compared to previous years.

Ebenezer High School is believed

Ebenezer accepts pupils regardless of pass marks

EBENEZER High School principal stated that in as far as admissions are concerned, they are not selective as they accept all pupils regardless of their pass marks.

"We are a school which does not only consider merits or first class

passes but even pupils that have not performed well are admitted," said Shabangu.

Shabangu added that as a school they were aiming high although they are not in competition with any school but they were merely

doing things their own way at their own pace. The principal said it was encouraging that one of his best performing pupil's Bayanda Elvis Khumalo decided to remain in the school and not go for another school after having excelled.

to have the highest enrolment in the Shiselweni region followed by Evelyn Baring High. The best pupils in the JC results from Ebenezer High were Bayanda Elvis Khumalo (16) and Phwayinkhosi Sethabile Simelane (15) who both attained

95 percent aggregate. It is believed that under Shabangu's administration, the school's academic performance reflects significant improvement amongst rural schools. "Immediately after the results were released, parents started flocking

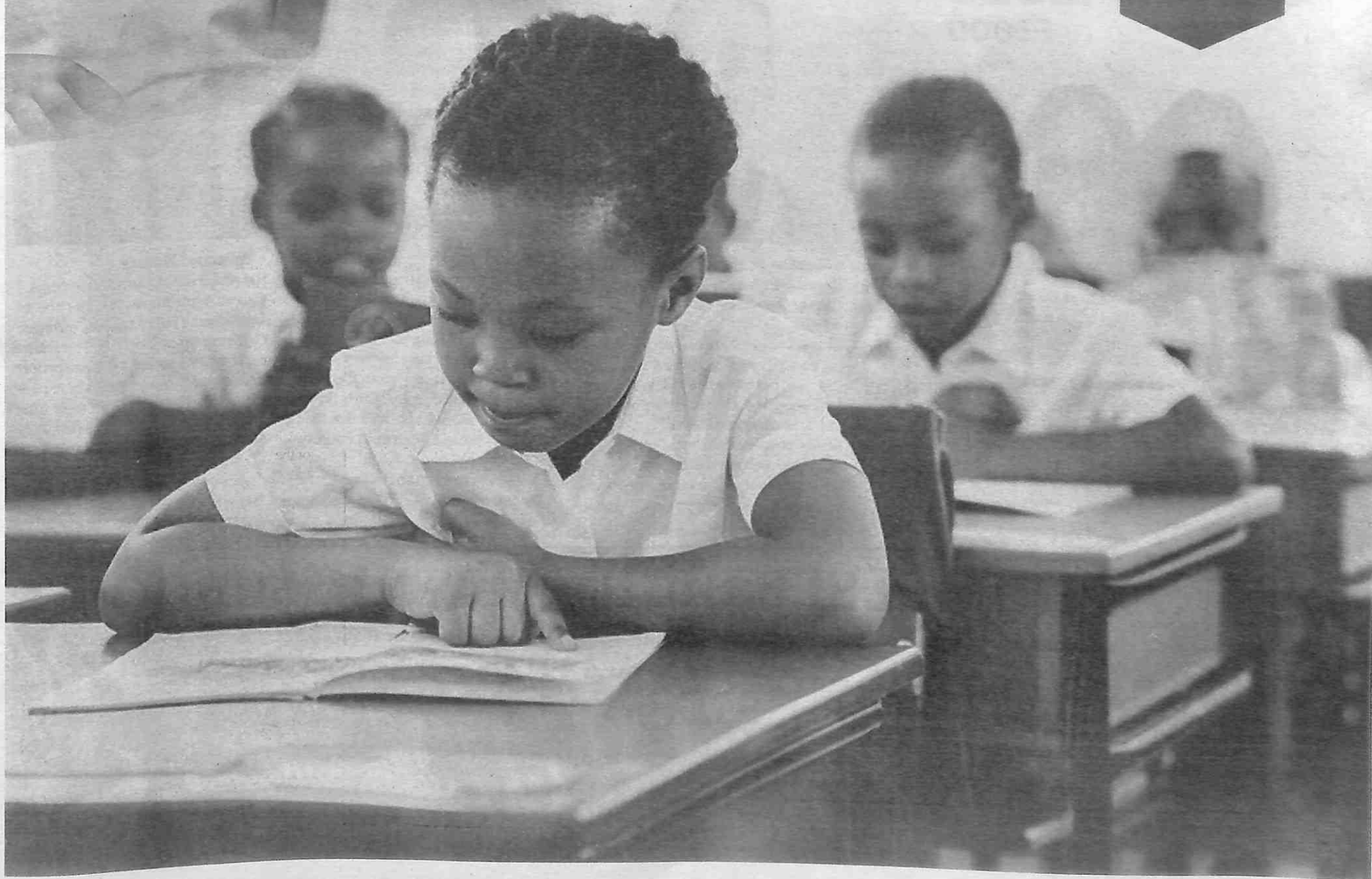
in, in search for spaces as we opened for admissions on Monday and I think the interest shown by the parents is because of our impressive academic excellence," he said.

He assured parents that there are still spaces available at the school.



Supplement

2020



BACK TO
SCHOOL

Supplement 2020



PHUMELELE HIGH: LOOKING OUT FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Phumelele High School is a school that was founded with the main intention to nurture academically challenged pupils and help them to also realise their academic aspirations.

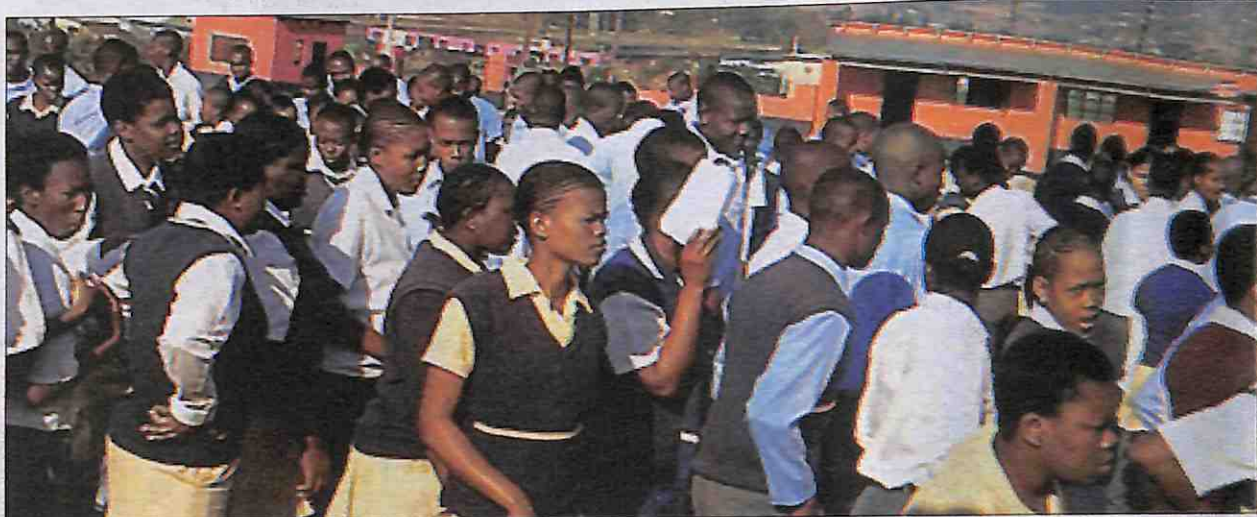
The Matsapha-based school has been showing massive improvement over the years, getting an 88 per cent pass rate for this year's Matric National Senior Certificate (NSC).

The school's pass rate showed an 8 per cent increase from last year's

80 per cent, and 2017's 62 per cent.

Speaking on behalf of the school's director and founder, Sabelo Mavuso Assistant Director Okwenkhosi Mavuso said the school was proud of the impact it was making, especially since their mandate is to nurture academically challenged pupils and helping them to also realise their academic aspirations.

"To see such an improvement is something we are very proud of. When our director dreamt of this school, he had slow learners at heart, and other children who might be academically challenged and in need of special attention.



For us, to then go on and have a pass rate of 88 per cent shows that the hard work is paying off, and we thank our teachers and the parents for the healthy relationship that's bearing beautiful fruits," she said.

On the other hand, the school's acting Principal Bheki Dlamini attributed

the school's success to commitment and unity from teachers and parents and further welcomed all parents for registrations for 2020.

Hardworking

"The school did very well due to the hardworking teachers, commitment and collaboration with all stakeholders,

mostly our parents. We pride ourselves in providing a conducive learning environment to challenge students to develop the culture of working hard and secure their future with education. Registration is still open for the New Year, for both Matric and the local syllabi.

Phumelele High School's Matric whizzkidz



• Mandisa Shongwe

Results: 4 distinctions and 4 merits
Career Aspirations: I aspire to be a dentist.

This is because I am one person who's big on teeth because I believe that teeth can make or break one's look. You can look good, but if your teeth are off, then you automatically look off.

Study routine: The most important thing for me was setting up my study schedule and being disciplined enough to stick to it. I started from 7pm and went on till 11pm every day.



• Luyanda Dube

Results: 5 distinctions and 3 merits
Career Aspirations: I really want to pursue a career as an economist. I'm inspired by the ailing Eswatini economy, and I want to play my part in getting us out of this economic quagmire.
Study routine: Being in a study group worked for me because we exhausted every chapter and topic to its entirety. The trick of being in a study group, however, is to keep them small and most important start early in the year; don't expect miracles in the last days.



• Mphumuzi Manana

Results: 3 distinctions and 5 merits
Career Aspirations: I aspire to be an aid worker or rather a global challenger. Growing up in Eswatini, I've learnt that there are underprivileged people in the world, and we need more people who will just focus all their time and energy on helping those people.
Study Routine: I started very early in the year. That was my trick, and I also made sure to be in a study group because that's how we would all learn different skills from each member of the group.

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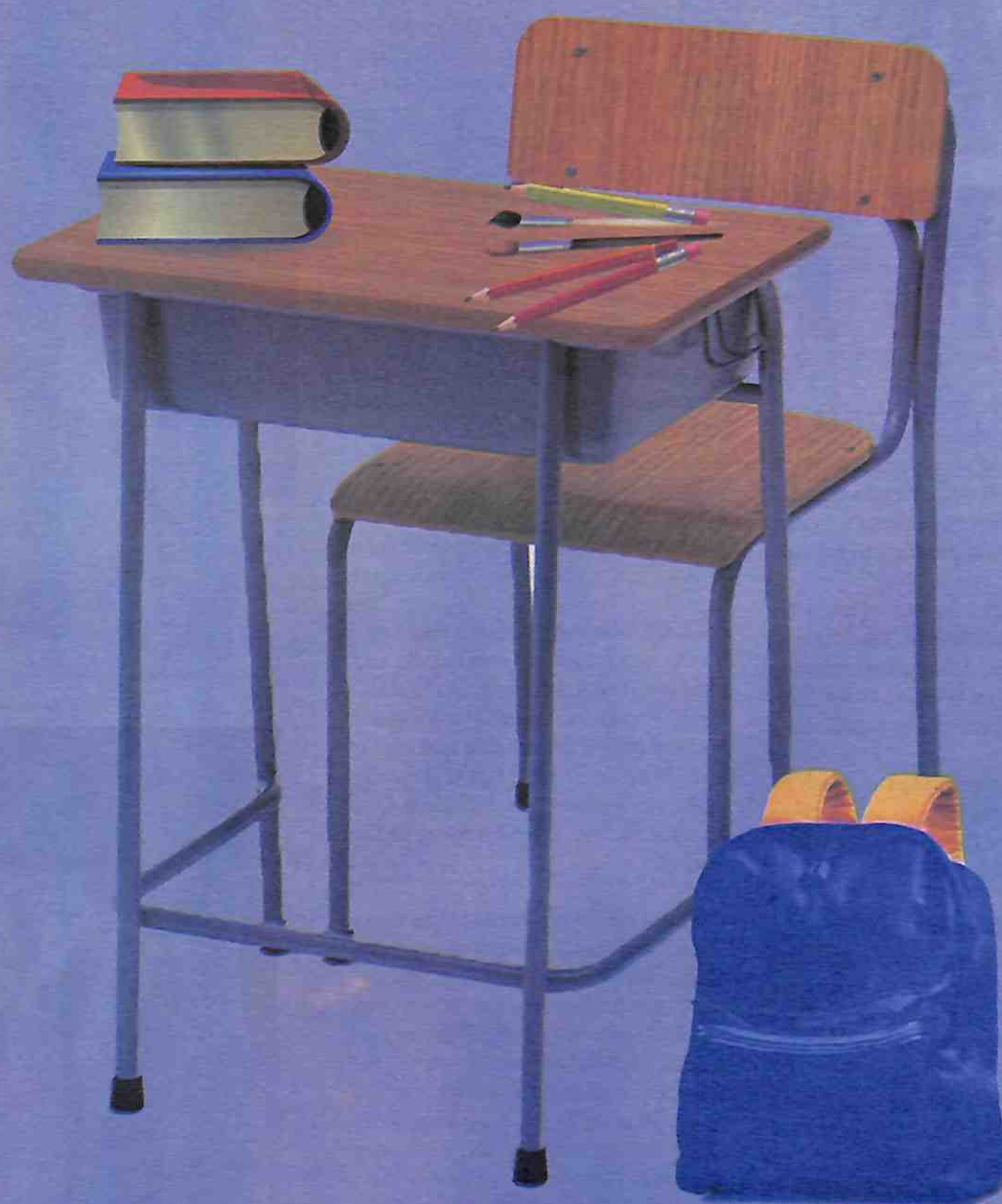
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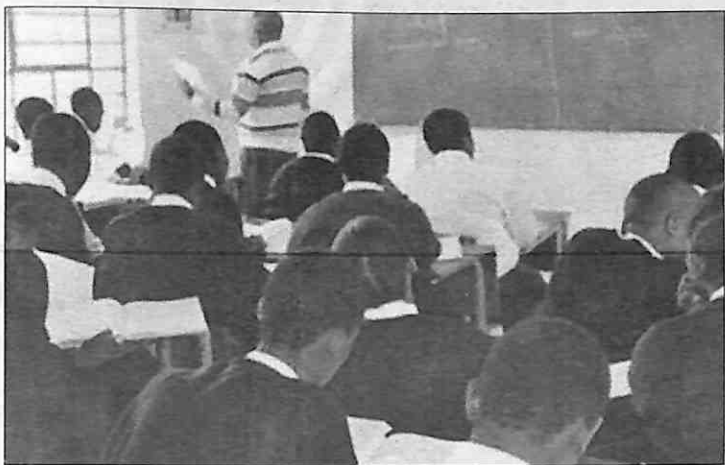
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BACK TO SCHOOL

Supplement 2020



WELCOME TO FORM 1

Some pupils will be changing uniforms, environments and friends as they head into high school.

This is a very important stage for one's life as it is the beginning of adulthood and a phase where a young person either builds or breaks their future.

High school is the stage where every young person gets an opportunity to learn the demands that come with adulthood, from choosing friends to financial prudence.

A pupil's transition can be complicated by the social, emotional and physiological changes that can negatively impact on their learning, and this article is aimed at helping pupils make positive adjustments to their new school.

A move to high school basically means a pupil must adjust to new surroundings, become familiar with new teachers and peers, learn new ways of working, and make sense of the rules and routines that operate in their classes.

On top of that, while pupils are navigating the formal school environment, they are also adjusting to the social changes that are happening to them. The transition to high school often coincides with important social, emotional and physiological changes in the lives of adolescents and it's very important that a young person is ready for this.

• Belonging in the peer group

Having friends at the new school helps pupils settle, and that's a given fact. While pupils often find that their friends aren't always in their classes, this is still not in any way a problem as this is a stage of life to learn.

For some pupils who had previously not made many friends, the move to high school presents an opportunity to meet up with like-minded other pupils who share

common interests.

One thing that pupils should be wary of though is making sure that they meet up with friends organically and not just because they are looking for acceptance and are vulnerable.

Making true friends should be hard, so don't try too hard. Social relationships in the school context, particularly in relation to sense of belonging, benefit the pupil academically.

This then shows that as much as parents would hate to admit, relationships are the most critical factor in the transition process.

• Financial prudence

It is critical for people to learn how to properly manage their finances, and for one to learn personal finance in high school is integral.

At the high school age, pupils are transitioning from being pupils to becoming young adults.

High school is the perfect time to learn personal finance skills because you are about to start making your own decisions about your own money for the first time.

If you master financial prudence at a young age, you are preparing yourself for the real world, and this is the best way to solidify any knowledge into practice.

With student loans and everything, if you don't have adequate savings, or at least a savings plan, you are bound to struggle or fall prey to poor investments?

Including a dedicated personal financial class for high school pupils or providing high school-level personal finance curriculum for teachers to include in classes would be a good start by government because if financial literacy is done right, it can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and induce the behaviour that will improve the financial outcomes of our future citizens.

What are good reasons for wearing school uniform?

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

In this read, we have prepared for both parents and pupils giving tips and advice as they all prepare for the official opening of schools next week Tuesday. We will explore uniform and its advantages to pupils, parents and schools.

- The school uniform creates equality - When pupils have dressed alike, that unhealthy competitive feeling about who looks best is eliminated. Studies have shown that school uniform decreases peer pressure and bullying. Why? Pupils are all wearing the same outfit. It doesn't matter if they come from high- or low-income homes. No one stands out in the type of clothing they are wearing.

- School uniform reduces crime - It is easier to keep track of pupils and what they are carrying into the school. Intruders on campus can be spotted, and the design of the uniform helps ensure safety. When pupils can wear baggy clothes and are not in uniform, who knows what they are carrying underneath their clothes?

- School uniform promotes learning - It is so much easier to concentrate and focus on important things in the classroom. Pupils don't need to look around and see who is fashionable and who is not. They don't have fun and catchy clothes to comment on and look at. One less distraction from listening to the teacher.

- School uniforms instil pride, unity and school vanity - When wearing uniform, pupils often feel more "important" since they belong to a group. Uniform gives a sense of belonging, and a code of conduct is imposed on the student. Uniform foster community spirit. In schools in Japan, many educators have found that when pupils wear uniform, they feel more professional and behave accordingly.

- School uniform improves discipline and attendance - You no longer have the issues of shorts and skirts being too immodest or pants and loose-fitting jeans falling around pupils' knees. Dirty outfits quickly become a non-issue when there is a uniform policy, and this is not a habit one needs to learn growing up.

- School uniform makes it easier to get ready for school - No more worrying about what to wear! Pupils can quickly put on their uniforms and get to school on time. Time can be better utilized for other activities rather than choosing out what outfit will look best. One of the best reasons for school uniforms? No more arguing about what to wear in the morning!

- The school uniform does not take away a pupil's individuality - You can be innovating and add creative touch-



es to your uniform. You can wear a variety of items like buttons or jewelry. Be yourself.

You don't lose your personality when you wear a school uniform. Just the opposite, you can stand out by being you.

- School uniform tend to help pupils be more diligent. They tend to be better behaved, better pupils and a school uniform at gives pupil's feelings of trust and belonging.

- School uniform provides a sense of identity and community - It is said that

when the entire pupil body is dressed in uniform, they have a strong team mentality. When everyone is dressed alike, this leads to a sense of unity and belonging.

- School uniform create economics for their parents - At the beginning of the school year, you are only purchasing school uniforms. Uniforms are sturdy and designed to stand up to repeated washings. Parents find that they only need to buy a new set of school uniforms yearly, which saves money on trying to purchase the latest trendy fashions.

BACK TO
SCHOOL

Supplement 2020

LUNCH BOXES

Whilst most schools now offer the option of food that can be bought at canteens and tuck-shops, health practitioners still pretty much advise parents to prepare lunch boxes for their children.

Even though it is true that preparing lunch boxes can be time-consuming, it still has far more pros than cons, particularly if you can find healthy and nutritious lunchbox solutions to help your children achieve all they need each and every day.

As you prepare your child's lunch box, it is important to keep offering healthy lunch box choices in a variety of ways, as children learn to eat what is familiar to them.

Advantages of a lunch box

1. Energy – School, in many ways, is like the first day of a new job, every day, for your child. Sure, there's the stability of being in a classroom with the same pupils, but the content is always different and the challenges vary daily.

Then there's sport, music and after school activities. A lunchbox filled with protein and sustained carbohydrates will surely help with calorie control. Packing a lunch box for your child means you can control their calorie intake from when they wake until they go to bed. Plus, you can continue to mimic what they eat at home in the lunchbox. Of course, if you choose potato chips and chocolate, with a side can of fizzy, then some of the benefits of that control are lost, but if you're packing a nutritious lunch, built around fruit, vegetables, seeds, peas and beans, then you know your child is eating properly throughout the day.

2. Preferences – You can tailor your child's lunches based on their likes and dislikes, and also what you think they should avoid.

If your child should avoid dairy, wheat or nuts, then through packing their lunches, you can ensure they don't consume foods that don't agree with them. It's much easier to pack the foods you



want them to eat, rather than asking them to avoid the foods that may irritate them.

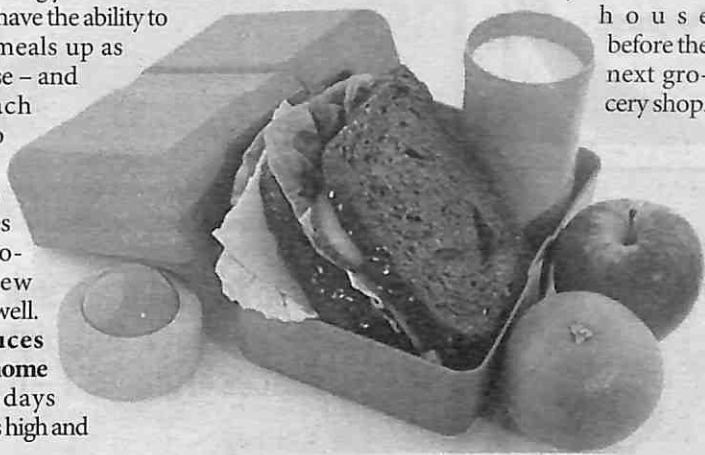
3. Variety – You can change your child's main elements of their lunches at the frequency that you think your child requires – which is something a school canteen may not be able to do.

When packing your child's lunchbox, you have the ability to change meals up as you please – and tailor each day to your child's favourites and introduce new foods as well.

4. Reduces waste at home – These days inflation is high and

transport fees having just gone up, as a parent, you can use leftovers from supper in your child's lunchbox.

Putting lean protein into sandwiches or salads means less wasted dinners from the night before. Any snacks that haven't been eaten around the home can be added to the lunchbox. Use up any food in the house before the next grocery shop.



Suggestions for lunch boxes

There are lots of food choices available for lunch boxes. However, it can sometimes be difficult to decide which foods are healthy choices. We have come up with suggestions on what do always have in your child's lunch-box.

• **Fruit** – Best choices of fruit are just fresh fruit, be it from the market or from the store, the trick is that it must be fresh fruit. Dried fruit is sticky and high in sugar and it also has very high content in sugar, are low in fibre and stick to children's teeth causing tooth decay.

• **Vegetables** – Because children aren't usually big fans of vegetables, try vegetable sticks with a dip or a small container with mixed vegetables such as tomatoes, carrot sticks, and cucumber. Packets of crisps are best left for parties and special occasions.

• **Milk, yoghurt and custard** – Include a small drink of milk (freeze overnight) wrapped in a cloth in the lunch box. Fruit yoghurts should be kept cool in an insulated lunch box. Best left out of the lunch box are 'dairy desserts' and flavoured milks, which are high in sugar.

• **Dips, cheese and biscuits** – Pre-

packaged or your own homemade versions of cheese and crackers are fine.

Children enjoy mini packaged cheeses. Avoid sweet dips such as chocolate spreads. 'Oven-baked' savoury biscuits are just as high in salt and fat as chips and are best avoided.

• **Different breads add interest** – Include a variety of bread, especially if children begin to lose interest in sandwiches. Try bread rolls, buns, scones, or muffins.

• **Muffins and cakes** – Try making your own muffins and cakes as a great way to not only save money, but to also include more fruit and vegetables.

Examples include carrot, banana or pumpkin. Doughnuts and creamy cakes are best offered at special occasions instead of in lunch boxes.

• **Muesli and 'breakfast' bars** – Almost all 'bars' are too high in sugar to include regularly, but cereal bars may be better for teeth than chewy sticky muesli bars. Try to avoid muesli bars and chocolate bars in lunch boxes. These are expensive and usually stuck together with fats and sugars.

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BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

United Pay Limited (UP) is a financial services provider, licensed by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA). The company was granted its license by the regulator on April 3, 2018.

United Pay is part of the diversified group of companies that fall under United Holdings Limited an associate of Dups Holdings (Pty) Limited, which has operated in the kingdom for the past 70 years.

United Pay has since grown from Dups Financial Solutions to being a fully-fledged and licensed financial services provider. Short term loans offered by United Pay Limited range from E1 000 to E10 000 and can be offered to any Swazi that is employed and earns a salary.

Whilst loans by United Pay may have similar interest rates as other micro-lenders in the country, United Pay prides itself with superior quality services with over 10 branches all over the country.

United Pay Limited Operations Manager Wiseman Simelane said consumers' loans are deposited in clients' accounts within 48 hours after approval.

“For parents looking to brush up or deposit for school fees, loans are processed within 48 hours. This is because we understand the customer needs, and again, for convenience sake, we have over 10 branches in the country, so you can visit the closest one to you. We pride ourselves with quality services, consumers are bound to receive world-class treatment when they visit any of our branches,” he said.

Simelane further added that there are minimal requirements for the processing of the loans.

“We understand the pressure that comes with borrowing money, so we don't send our consumers from pillar to post with paperwork.

All we are concerned about is just making an agreement with your employer so that you repay in installments each time you get paid. We do not want to frustrate our customers, just give them the help they need and the time they need it,” he said.

Documents required to apply for the loan include most recent payslip, employment confirmation letter, 3 months bank statement and a certified national identity copy.

The loans application can be made in any of the branches across the country (Manzini, Mbabane, Matsapha, Pigg's Peak, Simunye, Siteki, Nhlangano and Matata).

One can also visit their website on www.unitedholdingsswaziland.com or email to info@united.co.sz. They also have a Toll Free line 800 1010 where the consultants are always ready to assist.

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REGISTRATION FOR 2020

Registration for 2020 are still under way for preschool, primary and high school. Very limited spaces in grades 1 – 6 and 8-11.

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or email ka-zakhali@realnet.co.sz or ka-zakhali@preschool@realnet.co.sz or visit the schools for application processes.



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BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

Eswatini's current account balance projected at over E3.4bn in 2024

BY BAHLE GAMA

ESWATINI's current account balance is projected to stand at E3 422 872 500 (0.237 USD billion) in December 2024.

This is contained in the CEIC data/forecast collection report by International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Economic Outlook.

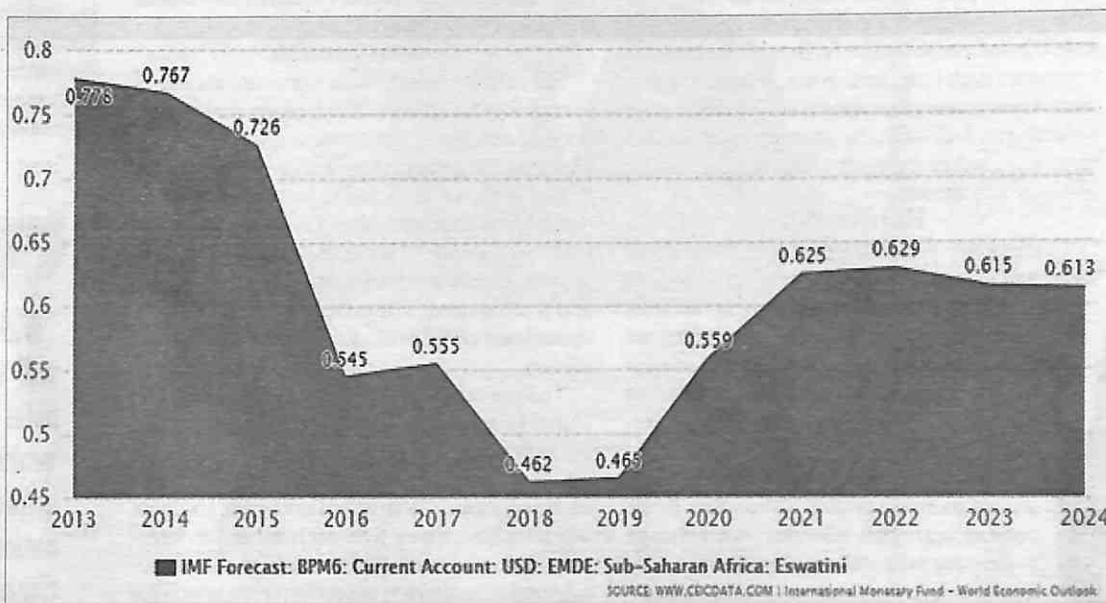
Eswatini's current account balance was forecasted to be E1 689 772 00 (0.117 USD billion) in Dec 2019 and it recorded an increase from the last reported number of E1 357 595 000 (0.094 USD billion) in Dec 2018.

"Looking ahead, Eswatini's current account balance is projected to stand at 0.237 USD billion in Dec 2024," reads the report.

The data is updated yearly and is categorised in CEIC under World Trend Plus's Country Forecast - Table IMF.WEO: BPM6: Current Account: USD.

What is Eswatini's Forecast: Current Account Balance in 2024?

Last	Previous	Min	Max	Unit	Frequency	Range
▲ 0.237 2024	▼ 0.205 2023	-0.416 2009	0.527 2015	USD bn	Yearly	1980 - 2024 Updated on 01 Nov 2019



December 2019 headline inflation rate at 2.0 per cent

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE headline inflation rate in December 2019 for the country is 2.0 per cent, which is 0.2 index points higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1.8 per cent observed in November 2019.

This is the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in December 2019 compared with that of December 2018.

According to a report released by the Central Statistical Office, the month on month inflation rate, which is the percentage change in the CPI in December 2019 compared with that of November

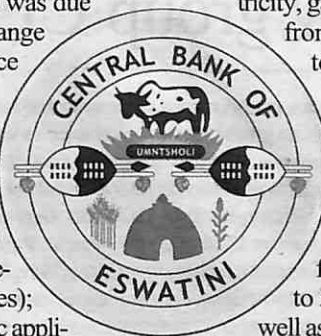
2019) was 0.3 per cent.

The higher headline inflation was due to increasing annual rates of change reflected in December in the price indices for:

The report highlighted that miscellaneous goods and services which increased from -1.0 per cent in November 2019 to -0.6 per cent in December 2019 while personal effects (namely jewellery, clocks and watches); and personal care (such as electric appliances for personal care) contributed to the higher index in this category.

Also contributing was housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, which increased from 0.2 per cent in November 2019 to 0.6 per cent in December 2019 and materials for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling mainly resulted to the increased index in the category.

"Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics which increased from 4.9 per cent in November 2019 to 5.2 per cent in December 2019 as well as tobacco; and alcoholic beverages, such as spirits and wine, mainly contributed to the increased index in this category.



BUSINESS EXTRA

ANC blasts Mboweni for tweet opposing Reserve Bank's nationalisation

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC has censured finance minister and senior member Tito Mboweni for saying the party's resolution to nationalise the Reserve Bank was a mistake.

Mboweni made his position known on social media on Tuesday when he tweeted that he was not behind the ANC's decision to nationalise the central bank. The ANC came out guns blazing on Wednesday against Mboweni, suggesting that his statement fed into the narrative of a lack of policy certainty.

In a strongly worded statement, ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe expressed concern over Mboweni's public posture on the bank, especially as he held a position in the economic cluster.

"It is our view that comrade Tito should act with care and be cautious at all times on matters of policy given his position as the minister of finance, including subjecting himself to the overall communications protocols of the African

National Congress.

"Those who serve in leadership structures of our movement, especially within the national executive committee (NEC), the highest decision-making body in-between conferences, are expected at all times to uphold and defend resolutions of the ANC on public platforms," said Mabe. Mboweni had earlier tweeted: "As a longstanding member of the ANC and its leadership structures, I know and understand our resolutions.

"I don't need lectures on that. But on the SARB, I am convinced that we adopted a wrong resolution. What do we want to achieve? Our strategic focus: structural economic reforms."

Mabe took the opportunity to remind Mboweni that ANC branches determined policy positions and that elected ANC leaders were not freelancers but remained bound by the overall precepts of the organisation.

"Only the national conference has the right

and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent structures, committees or officials of the organisation," he said.

The ANC added that all party members in good standing were entitled to take full part in the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policies of the party through appropriate internal platforms.

Mabe encouraged leaders and members of the ANC to raise debates within the confines of the structures and discipline of the party.

"Any public statement by a leader of the ANC questioning the wisdom of a national conference outside formal structures has the potential to create confusion within and outside the organisation. The constitution of the ANC enjoins only the president as the political head to make pronouncements for and on behalf of the NEC, outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of the ANC on any question." *TimesLive*

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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 14 JAN 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.3911	14.1411
British Pound/SZL	18.6969	18.7619
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.6241	7.6492
Swiss France/SZL	14.8255	14.8709
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3312	1.3502
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9327	9.9701
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.0226	11.0600
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.0338	16.0896
Gold	1,593.3063	
Oil	64.23	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
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Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com

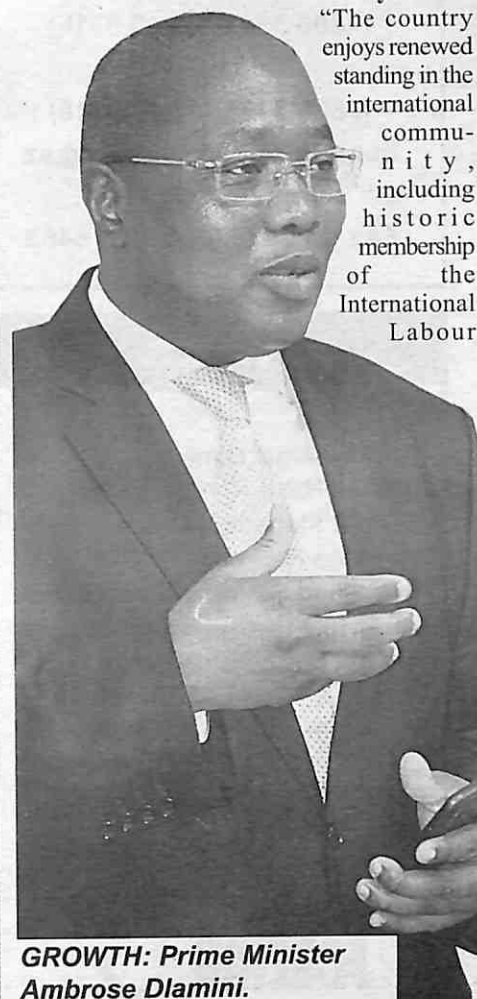


Standard Bank

OPINION PIECE BY PM AMBROSE DLAMINI ON SA PUBLICATION - THE BUSINESS DAY

Grabbing the bull by its horns to grow Eswatini economy

"THE Kingdom of Eswatini has made encouraging strides in housing and health provision in recent years, as well as in improving the education system."



GROWTH: Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini.

"The country enjoys renewed standing in the international community, including historic membership of the International Labour

Organisation's governing body. "As with many other developing countries, we have our challenges. Along with the global economy, ours has been hard-hit, forcing us to make tough but necessary decisions. "The Eswatini Strategic Roadmap 2019-2022 flows from the directive given by King Mswati III to the incoming government administration, in collaboration with all Emaswati, to work tirelessly to revive the economy in the shortest possible time.

"The challenges facing Eswatini include unemployment, poverty, sustainable economic development, provision of quality health services, education and social welfare for all Emaswati. "The strategic roadmap is a culmination of extensive research and consultations on feasible quick wins, combined with long-term goals. It aims to introduce a new range of measures that have the most potential to kick-start the journey to economic revival and inclusive growth, taking along Emaswati at home and abroad.

Rejuvenate

"Coming into office in November 2018, it was clear that something urgent needed to be done to rejuvenate the economy. Government revenues are lower than expected and expenditures are continuously increasing. This is driven by declining receipts from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and ever-increasing government expenditure.

"Despite this downturn, we are projecting an increase in SACU receipts in the coming year. This, however, is not enough to stem the tide, and more needs to be done for the country to return to sound economic health.

"Much as we are encouraged by the projected increase in domestic collections by the Eswatini Revenue Authority for the financial year

2019-2020, these will not be sufficient to offset the arrears accumulated over the years. The collections will not be sufficient to meet the government's finance requirements for the fiscal year. We share and acknowledge the IMF's concerns with regard to government spending on certain items. These, together with historic challenges to the economy, demand that certain tough decisions be placed on the table for consideration.

"The expansionary fiscal position has surpassed sustainable levels, resulting in the accumulation of arrears, increased depletion of reserves and constrained growth. Potentially unpopular decisions and sacrifices will have to be made to ensure we table a fully financed budget.

Unsustainable

"The country must take the necessary measures to curtail expenditure while looking for creative ways of enhancing government revenue. In simple terms, the country cannot afford to spend what it does not have, or hopes to have in future. It is patently unsustainable that the public wage bill makes up about 37 per cent of the budget. It is plain to see why urgent work needs to be done, and is being done. The public service needs to be streamlined to ensure a culture of excellence across sectors.

"The government has identified five areas as critical to our country's economic recovery. These are agriculture, manufacturing and agroprocessing, energy and mining, tourism and the ICT and education sector. "With regard to tourism, Ezulwini will soon have a new five-star hotel and an international convention centre to add to the attractive tourist destination our nation is renowned for internationally. To prepare for future energy needs, the government has commissioned a study into the use of thermal and solar power as alternative energy sources. "These, along with improved

broadband penetration and the expected reduction of the cost of data, give promise that efforts to take the country down the digitisation path and clean technologies are well on track.

"Rejuvenation of an ailing economy needs a strong criminal justice system to identify and punish those who seek to enrich themselves through criminal means. As an addition to existing law enforcement agencies, the kingdom has established an asset recovery unit to trace and reclaim the proceeds of crime, including corruption.

"An economy can only grow with the nurturing of the nation's next generation of entrepreneurs. That is why the kingdom has relaunched the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund to encourage young entrepreneurs to start businesses and create employment. This is in addition to the normal university scholarships across various disciplines that the government offers to deserving students.

"Eswatini is not only open for business but is also committed to play its role in ensuring lasting stability in the region and on the continent. The Kingdom of Eswatini is acutely aware that the success of its plans is partly dependent on partnerships with governments and foreign direct investment."

With regard to tourism, Ezulwini will soon have a new five-star hotel and an international convention centre to add to the attractive tourist destination our nation is renowned for internationally

Letshego Group appoints new group CEO

BY BAHLE GAMA

LETSHEGO's (Letshego Holdings Ltd) Group Board has successfully concluded its executive search for a permanent Group CEO to lead the 11 market strong pan African lender.

Andrew Fening Okai, Standard Chartered's former Global Chief Operating Officer for the international bank's retail division, has been chosen by the board to lead the pan-African lender, pending final regulatory approvals.

Letshego Eswatini CEO Mongi Dlamini said they happily welcome Okai as group CEO.

"We welcome Andrew into the Letshego group within the 11 countries we operate in.

We are looking forward to working with him as he has such vast experience in all the sectors he has worked," he said.

Dlamini further disclosed that the appointment was confirmed on behalf of the Letshego Group Chairman of the Board, Enos Banda, who said Okai's career path denoted multi-geography financial expertise in diverse disciplines within a retail banking environment, including governance, strategy, risk and strategic transformation. "The chairman said Okai's experience is not only drawn from Africa, but from diverse emerging markets interna-

In his latest empowering venture, he founded Precept Human Capital, a consulting firm dedicated to assessing, profiling, training, coaching and equipping Africa's next generation of private and public sector leaders with international trends in leadership and expertise.

Prior to Precept, Okai enjoyed a dynamic and successful career in Standard Chartered Bank, where his latest role as Group Chief Operating Officer (Group COO) based him in Singapore, with responsibilities spanning the international bank's footprint across 30 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.

As Group COO, Okai's executive responsibilities included: strategic transformation across processes and platforms; client experience; business/cost efficiencies and risk and compliance.

Okai also played a leading role in managing Standard Chartered's digital retail investment strategy, along with the framework, poli-

cies, procedures and systems required to deliver an enhanced client experience as well as achieve alignment with local regulatory requirements and mitigation of operational risk.

Prior to his Group COO role, Okai held a number of other senior roles in Standard Chartered, working from Ghana, Hong Kong, South Africa and Zambia. Previous roles included: Head of Operational Excellence, Hong Kong; Regional Head Transaction Banking for Banks, Africa; Executive Director Consumer Banking, Ghana and CEO, Zambia. Before joining Standard Chartered, Okai started his career as a Management Trainee with Unilever Ghana.

Okai was educated in Ghana, Russia and the UK, and holds a Chartered Banker MBA degree (Bangor University, Wales UK), a Diploma (Post Graduate) in Business Administration and Management (Henley Business School UK) and an MSc in Food Processing Technology (Kuban State Technological University, Russia).

tionally.

"He is also confident Andrew will bring the leadership, vision and strategic insight Letshego needs to secure our next phase of focus and impact, all while empowering existing and future leaders across our business and delivering long term value for our investors," Dlamini said.

He further disclosed that Okai stands to bring more than 20 years of international banking experience to Letshego's top executive post.

The chairman said Okai's experience is not only drawn from Africa, but from diverse emerging markets internationally

Luju Festival trader applications opening

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

Traders interested in taking part in the 2020 edition of the Standard Bank Luju Food and Lifestyle Festival can submit their applications starting February 5, 2020.

The application is open to traders interested in selling fashion pieces, design items, accessible and delectable dishes.

The event, which also serves as a tourist attraction, is slated for House on Fire starting 31 July to August 1, 2020. "The trader applications will be opening on February 5, 2020 and more details will be shared soon," reads part of the information sourced from their Facebook Page.

The Standard Bank Luju Food and Lifestyle Festival is a unique celebration of the tastes, sounds, sights and aromas of Eswatini and the Southern African region, it is a sensory experience unlike any other.

Set on the lavish lawns of the House on Fire Sculpture Garden against a breath-taking backdrop of endless cane fields and rolling hills, Luju showcases the diverse and often hidden flavours tucked away in the cultural crevices of Africa. The festival also celebrates the dynamic textures, striking prints and vivid colors that the continent has to offer.

Our carefully curated and authentically African programme features cooking demos and master classes by seasoned chefs in the region, high-end African fashion, arts and design, as well as some exciting music performances by artists from Eswatini, South Africa, Mozambique and beyond.

The festival is certainly not to be missed by food enthusiasts, culture buffs and travellers looking for a unique and sophisticated African-vintage event that celebrates the local, the wholesome, the creative, and the delicious.

Standard Bank
LUJU
FOOD & LIFESTYLE FESTIVAL

1 AUG 2020
THANK YOU!
LET'S EAT, SWAY, LOVE AGAIN
1 AUGUST 2020

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

South Sudan, holdout rebels commit to truce this week

JUBA - South Sudan's government and opposition groups, who had snubbed an earlier peace deal, said they had agreed to a ceasefire from yesterday after peace talks in Rome.

Members of the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOMA) and an envoy of the government in Juba said they had signed a document on Sunday committing to a December 2017 peace deal to "avoid any further armed confrontation across the country".

South Sudan, the world's youngest country, descended into civil war in 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy and fellow former rebel leader, Riek Machar, of plotting a coup.

About 380,000 people have died in the conflict and about four million have fled their homes.

Fears have grown in recent weeks that a fragile peace deal will not hold after ongoing disagreements and delays in implementing a unity government.

While peace has largely held across the country, fighting has continued in the Central Equatoria region between government troops and the National Salvation Front, whose leader, Thomas Cirillo Swaka, signed the agreement in Rome.



President Salva Kiir.

"We are ashamed this peace has eluded us," Pa'Gan Amum Okiech, a member of SSOMA's leadership council and interim chairperson of another rebel group, the Real-APLM group, said on Monday.

"We agree to begin this process of dialogue to reach comprehensive solutions to the crisis," Amum Okiech told journalists, stressing those solutions would be "inclusive."

Progress on a more recent agreement in September 2018 calling for Kiir to form a transitional unity government

with Machar has been delayed over a host of unresolved issues.

Rebel groups within the SSOMA refused to sign it because it did not address "root causes" of the war, Amum Okiech said.

Sticking points include the return of refugees, the integration of rebel forces into the army, and land issues, such as compensation for the destruction of property during the conflict.

Machar is due in Juba on Tuesday for another round of talks with Kiir. **AFP**

Libya's Haftar leaves Moscow without signing peace deal

MOSCOW - Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar left Moscow on Tuesday without signing a ceasefire agreement aimed at ending nine months of fighting, leaving the future of a fragile truce uncertain.

The commander's abrupt departure in the early hours of Tuesday was a setback for an international diplomatic push in recent days, though Moscow insisted it would continue mediation efforts.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan -- who first brokered the Libya truce deal with President Vladimir Putin of Russia last week -- warned he would "teach a lesson" to Haftar if his forces resumed fighting. Haftar and his allies were in Moscow on Monday for talks with the UN-recognised government headed by Fayeze al-Sarraj

that is based in Tripoli.

Sarraj's government has been under attack since last April from forces loyal to Haftar, who is based in the east of the oil-rich North African country with his own loyalist politicians. The two sides had agreed to the ceasefire that took effect at the weekend and were in Moscow to sign a long-term agreement.

The talks raised hopes of an end to the latest fighting to wrack Libya since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

But after seven hours of negotiations, only Sarraj had signed on to the agreement and Russian officials confirmed to AFP that Haftar's delegation had left without inking the deal.

Timeslive

US assistant secretary for African Affairs to travel across region

JOHANNESBURG - United States Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Tibor Nagy will travel to the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan from yesterday until January 29 to promote good governance, strong democratic institutions, regional peace and security, and combating corruption.

During his trip, Nagy will also emphasise the importance of stronger trade and investment ties and will promote the University

Partnerships Initiative, a new programme designed to strengthen ties and encourage collaboration between U.S. and African educational institutions, a U.S. government statement said.

Nagy's visit will also highlight the 10th anniversary of the Young African Leaders Initiative which engages the next generation of leaders by facilitating connections with their peers across the continent and in the United States.

African News Agency

KILLED WOMAN ACCUSED OF BEWITCHING HER GRANDDAUGHTER

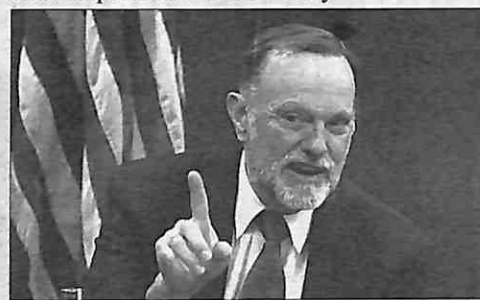
LILONGWE - A 75-year-old woman was killed after being accused of witchcraft over her failure to attend her granddaughter's funeral in Malawi, online news outlet Malawi24 reported.

It said a mob allegedly attacked and killed Filiness Mulenga soon after the funeral service on Saturday. "A four-year-old girl, who was granddaughter of Mulenga, died and the woman did not attend the burial ceremony which

did not go down well with some relatives who sought the granny out, accusing her of bewitching the girl," Police Spokesman Sub Inspector Gladwell Simwaka told Malawi24.

A postmortem showed the elderly woman died from severe loss of blood.

"Accusing people of witchcraft is against the law and those who will be caught in the wrong or taking the law into their own hands will face justice," Simwaka said. **African News Agency**



Tibor Nagy
US Assistant
Secretary for
Africa.

BRIEFS

Man suspended for marrying man

KAYUNGA - What was supposed to be wedded bliss for a Ugandan imam swiftly turned into a nightmare when it emerged that he had unknowingly married a man. The nuptials also led to his suspension from clerical duties. An imam is a Muslim cleric.

According to Daily Monitor, Sheikh Mohammed Mutumba was suspended from the Kyampisi Masjid Noor mosque in Kayunga District after his "wife" was arrested for theft and, during a body search, was discovered to be a man. The two had been married for two weeks when the discovery was made.

Daily Monitor

Nearly 1 000 migrants forced back to Libya

TRIPOLI - Heavy clashes have spurred a growing exodus of migrants from Libya, but nearly 1 000 intercepted at sea have been forced to return to the war-ravaged country since January 1, the UN said. Since the start of the year, as many as 1 100 migrants have left Libya by sea, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), adding that a majority had been sent back to the country and detained.

"At least 953 migrants, among them 136 women and 85 children, have been returned to Libyan shores in the first two weeks of 2020," spokeswoman Safa Msehli told reporters in Geneva."

AFP

Angola relaxes visa requirements

LUANDA - African cities like Luanda in Angola is experiencing a population boom, and is growing exponentially.

And subsequently, business is growing - making it one of the world's most expensive cities for expats.

The Angolan government has been introducing several initiatives to encourage investment and business opportunities in the oil rich country since former president, José Eduardo dos Santos stepped down.

The first new president in 38 years, João Lourenço, took over at the end of 2017.

News24

France to send more troops

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron will host heads of state from west Africa Monday in the southern city of Pau to map out a new strategy to fight insurgent violence.

It comes amid a spate of deadly attacks and increasing hostility towards the presence of French troops.

After initially being postponed, it is in the garrison town of Pau at the foot of the Pyrenees in southwestern France, where Monday's summit will now take place. that the accident had strengthened France's resolve to review the efficacy and purpose of its combat mission in the Sahel. **Allafrica**

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

'Boyfriend smoked tik before gruesome murder'

CAPE TOWN - The mother of a 16-month-old baby who was allegedly stabbed to death by her 33-year-old boyfriend said the accused had smoked tik with a friend the night before the incident.

Nadia Saayman, the mother of baby Alime Mbasha, on Tuesday spoke about the incident that led to the death of her daughter last Thursday at Buffelsjag farm in Swellendam.

Her boyfriend, Siyabonga Mbasha, better known as Moffit, was arrested shortly after the incident and has been charged with the murder of his child.

Saayman said: "The trouble started on Wednesday when my boyfriend and a friend smoked tik for most of the night.

Siyabonga worked at another farm in Witsand some kilometres away from Buffelsjag, where I stay, and I didn't want to move with him to Witsand.

"On Thursday afternoon, he started to get angry. He got hold of a knife and I fought with him, trying to get the knife out of his hand. I cut my hand in the process and started running out of the house.

"He ran after me and tried to stab me. I remember Alime was in the room. My granny saw him coming out with the baby.

He stood in the door holding a knife at Alime's neck.

He walked towards the gate holding the baby by the leg, twice dropping her to the floor before he slit her throat and stabbed the baby in the chest in front of my granny."

Gielie de Kock, the owner of Witsand where the accused worked, said:

"Moffit worked for 14 years in the milk parlour on the farm.

"He had the potential to be one of the best workers. But he had a drug problem."

Cape Argus

AZENATHI TAKES ON HIS FATHER

JOHANNESBURG - A group belonging to the abaThembu nation based in Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), has thrown its weight behind acting King Azenathi Dalindyebo to continue as head of the kingdom.

This despite King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo, who is Azenathi's father, preferring one of his wives, Queen Nokwanda, to take over the reins as regent.

Tensions between Dalindyebo and his son were laid bare a day after the king was released from prison last year, when he refused to see Azenathi, who had visited him at his Nkululekweni private residence in Mthatha, Eastern Cape.

On Thursday, Azenathi called a meeting of the entire abaThembu nation, which included the amaDlomo (the core royal family), iinkosi (traditional leaders) and abaThembu in general, to discuss the way forward.

Dalindyebo and those seen as being close to him did not attend.

A number of abaThembu leaders who attended the meeting at Bumbane Great Place, which is being occupied by Azenathi and his royal council, said they supported Azenathi's leadership because it had brought stability to the nation.

Vusi Mvelase, Chairperson of the abaThembu in Msinga, criticised the amaDlomo for bringing the nation into disrepute and called for Azenathi to continue as acting king or be appointed permanently as king, a statement that is sure to further divide the nation as Dalindyebo still enjoys support within abaThembu.

"As abaThembu in KZN, we wish that you [Azenathi] continue as king because we have seen the great work you have done in bringing stability to the nation.



AbaThembu King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo with his son Prince Azenathi.

"People hate us in KZN because of our allegiance to you as abaThembu. When we invited King Buyelekhaya to visit us in Msinga some years back, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini had harsh words for us, saying that we were bringing a king from another nation to his kingdom. But it was because we wanted to show that, even though we are in KZN territory, our king is that of abaThembu," said Mvelase.

He said they were aware of attempts to replace Azenathi and appoint Queen Nokwanda in an acting capacity.

"We came all the way from KZN because we are part of this nation. This is not a kingdom of

amaDlomo, but of the entire Thembu nation."

Mvelase called for amaDlomo to support Azenathi.

"For the first time, the kingdom of abaThembu is in good hands. Keep it up," said Mvelase, directly addressing Azenathi. His words were met with applause.

Azenathi started his speech by hailing his father by his praise name, saying: "Ah! Zwelibanzi!"

He confirmed that he and a group of senior traditional leaders had been turned away at the gate when they tried to visit the king in Nkululekweni on December 24.

City Press

'Mama Gumede is an honest person'

JOHANNESBURG - Supporters of embattled former eThekweni mayor, Zandile Gumede, hope that the case against her will be kicked out, maintaining their belief that the tender corruption case is politically motivated.

Speaking to News24 on Tuesday ahead of Gumede's return to court yesterday, Mzomuhle Dube said Gumede's support was growing.

"We are saying that we have reached a level. People must begin to understand, if they had a case, they would have charged her properly. What we are saying all along is happening. The National Prosecuting Authority has been unable to present any concise charges," said Dube, a loyal Gumede ally, who is also the coordinator of her supporters.

"We have had smaller build-up events [before] the court appearance tomorrow. People are starting to see that all is not like it seems. Mama Gumede is an honest person and a good leader. We are expecting a large crowd tomorrow."

They also hosted a vigil outside court late on Tuesday night.

"She is a recognised leader and people want to come out to show their support. When we spoke this week, she said she was ready for anything," Dube said they denounced the handling of the corruption case against Gumede. He felt her involvement in the case was not yet fully



Former eThekweni mayor Zandile Gumede.

explained.

"In her last court appearance, the State failed to present specific charges regarding her involvement in the case. Up to today, we have not heard the State putting charges to her."

"We will continue supporting her. Her support is growing. We are preparing for a regional conference. We feel she is poised to reclaim her leadership." In December 2019, the Hawks arrested seven more people, including four councillors, in connection with the allegations, which relate to a R200m Durban solid waste tender.

News24

I received no NECSA board resignations - Mantashe

JOHANNESBURG - Energy expert and EE business Intelligence MD Chris Yelland dropped a bombshell on Twitter yesterday morning, saying the entire board of the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA) has tendered its resignation to Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe.

Yelland revealed that the five board members, including the chairperson, resigned, due to the "dysfunctional" relationship between NECSA and Mantashe. This was due to "his apparent unwillingness to address the deep financial problems facing NECSA," Yelland said.

Mantashe, however, said that he had not yet received any resignations from the board, according to Fin24.

The minister was attending a briefing session at the Bongibongi Comprehensive

School in Witbank, where he told eNCA that there was already no board as there were only three members left, and that they had been accommodated, but "if they want to leave, I won't stop them."

Mantashe said the energy department was currently replenishing the board, and that names were identified on Tuesday to begin putting together a new NECSA board.

"What we are doing in this department is to resuscitate governance and entities in the department, which [have] collapsed..."

So we are rebuilding it, and we are not rushing... we are not angry with anyone... we are quite steady and move step by step to rebuild governance in the department.

"If you don't have good governance, you are running a high financial and operational risk... There can be no financial performance if there's no

good governance," he explained.

In July last year, Moneyweb reported that NECSA has burnt through six CEOs and two chairpeople in seven months.

The once-profitable state-owned enterprise under the previous board is now a financial wreck, asking Parliament for a R500-million bailout.

"They were unlawfully appointed, they are unlawfully occupying their seats, and all decisions they make must be subject to review.

This is quite apart from the fact that the board is inquorate [lacks enough members to make up a quorum]."

Fin24

What we are doing in this department is to resuscitate governance and entities in the department, which have collapsed.

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

SAPS guards mess up salute at Richard Maponya's funeral

CAPE TOWN - Twitter had a field day after footage emerged showing police guards not knowing their left from their right.

The salute that went horribly wrong took place at the funeral and memorial service of business leader Richard Maponya at Westpark Cemetery. The faux pas was shown during a live broadcast of the funeral on SABC.

President Cyril Ramaphosa honoured Maponya with a Special Official Funeral Category 2. Special Official Funeral Category 2 has elements of police ceremonial honours and Maponya's remains will not lie-in-state.

Maponya died in Johannesburg on January 6 a few days after celebrating his 99th birthday. During his career, which spanned over 50 years, he created many job opportunities for black citizens during the apartheid regime.

Ramaphosa also delivered Maponya's eulogy. The president

described him as a man of "extraordinary resilience" who "persevered until he reached the pinnacle of success".

"And yet he remained humble, magnanimous and generous.

South Africa indeed has lost one of her finest sons."

Ramaphosa added that Maponya was driven by the conviction that South Africa would never be truly free until the fruits of prosperity were shared by all its people, saying the entrepreneur had stood for self-fulfilment and inspired a new generation of business people.

Former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe were also in attendance, along with other dignitaries and politicians.

South African tweeps saw the humour in it, while others feared that South Africa would become the "laughing stock of the world".

IOL

Activist Kanya Cekeshe thanks SA for support

JOHANNESBURG - #FeesMustFall activist Kanya Cekeshe, who was jailed for violence that flared up during the varsity fees protests, has thanked South Africans for their support and lobbying for his release.

On Twitter, Cekeshe said he would not have been freed had it not been for the public's calls for his release.

"I'd like to take a moment to thank all those who tirelessly championed the cause for my release and used social media platforms, such as this one, to raise awareness around my case. I know I would not have been released without its added pressure," Cekeshe said, adding that he was humbled by the support.

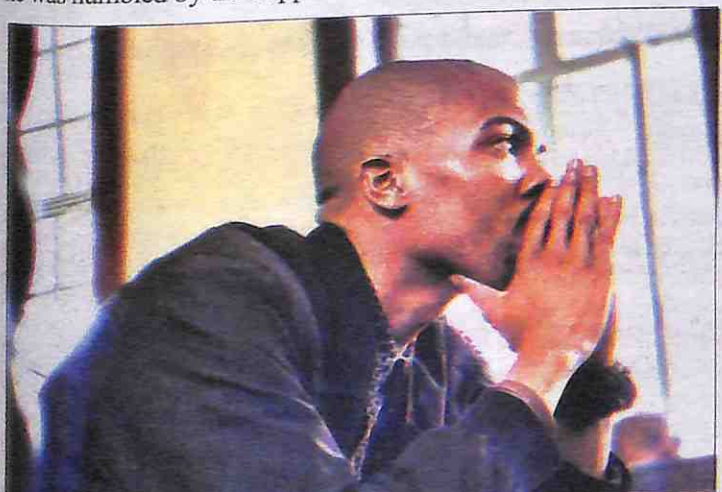
Cekeshe was released on parole from the Leeuwkop Prison in Bryanston, Johannesburg, on December 24.

He had been there since December 2017, after being sentenced to eight years in prison, three of which were suspended, for public violence and malicious damage to property. He pleaded guilty to setting a police vehicle alight during a #FeesMustFall protest in 2016.

There were mixed reactions to Cekeshe's post, which was shared hundreds of times.

Many hailed him a hero, saying his name would be etched in the history books, but others condemned him for having taken the law into his own hands.

Times Live



#FeesMustFall activist Kanya Cekeshe.

TRUCK PETROL-BOMBED IN KZN PROTEST

DURBAN - A truck was allegedly petrol-bombed during a service delivery protest on the N2 near Magabeni, south of Durban, yesterday.

eThekweni Fire Department South Divisional Commander Justin Bateman said protesters gathered on the N2 north-bound after the Magabeni and Ilfracombe offramp as early as 5am.

The protesters allegedly set alight tyres and blocked the road preventing motor vehicles from passing through towards Amanzimtoti and Durban.

Bateman said the protest could have been linked to lack of water supply to the Magabeni community.

"The driver of a super link truck carrying car parts had noticed the fire in the distance when he neared the offramp. However, while the driver was turning towards the offramp it was allegedly hit by a petrol bomb. The driver and his

assistant fled the scene. They were not injured. Once the area was stabilised by the Public Order Police we moved in and extinguished the fire," Bateman said.

The truck, trailer and goods were extensively damaged.

Traffic on the N2 and the alternative R102 was initially interrupted by the protest but later re-opened.

eThekweni Ward 99 Councillor Bob Daniel Naidoo said the alternate route on the R102 had also been blocked with tree logs but was cleared by police.

"For some time now the community of Magabeni have been asking for an improvement to the water supply in the area. Some of the areas do not have a water supply," Naidoo said.

A community leader in the Danganya area near Ilfracombe, who did not want to be named, said it was the fourth time

that people had been protesting. He said another issue was the resurfacing of certain roads near the Danyaga Primary School.

"The municipality contractors filled the road with gravel instead of providing a properly tarred surface. People are angry," he said.

Police spokesperson Colonel Thembeke Mbele said that at 02:30 a group of people from Danganya in Umkomaas blockaded N2 with burning tyres, stones and set a truck alight.

"The truck driver sustained injuries. He was rushed to the hospital for medical attention. Members are still at the scene to monitor the situation," she said.

Charges of public violence, malicious damage to property and attempted murder will be opened at Umkomaas Police Station for investigation.

Daily News



Police rape kit contract worth nearly R500m

JOHANNESBURG - The government contract to provide evidence collection kits for rape cases to police stations across the country was awarded to Acino Forensic at a cost of nearly R500m.

Police Minister Bheki Cele revealed in a written reply to a parliamentary question on Tuesday that the contract - worth R497.7m for a three-year period - was awarded in August 2019.

The collection kits, commonly known as rape kits, are used to collect DNA evidence from victims of sexual crimes.

Cele explained that the police did not have contracts in place in 2017 and 2018 because despite calling for bidders, the bids received in those years had not met the requirements.

He said prior to the awarding of the contract to Acino Forensics, evidence collection kits were procured on a quotation basis from three service providers:

Batho Pele Health, Letsepe Investments and Yhira Investments.

He said the contract was awarded to Acino Forensics because it was the only bidder that met all the requirements of the bid.

Cele revealed the information while responding to a question from DA MP Andrew Whitfield, who wanted to know which companies were awarded contracts to provide rape kits in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and the value of each contract.

Whitfield revealed in August last year that 76 per cent of SA police stations did not have adult rape kits and 69 per cent of stations did not have child rape kits in stock.

He described the shortage of rape kits as a gross injustice to rape survivors.

"Without these kits, evidence in reported rape cases cannot be collect-

ed. Without evidence, the ability to successfully prosecute rapists diminishes drastically," he said at the time.

In his parliamentary response published on Tuesday, Cele also explained that the SAPS made use of 16 different types of evidence collection kits to collect samples at crime scenes.

"These include the two types of evidence collection kits - the adult sexual assault collection kit and the paediatric sexual assault collection kit - which are used to collect evidence from victims of sexual assault and rape," he said.

"The deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) reference buccal sample kits are used to take buccal samples from persons who are arrested and charged, for schedule-eight offences [this includes serial murderers and serial rapists] as required by the DNA Act."

Times Live

Focus on World News

Global News

THUNBERG, TRUMP, MERKEL TO ATTEND 50TH EDITION OF WEF

GENEVA - Some of the world's most powerful leaders, including US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, are set to trek to the Swiss mountains next week to mark the 50th anniversary of the summit in the village of Davos.

As global power is no longer measured in troops and economic prowess but also in social media influence, it is 17-year-old Greta Thunberg who sets the tone for the meeting that highlights the challenges of the year and the decade ahead.

In an open letter published ahead of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Thunberg and a group of young climate campaigners demanded an immediate global stop to subsidies and investments related to fossil fuels.

"In an emergency you step out of your comfort zone and make decisions that may not be very comfortable or pleasant," they wrote in Britain's Guardian newspaper.

The World Economic Forum's 81-year-old founder Klaus Schwab, who organises the event for thousands of politicians and businessmen in Davos each year, has

not only invited her for the second year in a row but has also adopted some of her language.

He reminded reporters on Tuesday the world is facing a "state of emergency." "We do not want to reach the tipping point on climate change," he told a press conference.

"We do not want that the next generations inherit a world which becomes ever more hostile and ever less habitable - just think of the wildfires in Australia."

The summit that runs from Tuesday to Friday next week would also focus on various other pressing problems, according to the organisers, including slowing global economic growth, trade wars, geopolitical tensions in East Asia and Middle Eastern hot spots.

While the list of attendees includes country and government leaders from Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, there is one glaring absence: Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Zarif's cancellation means that the Islamic regional power that is involved in an escalating nuclear spat with world powers and in various Middle Eastern crises will not be represented in Davos.

dpa



MEGHAN BREAKS COVER

VANCOUVER - Meghan Markle broke cover for the first time on Tuesday leaving the palatial \$14-million Canadian home where she has been holed up since last week to visit a women's shelter in Canada's poorest neighbourhood.

The Duchess of Sussex left the Vancouver Island ocean-side mansion shortly before 10am local time and arrived at Victoria Harbour Airport around 20 minutes later, where she appeared happy and relaxed as she laughed with her security team before boarding a seaplane for the mainland.

She then made a surprise visit to the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre in Vancouver to 'offer support' and to

'boost the staff's spirits'.

The shelter posted a photograph on its Facebook page of Meghan at the centre of a group of eight women, with the caption 'Look who we had tea with today!'

'The Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, visited us today to discuss issues affecting women in the community.'

A staff member said they only became aware of the visit when Meghan arrived and that she spent time meeting with managers.

The shelter provides counselling, hot meals, and basic needs for women and children in need.

"She asked what the women would need in terms of support. It was a nice

meeting," the staff member said.

Back in Britain, where the royal family is in turmoil over the Sussexes decision to quit as senior royals and emigrate to Canada, it has also emerged:

Thomas Markle is prepared to give evidence against his own daughter in an extraordinary legal case over a letter she sent to Harry.

The documents say that after Markle messaged his daughter saying he couldn't come to her wedding because he had been rushed to hospital for emergency heart surgery and told not to fly on health grounds, he received a text that appeared to be from Prince Harry.

Daily Mail

TRUMP TRIAL LIKELY TO BEGIN NEXT TUESDAY

WASHINGTON - The Senate impeachment trial of US President Donald Trump is likely to begin in seven days with key players sworn in later this week, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday.

McConnell said he had expected the House of Representatives to deliver the articles of impeachment against Trump to the upper chamber yesterday.

"We believe that if that happens - in all likelihood - we'll go through

preliminary steps here this week which could well include the chief justice coming over and swearing-in members of the Senate and some other kinds of housekeeping measures," McConnell told reporters. "We hope to achieve that by consent which would set us up to begin the actual trial next Tuesday."

Trump faces charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, and the 100 senators will be his judge.

AFP

Iran arrests several people over missile strike

IRAN - Iran yesterday said it has arrested several people over the erroneous missile strike which brought down a passenger jet last week.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said "some individuals" had been detained after 'extensive investigations', without saying how many.

Esmaili also described British Ambassador Rob Macaire - who was briefly arrested at the weekend for attending an anti-regime protest - an "undesirable element" and said he expects him to be expelled from the country.

"Our people and the international community expect him to be expelled from the country," Esmaili told Iran's INSA

news agency.

Meanwhile, President Hassan Rouhani has vowed to punish those responsible as he called the shoot-down of the Boeing 737 an "unforgivable error".

The regime has been forced on to the back foot by the crash after its initial denials and subsequent admission prompted a fresh wave of protests.

Rouhani yesterday called for a special court to be set up to probe the 'painful and unforgivable' mistake which killed 176 people, including dozens of Iranians.

The president said "one person cannot be solely responsible for the plane crash" as he vowed a thorough investigation into the disaster.

"For our people it is very important in this incident that anyone who was at fault or negligent at any level" face justice," he said in a televised speech.

"Iranian armed forces admitting their mistake is a good first step ... We should assure people that it will not happen again. "Anyone who should be punished must be punished. "The Judiciary must form a special court with high-ranking judge and dozens of experts... The whole world will be watching."

Rouhani said his government was "accountable to Iranians and other nations who lost lives," including Canada and Ukraine.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Plane dumped jet fuel injures dozens

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles County firefighters and paramedics treated at least 20 children and dozens of adults after they came in contact with jet fuel dumped by a plane flying overhead.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department said in a tweet that 44 people were treated at the scene with minor injuries related to the accident and were released.

The fire department said that 20 children and 11 adults were treated at Park Avenue Elementary School in Cudahy, California, while 13 other patients from schools in nearby South Gate and Florence Graham were also evaluated.

Business Insider

Trump takes Sanders' side

MILWAUKEE - US President Donald Trump threw his support, welcome or not, behind Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders in his back-and-forth with rival Elizabeth Warren, saying he did not believe Sanders would suggest a woman could not win the 2020 election. Tensions between Warren and Sanders, two progressive US senators who are running for the Democratic nomination, have risen after a report that Sanders told Warren in 2018 that he did not believe a woman could beat Trump. Warren confirmed the report late on Monday in a statement, saying: "I thought a woman could win; he disagreed".

Reuters

82 000 people flee erupting Taal Volcano

MANILA - Two people have died from heart attack while fleeing from an erupting volcano near the Philippine capital of Manila, which has displaced more than 82 000 people, officials said yesterday. Taal Volcano in Batangas province, which is 66 kilometres south of Manila and located in the middle of a lake of the same name, started sporadically expelling ash on Sunday. The victims were a 65-year-old woman and a 27-year-old man from the towns of Talisay and Taal in Batangas, the provincial disaster risk reduction office said. The woman suffered cardiac arrest on Monday, while the man died on Tuesday, the office added.

Dpa

Man's penis stuck in metal pipe for 5 days

THAILAND - A Thai man's penis began to decay after he got it jammed in a metal pipe for five days and only sought medical attention after the pain became unbearable.

The 21-year-old placed his penis in a sock and then put it into a metal cylinder and had sex with it last week.

After climax, the tip had swollen so much the blood couldn't flow back - and he was stuck inside the make-shift sex toy.

He wandered around his house for five days in extreme pain while trying a variety of lubricants to free himself from the jam.

Daily Mail



WITH: Simon Shabangu

CHURCH NEWS



Apostle Justice hosts youth picnic at Sibebe Resort

YOUNG People from the Worship Centre Church under Apostle Justice will gather at Sibebe Resort for a day of fun this Saturday.

The founding father of the country's ever growing ministry in his post said the young people will not only have fun at the top of the Sibebe Rock but will also be empowered in many aspects of life. Among the issues to be discussed during the day long gathering, at the resort, will include a symposium on career choosing, talk shows as well as dating and relationships.

Young people from all the branches are expected to attend the gathering which will also be an opportunity for the young people to get to know each other outside the church environment. "Come one, come all as we climb up to Sibebe Resort to socialise,



Apostle Justice Dlamini.

worship and create new opportunities for the youth. Music and braai will also be part of the day's activities," reads the post in part. Meanwhile the

church has an ongoing 15 days Morning Glory prayer and fasting gathering which started on Tuesday that will to end at the end of the month with an all night prayer service dubbed All Night of Prayer Power on the 31st of January.

People attending the services will witness worship, prayers, the Word of God, declaration and prophecies as the man of God has invited anointed outside ministers of the Word of God within and the borders. Among the speakers lined up at this gathering are Apostle Ebenezer George, Apostle Horede Adam and Prophet Benny Daniels who will all join the host, Apostle Justice in delivering God's message to the people. The services start at 7am until 9am and 6pm until 7:30pm every evening.

The Message for the Day...

IN Genesis 26:22 the Bible says 'And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it.'

So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, 'for now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land'.

God spoke to me today, I had woken up, prayed in the Spirit and asked God to speak to me. I picked up my Bible and the Spirit led me to **Genesis 26**. It is a phenomenal chapter.

Here's why, first, bad beginning 'Now there was a famine in the land'.

This is the opening statement of that chapter. 'Sad isn't it? What a sad beginning, but how does it end?'

What happened? Here's one of the statements towards the end of the chapter. 'So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, for now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.'

So you can begin with famine and end with Rehoboth' your best year can be what started as your worst year. 'Don't write me off yet' I hear someone whisper. "My chapter may have begun with a famine but it will end with Rehoboth". This is what the Spirit said to me this morning. Could He be saying the same to you? Second, resist 'and the Lord appeared to him and said, do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you' (**Genesis 26:2**), Resist the temptation to Go down to Egypt.

How do we often respond

when things are not going well? The temptation is to 'go down to Egypt when the going gets tough'. When business or relationships are not going well, we are tempted to go back to the dark business arts and relationship practices of Egypt.

This is often our reaction in other arenas of life. God knew Isaac was tempted to respond to this famine by going down to Egypt and he quickly warned him not to.

The man who will experience Rehoboth must be a man who does not respond to famine by seeking a return to Egypt.

Third, sow 'and Isaac sowed in that land' you are going to do some sowing. The chapter that starts with a famine and ends with Rehoboth must require some sowing in between. That's what Isaac did.

He sowed despite the odds of a famine. That is what I felt the Spirit was saying, keep sowing. Give, Work, Fight, Dare and Pray. Don't hold back. Don't not let the gloomy conditions stop you from sowing.

Pastor Victor MacDonald

My chapter may have begun with a famine but it will end with Rehoboth

JW's invite you to love Jah with all your heart

WHAT does it mean to love Jehovah with all your heart? This is the main question that will be answered in the next series of Assemblies to be hosted by Jehovah's Witnesses in Eswatini.

Many people, including you today know that God exists and that he loves you. Regrettably, because of unpleasant behaviour from people who claim to love God, you may be confused about what it means to love God and how you are supposed to show that love.

The Assembly will present practical

examples on how you can show love for your fellow man.

It will also show practically how love can help you to forgive a multitude of sins. A three part symposium in the afternoon will offer encouraging biblical counsel on how young people, teenagers and adults can praise Jehovah throughout their whole lives.

You are invited to attend the one day assembly as shown below. You won't be charged admission fee, and no collection will be taken. The programme starts at 9:30am to 3:50pm at all venues and dates.

PROGRAMME

Date	Venue
Saturday, January 11, 2020	SOS Hermann Gmeiner High School
Sunday, January 12, 2020	SOS Hermann Gmeiner High School
Saturday, January 25, 2020	Inyanga High School
Saturday, January 26, 2020	Inyanga High School
Saturday, February 1, 2020	Ngwane Teachers College
Sunday, February 2, 2020	Ngwane Teachers College
Saturday, February 8, 2020	Mpaka Railway Community Hall
Sunday, February 9, 2020	Mpaka Railway Community Hall

COME CONNECT WITH 'GIRLFRIENDS'/'BOYFRIENDS' AT THE YOUTH CLEAN FUN PICNIC WITH APOSTLE JUSTICE @ SIBEBE RESORT ON SATURDAY 18 JAN 2020 FROM 10AM TILL 4PM

ACTIVITIES & OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON:

- *KUJOLA, KUSOMA, KUSONYWA
- *UMUNTU LOMUSHA NAJESU
- *CAREER CHOOSING/GUIDANCE
- *JOB HUNTING
- *DEALING WITH SEXUAL ABUSE + MORE!!

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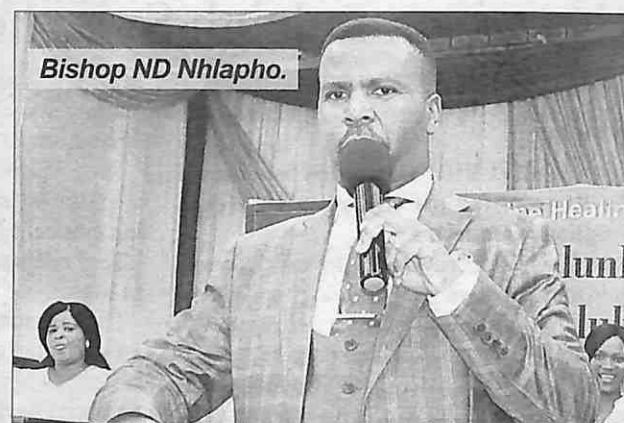
Seer JOSHUA ANGEL

BISHOP NHLAPHO BRINGING NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO ESWATINI

BISHOP ND Nhlapho of God Never Fails will be in the country for the first time this year and will deliver a New - Year message to the people of Eswatini.

The Bishop will be here for the weekly Thursday services at his church in Bethany opposite Lozitha. He comes here ahead of the annual crusade to be held at the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa at the end of the month. The all night prayer crusade will attract members from all of their branches around the country and beyond the borders.

Bishop Nhlapho says it will be a special day today as he will



deliver God's message to the people of Eswatini.

"I invite people to come in their numbers to receive, first hand, God's message for the

New Year.

There will also be a prayer and deliverance session where I will pray for all people who will be present," he said.

ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

A DECADE LATER...

...Eswatini pageants not competing internationally!

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

IT has been over a decade since any of Eswatini's beauty pageants competed in the international arena.

The last lucky winners were former Miss Eswatini Nompilo Mncina who competed in Miss World back in 2008 and Mr Eswatini Bonelelwe Makhanya who competed in Mr World.

Although these pageants still exist in the country, winners are only confined to Eswatini for the rest of their reign.

The reigning queens and kings after Mncina and Makhanya never had the chance to compete internationally.

The country has seen a number of pageants such as Little Miss Eswatini, Miss Teen Eswatini, Miss Manzini and Miss Northern Hhohho, amongst many others.

However, the spirit of pageants has not died as most pageants still receive hundreds of entries from aspiring kings and queens.

Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini said it was a sad reality that these winners were not able to compete at the global stage.

"As a council or country we are helpless on this because of our financial situation. For example, we know that to take a beauty queen to Miss Universe they require E300 000 and that money is nearly impossible to raise," he said.

Dlamini said he hoped that once the financial situation of the country improves they would be able to take the pageant winners to international competitions.

"It is also not right to ask our queens to compete internationally when Sihlangu can also not win or even qualify for the World Cup," he said.



CONFIRMED: Pageant Eswatini President Catherine Potgieter.

We do not know about Little Mr Eswatini - ENCAC

ANOTHER pageant that recently surfaced is the Little MrEswatini.

This pageant is directed by Little Miss Eswatini's Nokuphila Masangane.

However, Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture Stanley Dlamini said they know nothing about the pageant.

"We were also shocked to hear people talk about such a pageant. However if there is, it has not been registered with us because we need to approve it before it can be in the public domain," he said.

The pageant, set to take place in August, focuses mainly on children between zero to 13 years. Masangane said they presented the idea to ENCAC, the same day with Little Miss Eswatini. "He might have forgotten because we had a meeting about it and presented both pageants to the association," said Masangane.

They wanted to create a balance between taking care of the girl child and the boy child as well.

She said the pageant was not all about beauty as they want to boost the children's confidence and involve them in serving the nation. Masangane also said her love for children influenced her decision to host these pageants. She revealed that application forms for the competition would be made available after the launch.

Mr Eswatini returns this year

THIS may come as good news to young men in the country as Pageant Eswatini has announced that they were planning to host the pageant this year.

This was confirmed by Pageant Eswatini President Catherine Potgieter yesterday.

She said, however, nothing has been finalised just yet but it was looking positive. The pageant was last hosted in 2018 where Rodney Lansberg took home the title. At the time, the pageant was run by Linda Chester who has stepped down because of academic commitments.

"I stepped down from the Mr Eswatini committee because I went back to school to pursue my diploma at Southern African Nazarene University. I needed to focus on my school work because running the pageant is taxing," said Chester.

Furthermore, Chester said he hoped the country would continue to support the pageant.

"Companies should support the pageant because Mr Eswatini is a national event so no one should be confined to sponsoring the whole thing on their own. The pageant needs funding just like any other," he said. Chester also said he would return to directing the pageant as soon as he was done with his studies.



Liswati on Raleigh Symphony Orchestra

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

THANDOLWETHU Mamba has been named The Rising Star for this year's Raleigh Symphony Orchestra.

Mamba is a senior at Duke University, majoring in music with minors in biology and chemistry. This was announced by the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra on their page.

The Ka-Boyce former pupil also took to his social media pages to express his happiness and excitement for the show.

Mamba is a baritone. He auditioned for the Rising Stars concert and brought the house down with his exceptional delivery of 'Songs of a Wayfarer' by Gustav Mahler.

The world will have the opportunity to hear Thando sing the Mahler, along with a programme

from Jim Waddelow and the RSO during the Rising Stars concert on March 7 in Jones Auditorium at Meredith College.

The Raleigh Symphony Orchestra's mission is to support and showcase young and upcoming musical talent.

They celebrate the 20th season of Rising Stars in March.

Their exciting show starts with a splash and kicks off the celebration of Beethoven's 250 birthdays his lesser-known but great 'King Stephen Overture'.

Next, they feature an earlier and lighter symphony by Papa Haydn - Symphony No. 21. After the intermission they travel to Italy with Ottorino Respighi's 'Fountains of Rome'.

Finally their Rising Star for 2020 Thandolwethu Mamba will share his baritone voice in Gustav Mahler's 'Songs of a Wayfarer'.

EPIC GIG SLATED FOR JUNE 27

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

SAVE the date!

One of the biggest shows in the country will be making a comeback on June 27.

This was confirmed by organiser DJ Toxik of Toxik Entertainment.

More details about the show will be communicated in due course.

"The date of the show will always be on the last Saturday of June," said Toxik.

The show was also held last year June where music fanatics were serenaded by Kwesta, Buffalo Soljah, Moli Dixon, Kabza De Small, Mlindo The Vocalist, DJ Lady Zee and many others.

Same as last year, they will provide the

youth of Eswatini with a platform to showcase their businesses and skills on the day at no charge.

Last year, the event also hosted five young entrepreneurs who were invited to showcase various businesses and skills. They were also given free stalls to promote themselves and their respective businesses.

The audience witnessed the youth's finest craftsmanship.

Apart from the main stage, the event also had an open MIC session and this was where young and upcoming artists showcased their skills.

For the first time in history, this year's event will have the kiddies' section throughout the day.

'Talent alone not enough to be an artist'

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

IT is not everyone that has what it takes to be an artist.

Former SWAMA president and now artist manager Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini spoke out on what it takes to be an artist. Dlamini said creating art has to be effortless and must come naturally for an artist.

"A lot of us confuse our passion for music and art in that we then assume we are artists even when we are not made to create but manage, sell, promote, organise, etc. "There are many

opportunities that exist in the music and arts industries outside being an artist. Having great passion for art doesn't mean you have to be an artist," said Dlamini.

He further mentioned that artists also need to have people around them that will help make commercial sense of what they have created. "Talent alone is never enough, you need to have a constant thirst to master your craft and create a business case. In life, no joy comes easy and success isn't automatic.

Talent must be developed and honed constantly," he said. Dlamini said if

talent was enough, many of the country's great artists would be millionaires and touring the world. "We have arguably the most talented collection of artists here in Eswatini. What we do not have in abundance are managers and promoters that focus on building artists and making business sense of what the artists create," added the artist manager.

"As an artist you need to be persistent. Persistence is the quality that allows someone to continue doing something or trying to do something even though it is difficult or opposed by other people. You need to be patient. Success doesn't happen overnight," said Dlamini.



REVEALS:
Former SWAMA
president
Melusi 'Zox'
Dlamini.

TOS SPONSORS KIM FOR CROATIA TRIP

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

DURBAN based Liswati DJ Thabo 'Touch Of Soul' Mnisi has sponsored Kids In Motion (K.I.M) dancers for their trip to Croatia.

The spinner has pledged to dress K.I.M ballerinas who are set to take part in a dance competition in Croatia in April. This was revealed by K.I.M Sponsorship Campaign Manager Nothando Mkhonta yesterday.

K.I.M reached out to a few local brands asking them for branded winter wear to don while in Croatia for a dance competition.

The seven girls will be representing the country led by their trainer, dance extraordinaire Velile Dube. Dube saw it fit that when they go out to the world they represent Eswatini in every way possible. The deejay stated that this was a campaign that he could associate with. He has mentioned in the past that he would like to empower young people by helping them pursue their dreams and showing them that it is possible.

"I got a proposal from them telling me about their initiative. I had read about them in media prints so I was excited to hear from them. I will be sponsoring them with TOS winter merchandise as they will be leaving



SPONSORED: Kids In Motion dancers.

around winter," said the deejay.

The spinner also wished the dancers well as they represent the country abroad. K.I.M is expected to receive the merchandise by the end of March, a few weeks before they leave for Croatia.

Dube said preparations for the competition were taking shape with flight tickets and accommodation already taken care of.

"All that the team is missing now is transport to and from OR Tambo. We humbly call upon companies and individuals who are in a position to assist the girls attain this life-long dream to contact Velile Dube on 7835

8207 or Nothando Mkhonta on 7817 0068," said Dube.

TOS on kubutseka

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

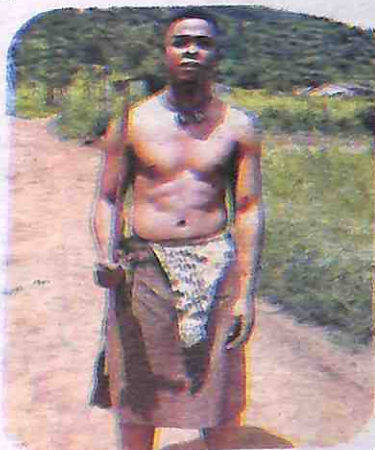
DJ Touch Of Soul (TOS) underwent his initiation *kubutseka* on Monday.

This was confirmed by the spinner yesterday. He said the process was intense.

TOS said he learnt a few lessons on how umbutfo should handle himself and respect his fellow brothers.

"It was interesting. I spend most of my time outside the country and I have noted the beauty of my culture every time I'm not home so I wanted to learn more and be involved," said TOS.

He was given the regiment name S'lotfwane, which is the name of a mountain located where he resides. It happens to be the tallest mountain in the



country. He joined the Inyatsi regiment.

Mnisi said that now that he has undergone the initiation, he feels in touch with his roots and would represent the country with authority and pride.

"I feel like I have graduated," he said.

Kubutseka is a cultural rite where only men participate in it, whereby they declare their undivided loyalty to his His Majesty King Mswati III and the values of the country.

Touch of Soul has made a name for himself internationally as he has now collaborated with a lot of South African artists such as DJ Tira, Dladla Mshunqisi and more.

Last year he dropped a song with DJ Tira titled 'Ungowami'.

TOS is also a businessman who has merchandise under his name selling all over the country and abroad.



SUPPORTS: DJ Thabo
'Touch Of Soul' Mnisi.

50 gospel artists renew ECAESWA membership subscription

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

AT least 50 gospel artists have renewed their ECAESWA membership subscription.

This was confirmed by the association's PRO Nhlanhla Mathunjwa who said the artists paid their E400 yearly subscription.

He mentioned that artists were given a code of ethics and conduct to familiarise themselves with their next meeting in February.

The code of ethics and conduct sets out the standards for upholding ethical business and godly practice of the association. It also demonstrates ECAESWA's commitment to work with integrity by being honest and transparent as well as adherence to the standards of due care, loyalty, good faith and the avoidance of conflicts of interest.

The association formulated the code of ethics and conduct to provide guidelines on how it wishes to be perceived by society in creating a positive image to internal and external stakeholders as well as in effectively and efficiently delivering on its mandate.

Mathunjwa said the code applies to all the members of the association.

It is also applicable to members advisory committees. All the members of the association accepted the scope and extent of the code of ethics and conduct.

ECAESWA promotes and encourages gospel artists to know the culture of openness, integrity and accountability in protecting the interest of its stakeholders, sponsors, clients and the environment.

The association formulated the code of ethics and conduct to provide guidelines on how it wishes to be perceived by society in creating a positive image to internal and external stakeholders as well as in effectively and efficiently delivering on its mandate



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Khabonina Qubeka wants R40million for placenta

PRETORIA - Actor Khabonina Qubeka is demanding millions of rands from a Johannesburg private hospital after her placenta was disposed of despite her request that it be kept for her.

When she gave birth to her daughter Lwandle in October 2018, the 'Isidingo' star signed a legal agreement with the Life Bedford Gardens Hospital requesting to take her placenta home. Sowetan has seen the document in which she "refused the disposal by incineration [burning] or by other lawful means of human tissue".

Qubeka and her world-champion kickboxing husband Vuyisile 'Master Vusi' Colossa wanted to keep the placenta for cultural and business reasons. But when she went back to collect the placenta a month after giving birth, it was missing despite the hospital's promise to temporarily store it for her.

Qubeka said when she went to obtain a hospital letter to present to the police so they can issue her with an affidavit to release the

placenta into her possession, the hospital couldn't provide her with one.

The staff alerted her that they couldn't locate her placenta, therefore, they can't provide her with a hospital letter.

"I felt the need to preserve my placenta because this was my first pregnancy and I have no idea if I will ever be pregnant again. So for me this was a

chance to explore the full avenues of my pregnancy. A placenta is the child's blanket and culturally it benefits the child and the entire family.

"I was told [by the hospital management] that we'll freeze it for you and when you are ready you can come get it..."

The hospital's lawyer, Ronald Bottin, has denied any accusations of negligence made by Qubeka. "In line of the inter-

nal processes and policies of Life Healthcare, the allegations surrounding the placenta of Ms Qubeka, after giving birth during October 2018, was investigated at various levels, including hospital, operational and management level," Bottin said in an email statement.

"Having considered all the facts, we find no negligence on the part of the hospital.

Ms Qubeka was required to complete and sign an affidavit for the safe disposal of human tissue by a patient, in order to collect the placenta after her discharge. Ms Qubeka did not complete the affidavit nor queried upon discharge the whereabouts of the placenta.

"As a result, the hospital is obligated to dispose of the placenta in an ethical manner as required in terms of legislation."

Colossa said the placenta was significant for him and his family to be used in Tsonga rituals. "You can cleanse the child traditionally if something happens to them," Colossa said. "Some other cultures they plant it and then plant a tree to represent the life of the child."

Sowetan Live



Sasha-Lee Olivier takes over Miss SA crown

SANDTON - Sasha-Lee Olivier was officially unveiled as the new Miss South Africa 2019 yesterday.

This comes after title holder Zozibini Tunzi won the Miss Universe last month. The 26-year-old beauty queen was the runner-up when Tunzi was crowned Miss SA in August.

"I am so happy for Zozi who deserves, in every way, to wear the Miss Universe sash. I wish her every success. I step into big shoes. I just want Zozi to know that I will do my best to fill them," Olivier said.

Tunzi wished Olivier well as the new Miss SA. "I cannot think of anyone who is more suitable to be Miss South

Africa. Sasha has it all: beauty, brains and, above all, a commitment to help others. I have no doubt that she will use her

reign to help improve the lot of those in need," Tunzi said.

Olivier will take over all Miss South Africa duties that include fulfilling obligations to the sponsors.

She represented SA last month at the Miss World pageant.

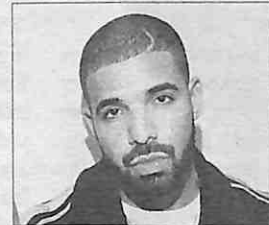
Sowetan Live



Drake is not coming to Mzansi

CAPE TOWN - We hate to be the bearer of bad news, but American rapper, Drake, is not coming to SA.

The people of Mzansi went into serious meltdown on Tuesday evening after reports surfaced that Drake was coming to SA. While SA fans were super excited that 'Champagne Papi' was going to grace them with his presence, renowned event organiser George Avakian has rubbished the reports, warning people not to buy the tickets unless Drake himself announced the news.



"Drake rumours are fake please make sure you don't pay for any tickets, unless announced by Drake. Stay woke it's 2020," George told fans on social media.

George confirmed to Tshisa Live that he had checked with Drake's management and there was no show in SA set for March.

Times Live

'AKON CITY' IS GOING AHEAD, SINGER CONFIRMS

SENEGAL - Grammy winner Akon is making progress on building his own city in Senegal.

Plans for the futuristic city have been in place since 2018, when Akon was given 800ha of land by Senegalese President Macky Sall.

The Senegalese-American singer's most recent venture has been providing solar power to African countries

through his company, Akon Lighting Africa.

The planned city will trade only in the entertainer's own cryptocurrency, AKoin.

News 24



DJ Zinhle to AKA and Kairo: Love you two

DURBAN - While the confusion about whether Zinhle and AKA are still a couple continues, the DJ has shared her love for the rapper and their daughter Kairo.

Yesterday was the first day back at school for many bundles of joy across SA, including for Kairo. In videos shared on Kairo's Instagram Stories, which are managed by AKA's mother, Lynn Forbes, AKA

can be seen walking his daughter inside her classroom and giving her hugs as she's about to start her new day.

Right after the videos were shared, Lynn shared an adorable snap of the father and daughter together. Though she couldn't be there in person, as she's on holiday in Mauritius with her friends, Zinhle declared her love for her "babies", captioning a comment, "Love you two". *Times Live*

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Sbu on Uzalo tonight.



Jabu and Ntwenhle have fun in Jo'burg, unaware of the storm clouds gathering in Bhubesini. Nolwandle finds herself drawn to one of the men in Protea, and fighting with another.



Sechaba and Phindile share a beautiful wedding day with loved ones. Lungi's guilt over Lincoln gets the better of her. Lalage shares a special moment with her kids.



Mulalo takes a huge blow, how is he going to defend himself? Gugu Zikalala's side manifests when she faces the enemy head on. Rendani realises her plan to get rid of Mohau has failed.



An unexpected phone call makes Gog'Flo's blood run cold. The Morokas aren't happy about what their wayward son is getting up to. Turns out Pele has an ace up his sleeve...



Brutus is angry that Kagiso allowed Siyanda to manipulate him and spy on their drug operation. Amo feels betrayed when Shaqueesha's behaviour starts affecting the family.



Nkunzi loses his mind when he learns his plan wasn't carried out. Khehla draws a line between himself and Gabisile, and Sbu takes evasive action.



Dintle's bombshell has a surprising effect on a pair of old lovers. Yvonne and MaBetty have a long overdue conversation. It looks like Javas may have a lead on an ongoing case.

MEME OF THE DAY

Teacher: No food in class The kid in the back of the class:



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19
Something may be troubling a family member, Capricorn, and this person doesn't seem inclined to talk about it. Your intuition seems to be temporarily blocked, so you can't figure it out for yourself. Don't try; it's probably buried too deeply within the other person. Make it clear that you're there if needed and then allow this person to go his or her own way. Don't let this situation cause you to doubt their need and respect for you.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18
Today you might feel as if you're living in a fog, Aquarius. Some interesting but puzzling news may come your way today. It might be information of such a bizarre nature that you find it difficult to accept, yet your source could be more than reliable. Conversations with others might seem vague and uncertain, as those around you aren't really feeling all that communicative. You might have to rely on intuition to discern how they're feeling.



Pisces February 19 – March 20
Unexpected premonitions and gut feelings might prove too strong for comfort, Pisces, especially if they sense upcoming events that aren't all that pleasant. These feelings are sent to you not to worry you or cause upset but to give clues as to how to deal with the possibilities. You may also have to deal with your own self-doubt. Dig in, do what you can, and assure a positive outcome. Remember, it's possible to spin straw into gold!



Aries March 21 – April 19
A goal that you've been working toward for a long time and in which you've placed a lot of hope and confidence, may suddenly seem in doubt today, Aries. This doesn't mean it's dead in the water by any means. It only means that for now you just need to work a little harder and rebuild your faith in it. Tomorrow your doubts could well be a thing of the past. Work hard and hang in there.



Taurus April 20 – May 20
A partner or colleague might be going through some changes right now, causing you to wonder if you have a future with this person. It might appear that you're moving ahead while this person is lagging behind. This could be just a temporary condition, Taurus, so take care not to jump to any conclusions at this time. Offer your assistance and do what you can, then let the person work things out. This may pass in a few days.



Gemini May 21 – June 21
At this time you might be in the space where you tend to doubt concepts and attitudes that you've accepted all your life. You generally tend to be a service-oriented person, Gemini, and today you might want to help out someone close to you. Yet this person may have deeply buried issues that only he or she can deal with, and therefore might give the appearance of being unappreciative. Rest assured that this is not the case.



Cancer June 22 – July 22
Dreams and visions might

give rise to the desire to be especially artistic and creative today, Cancer. Ideas for new artistic projects could be popping in and out of your head all day, and you might go into a panic doubting that you'll ever have the time to make any of your ideas a reality. At this time, you can only write down whatever pops into your head in order of your own preference. Then work with each in turn.



Leo July 23 – August 22
Successes over the past several weeks, along with an increase in money, might give rise to the desire to improve your living situation, Leo. You might have doubts, however, as to how best to go about doing it. Should you move or should you simply remodel? Should you move close by or to a different area? It's best to simply list the pros and cons of each option and then consider them all carefully. You don't have to decide right now.



Virgo August 23 – September 22
Stress from whatever work pressures you've been experiencing might cause you to feel a bit under the weather. Yet you're probably unwilling to take some time off because you're too concerned about finishing what you're doing in a timely manner, Virgo. It's important to remember that you won't finish it at all if you exhaust yourself. Move slowly and steadily, take time out to relax a little, and all will go more smoothly than you think.



Libra September 23 – October 23
Blocks and obstacles that you may have reached with regard to your projects might cause you to wonder if you have what it takes to get them done at all, Libra. This is OK, but don't get caught up in doubting your abilities. Step back, be objective, and work out the most practical and efficient ways to get past the obstacles and attain the results you want. Don't let your insecurities get the best of you.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21
Although almost everything in your life seems to be going well, Scorpio, today you just might find yourself in a bit of a panic. You might have a temporary fit of fear that your luck won't last. However, this is most likely due to your deepest insecurities flaring up. Don't read too much into it, and don't pay any attention to the doubts expressed by others. Believe in yourself, continue to work hard, and keep moving ahead.



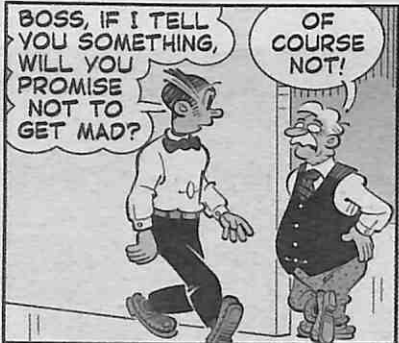
Sagittarius November 22 – December 21
Today you might find yourself at a loss as to how to proceed with a particular task or project in which you're involved, Sagittarius. There might be a number of options open to you, all workable, and this could prove confusing. If all options are efficient and practical, don't agonise over your decision. Flip a coin if you have to! Success is strongly indicated if you don't stress yourself out in the process.



BABY BLUES



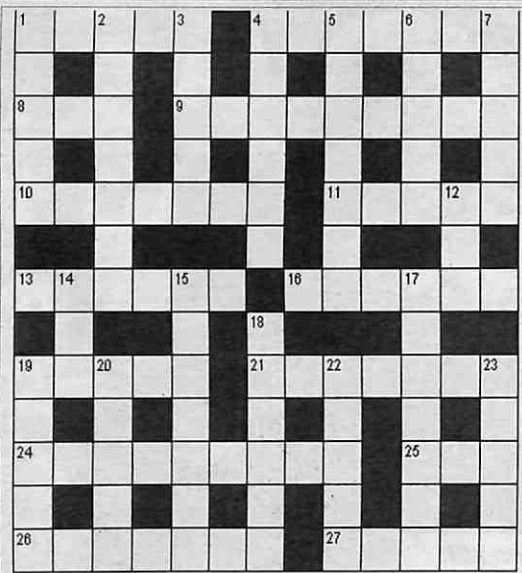
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CRYPTIC 34



Down

1. Theme in grotto picture (5)
2. Disregarded design or redraw, essentially (7)
3. Some choose free lecture (5)
4. Employ first off, remedy not likely to fail (6)
5. Sour liquid found in divine garden (7)
6. Russian mountains of the countryside (5)
7. Scale varies for shoes (5)
12. Event demonstrates the night before (3)
14. Heat up first off, for lubricant (3)
15. Disturb part of saddle (7)
17. Arrange something insignificant, rival it (7)
18. Aim for something lofty part of church (6)
19. Reptile that counts? (5)
20. Force a little shrimp elixir (5)
22. Used gestures to find boundaries (5)
23. Monster tailless dorsal extremity (5)

Across

1. Bone held by team leader and egghead clan (5)
4. Mix up reveals more than two or three (7)
8. Swan and enclosure (3)
9. Bizzare person found Aztec cent riches (9)
10. Dishevelled custodian from our cart (7)
11. High winds in Portugal estate (5)
13. Fashion street in short, plain and simple (6)
16. Cow's tail, ceremony, ringleader, journalist (6)
19. Extenuation found in actual ibis (5)
21. Upholds the law for a change, if fresh (7)
24. Leaving daring pet dizzy (9)
25. Something cold in juice (3)
26. Repel as confused fall back (7)
27. Greens in colossal advert (5)



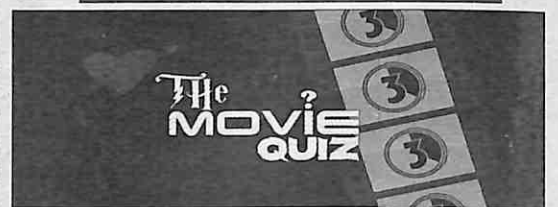
Common Illness

What is the worst combination of illnesses?
Alzheimer's and diarrhoea.
You're running, but can't remember where.

DID YOU KNOW

1. The US. almost went to war with Canada over a pig.
2. Tornados used to be called "twirlblasts" and "twirlwinds" in the 18th century.
3. The Sundance Kid took his nickname from the town of Sundance, Wyoming.
4. Eating your offspring may be a sign of good parenting in some species.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Yesterday's Quiz

1. 'Chucky' appears in which 2019 remake of a 1988 film with the same title?

Answer:
B. Child's Play.

Today's Movie Quiz

1. Directed by Michael Dougherty, 'King of the Monsters' is the 35th film in which iconic movie franchise?

Answers:
A. Boyz II Men
B. Godzilla



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Feel every moment

NEWS



SIYANDA takes charge and bags herself a bae.

Last week was a whirlwind of emotions for Mzansi, everyone waiting to see who Kagiso Khoza would finally get boo'd up with. With Team Amo and Team Siyanda forming camps on Twitter.

On Friday he managed to put an end to the drama, when he and Siyanda finally became official! You snooze you lose Amo!

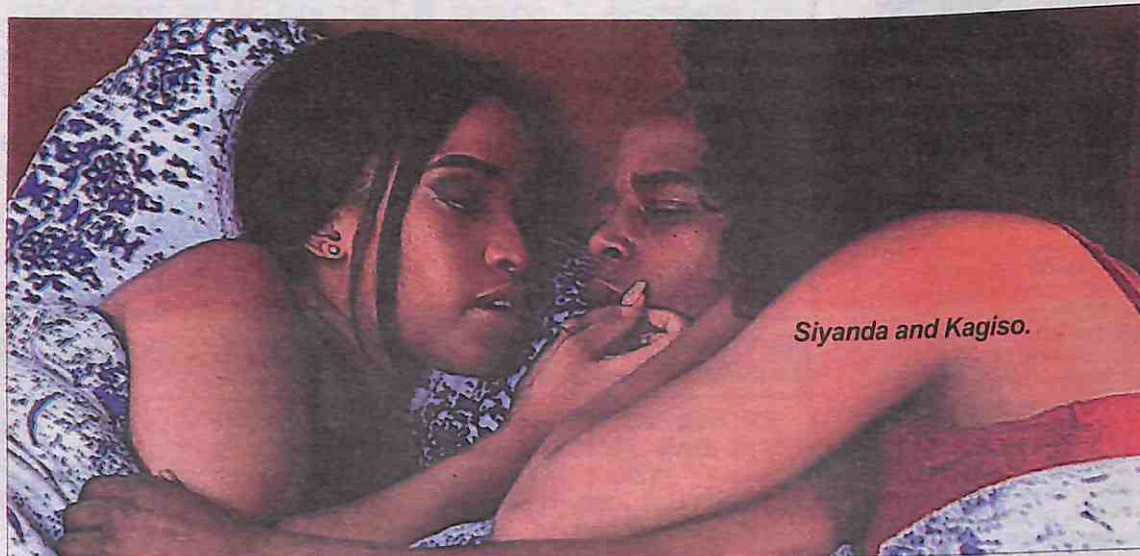
However, for Kagiso this wasn't an easy decision. We recap all the drama below:

Kagiso Khoza and Siyanda kicked things off to a rocky start, when Kagiso cut vacation short because the red robot was getting in the way of a good time. The two then decided to be friends and were flirting only within friendzone radius.

We thought things would get complicated when Amo, Kagiso's first love came back into the picture. And for a short while, it looked like Kagiso was considering making his move on Amo.

However, shortly after Kagiso and Amo hit it off, he decided to invite Siyanda to a family dinner. The two

SIYANDA IS THE CHOSEN ONE - THE QUEEN



Siyanda and Kagiso.

still claiming to just be 'friends.' Kagiso still seemed to be at a cross

roads, seeking brotherly counsel from Dingane. He was into two beautiful

women, one who he had a colourful past with, and another who had a

colourful past. But who had the potential to make him happy? Mzansi couldn't get enough of his very saucy dream in which the three shared one bed, while the two begged him to choose and pick one girl!

Siyanda finally put everyone out of their misery, and made a move on Kagiso Khoza in front of the entire Corner House staff and customers. We are happy that Kagiso has finally picked one girl to bae up with, but we couldn't help but feel sorry for Amo.

Now that he's officially boo'd up, we hope their relationship can endure through the family disapproval and drama. Do you think they have what it takes to make it work long term? Tune into 'The Queen' weekdays at 9pm and find out!

KILLER LINES – WHY WOMEN KILL

THE best quips from 'Murder Means Never Having To Say You're Sorry.'

From the title sequence to the breaking of the fourth wall to the transitions between decades, we loved the first episode of 'Why Women Kill'. And, of course, we laughed out loud. Here are some of favourite lines from the first episode: 'Murder Means Never Having To Say You're Sorry.'

Sheila: "We make up for being bad parents by being good neighbours."

Simone: "Don't I have the nicest husband?"

Naomi: "I don't know. Ed died and left me six million. That was pretty nice."

Paramedic: "Have you lost your mind?"

Simone: "Of course not... I'm drunk."

Simone: "As much as it would cheer me up to commit a felony I think you should go."

Watch the next episode of 'Why Women Kill,' titled 'I'd Like To Kill Ya,' 'But I Just Washed My Hair' on Monday at 21:00 on M-Net channel 101.



Why women kill.

Rest in Peace Mam Ethel – Isithembiso

THE Motaung family is grieving.

2020 started off with a bang for the Motaung family. Banzi announced that he would be running for mayor at a lavish New Year's Eve dinner party hosted by him.

Banzi made his special announcement with David Ramakgopo in the room, the malicious and current mayor of Johannesburg. From that moment on, it was war between the Motaungs and the Ramakgopos.

Ramakgopo would not take this lying down and started investigating Banzi and his church. He finally got some evidence implicating Banzi on a case of fraud due to a witness coming forward. He quickly ordered his police force to go and arrest Banzi.

But Mam Ethel would not make this an easy arrest for them, she would defend Banzi's honour! She pulled up her gun on the police, unhappy with her son's arrest.

In an unexpected turn of events, Ethel was shot by the police. The tragic events occurred with Palesa, Banzi and Lihle in the room.

Fights

Mam Ethel had beaten cancer and many other fights in her lifetime, so we were shocked to learn she didn't make it after surgery. And in a split second, the family matriarch was no more.

We bow down to the realest and the Baddest to ever do it. The M for Madea, matriarch and mother...may she Rest in Peace. We will miss her sharp tongue, her loyalty to Banzi and her stubborn nature that always caused so much drama.

Many fear that Banzi's mother's death will unleash the old Banzi and we wouldn't be surprised. Tune into 'Isithembiso' weekdays at 7pm to find out what's in store for the Motaung family.

NOMINATIONS: 92nd Oscars on M-NET

(OSCARS)

Find out who's been nominated in 2020.

Best Picture

Ford v Ferrari

The Irishman

Jojo Rabbit

Joker

Little Women

Marriage Story

1917

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Parasite

BEST DIRECTOR

Martin Scorsese, The Irishman

Todd Phillips, Joker

Sam Mendes, 1917

Quentin Tarantino, Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

Bong Joon Ho, Parasite

BEST ACTOR

Antonio Banderas, Pain and Glory

Leonardo DiCaprio, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Adam Driver, Marriage Story

Joaquin Phoenix, Joker

Jonathan Pryce, The Two Popes

BEST ACTRESS

Cynthia Erivo, Harriet

Scarlett Johansson, Marriage Story

Saorise Ronan, Little Women

Charlize Theron, Bombshell

Renee Zellweger, Judy

SUPPORTING ACTOR

Tom Hanks, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Anthony Hopkins, The Two Popes

Al Pacino, The Irishman

Joe Pesci, The Irishman

Brad Pitt, Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Kathy Bates, Richard Jewell

Laura Dern, Marriage Story

Scarlett Johansson, Jojo Rabbit

Florence Pugh, Little Women

Margot Robbie, Bombshell

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

Taika Waititi, Jojo Rabbit

Steve Zaillian, The Irishman

Anthony McCarten, The Two Popes

Greta Gerwig, Little Women

Todd Phillips and Scott Silver, Joker

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Rian Johnson, Knives Out

Noah Baumbach, Marriage Story

Sam Mendes and Krysty Wilson-Cairns, 1917

Quentin Tarantino Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

Bong Joon Ho and Han Jin Won, Parasite

ANIMATED FEATURE

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

I Lost My Body

Klaus

Missing Link

Toy Story 4

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

Corpus Christi

Honeyland

Les Misérables

Pain and Glory

Parasite

BEST DOCUMENTARY

American Factory

The Cave

Edge of Democracy

For Sama

Honeyland

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

The Irishman

Joker

The Lighthouse

1917

Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

The Irishman

Jojo Rabbit

Joker

Little Women

Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

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Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within **thirty (30)** days after the date of publication of this notice.

NKOSINGIPHILE XOLANI ZWANE

P. O. BOX 910

MBABANE

76349525

R/N 173619 Dx 16 JAN 2020

ESTATE LATE:

GUGU ROSE MAGAGULA

ESTATE NO. EH 246/2019

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within **thirty (30)** days after the date of publication of this notice.

PHILILE GRACIOUS DLAMINI

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OUR CONDOLENCES TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LOVED ONES



DEATHS



**Nokulinda Sarah
Zwane**

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Nokulinda Sarah Zwane kutsi usishiyile emhlabeni. Kwatiswa libandla lakhe le River of Mercy, baka Zwane, baka Fakudze ekhabonina nebaka Tsabedze ka Gogo wakhe. Umgwabo ungemgcibelo mhlaka 18 January 2020. Kulindzelwa ngalesihlanu ehholeni ka Msunduzane eMbabane bese ubekwa emathuneni ku Mahwalala zone 5 ngemgcibelo ekuseni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu babe wakhe Philmon Mhlabane Zwane.

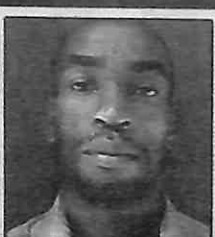


**Vumile Nxumalo-
Mamba**

It is with heavy hearts to announce that Vumile Nxumalo-Mamba has bowed to death to honour God and His will. She will be laid to rest at her matrimonial home at Nkamanzi past Zombodze on Sunday 19/01/2020. Memorial service on Saturday 18/01/2020 at African Apostolic Faith Mission Church, Nkamanzi branch at 1300hrs. The heavens rejoice when the Angels brought you home eNkhabanhle. Rest in Peace Nxumalo Mnguni, Zwide koyanga.

Death brings pain that time can only heal, no words could ease what we truly feel but with God, her joy is eternally sealed, and cherish her memories that death can't even steal

Condolences



**Mduduzi Fannie
Dlamini**

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Mduduzi Fannie Dlamini kutsi sosishiyile emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhabo babe wakhe eNhlango nebakhabo make ku Mambane eLucaceni. KutawubaneMlindzelo ekhaya lakhe eBuka mhlaka 18 enyangeni lesetulu, aphiwe ngelisonfo mhlaka 19 Kiyo inyanga lesetulu. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni wakhe.



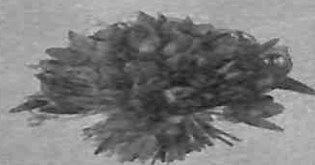
**Nomsa Annie Ngwenya
(Shongwe)**

Relatives and friends of Nomsa Annie Ngwenya (Shongwe) are notified of her demise. There will be a memorial service on Friday 17/01/2020 2pm at Good Shepherd Siteki. Funeral will be on Saturday 18/01/2020 at her home after a night vigil at Siteki (Ntamakuphila). Announcement by Ngwenya family.

RN173618 DX17/01/2020

Our Deepest Condolences

Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God. Certainly Heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached his true home.



JOB 13:15

**Though He
slay me,
yet will I hope
in him;
I will surely
defend my ways to
his face.**

The LORD is close to the broken-hearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

It's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength

ESTATE LATE: RICHARD V NTSHANGASE ESTATE NO. EL 43/2019

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch first floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21)** days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

**THOMO VUSI
P. O. BOX 2427
MBABANE**

R/N 173621 Dx 16 JAN 2020

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Ben Stokes named World Player of the Year

JOHANNESBURG - Ben Stokes was named ICC Player of the Year yesterday after a red-hot 12 months during which the all-rounder helped England to a maiden 50-overs Cricket World Cup crown.

Stokes smashed an unbeaten 84 in a heart-stopping World Cup final against New Zealand at Lord's, which ended in a tie before hosts England claimed the title on boundary count back.

The 28-year-old also hit 135 not out to secure an astonishing victory for England in the third Ashes test against Australia at Headingley.

"The last 12 months have been the best in my career, and I believe what we attained will be the catalyst to achieve further success over the next few years," Stokes said in a statement issued by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Australia quick Pat Cummins pipped, among others, compatriots Steve Smith and Marnus

...Pat Cummins takes Test honours



Labuschagne to the Test Player of the Year award.

"It's a tremendous honour to be considered the best player of last

year and one which was certainly unexpected," said Cummins, who finished the year as the top-ranked test bowler.

India opener Rohit Sharma was awarded ODI Player of the Year after smashing seven centuries, five of them in the World Cup, in the calendar year. Compatriot Deepak Chahar's six wickets for seven runs in a 20-overs match against Bangladesh, the best bowling figures in that format, was adjudged the T20I Performance of the Year.

Labuschagne won the Emerging Player award while Richard Illingworth received the David Shepherd Trophy for Umpire of the Year. India captain Virat Kohli, who swept the Player, Test and ODI Player of the Year awards for 2018, was named captain of both the ICC test and one-day teams of the year. The 31-year-old also won the 'Spirit of Cricket' award for urging the Oval crowd to stop booing Australian Smith, who was returning from a ball-tampering ban, during a World Cup match. *Times Live*

Bayern Munich extend Audi sponsorship deal

BERLIN - Bayern Munich have extended their sponsorship deal with automotive manufacturer Audi until 2029, the German champions announced on Tuesday.

According to German tabloid Bild, Audi, who have sponsored the Bavarian giants since 2002 and have been shareholders since 2011, will pay Bayern €60 million a season instead of the current €40 million.

The duo's previous contract ran until 2025.

"For Bayern, this agreement is an important step for the coming years," said club President Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. Last season Bayern generated €660 million of revenue according to consulting firm Deloitte, which ranks the five-time European champions fourth in its Money League behind Barcelona, Real Madrid and Manchester United.

In June, Bayern sued BMW for between 10-20 million euros following the failure of a sponsorship deal between the club and automobile giant, which reportedly demanded that their contract with rival Audi be broken before any deal between the parties be done. *AFP*



Lukaku double sends Inter into cup quarters

Milan - Romelu Lukaku scored after just 21 seconds as he bagged a brace in a 4-1 thumping of Cagliari that fired Inter Milan into the last eight of the Italian Cup, while Lazio and Napoli are set for a quarter-final clash after easing past second-tier opposition.

Belgian Lukaku has looked a player reborn since moving to Italy and his double took his hot streak to six goals in his last four appearances in all competitions, with his Serie A tally standing at 14 in 19 games.

"Inter was the best choice for me, here I can grow as a player and help the club go after its goals," Lukaku told broadcaster RAI. "I give everything for the team and that's how I play - that's what the fans like."

The 26-year-old lashed home his opener with the match barely underway and then, after Borja Valero had made it 2-0 in the 22 minute, headed home his side's third from Nicolo Barella's corner just three minutes after the break as

Antonio Conte's side ran riot at the San Siro. Their were nerves among the home fans when Christian Oliva pulled one back for the Sardinians in the 73rd minute with a fierce drive, but Andrea Ranocchia headed in Cristiano Biraghi's corner to seal the win. The victory helped Inter bounce back after letting Juventus take top spot in Serie A with a 1-1 home draw with Atalanta at the weekend, and the return of Alexis Sanchez after an injury lay-off will also boost coach Conte.

Inter will face either Atalanta or Fiorentina, who faced off yesterday afternoon, in the next round.

They will be joined in the quarters by Lazio and Napoli, who both cruised through with comfortable wins over second-tier sides Cremonese and Perugia to set up a mouth-watering last eight tie with each other.

Holders Lazio, who are on a club-record run of 10 straight wins in Serie A and well in the title discussion, made short work of Cremonese in their easy 4-0 victory in Rome. *AFP*

Stormers to mix and match but Kolisi to lead

JOHANNESBURG - The challenge of needing to field two decent teams in two separate matches three days apart means that DHL Stormers coach John Dobson will be mixing and matching his selections this weekend but Siya Kolisi will definitely be leading the side that plays on Super Hero Sunday.

The Stormers are due to meet the Isuzu Southern Kings in one warm-up match at Loerie Park in Knysna tomorrow night before travelling to Johannesburg for the FNB Stadium clash with the Cell C Sharks in the early match of Super Hero Day. The Springbok World Cup winning captain will lead the side in Soweto, but some of his teammates from the triumph in Japan will be playing in tomorrow's night's match instead.

"Siya will definitely lead the team in Marvel day, but someone like Frans Malherbe, who is not known as a champion of high speed rugby on the highveld, who let's put it this way is definitely not a gazelle, may be better suited to the Knysna game," said Dobson.

"I have to take a responsible approach. I gave the Boks quite a bit of time off after the World Cup. Siya asked to fall in early, so he is ready for a high speed game at 1pm in January on the highveld. With someone like Frans, and some of the other players in our squad, there would be an element of risk in playing them in a fast speed game."

supersport.com



It was the right time to change coach - Barca president

BARCELONA - Ernesto Valverde was sacked as coach even though Barcelona are on top of La Liga because the team needed an injection of momentum, President Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Tuesday at the presentation of new coach

Quique Setien.

Former Real Betis coach Setien has signed a contract until June 2022 after Valverde was sacked on Monday despite winning back-to-back league titles and the 2018 Copa del Rey. "We made a change now because we are halfway

through the season and we needed some new momentum to face the final stretch of the season as we always have very big objectives," Bartomeu said. "Even though the results were very good we knew that there was room for improvement in the team's play and we spoke

to Valverde about this and in the last few days we had told him that the team needed to improve." Barcelona romped to the league title in Valverde's first two seasons, finishing way ahead of nearest challengers Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid. But the coach's reputation was severely damaged by twin shock eliminations from the Champions League to AS Roma and Liverpool.

The team's performances have declined this season and even though the Catalans are top of the table on goal difference, the board lost faith in Valverde after last week's defeat to Atletico Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup. Bartomeu dismissed suggestions that the decision to sack Valverde was made hastily and with no clear successor.

Reuters



MAN UTD SCRAP MIDDLE EAST TRAINING CAMP

MANCHESTER - Manchester United have opted not to fly to the Middle East for a mid-season break amid security concerns.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer fancied putting his side through some warm-weather conditioning.

But with Iran and the USA still at loggerheads, the Norwegian chief didn't want World War Three to be the backdrop for his training camp.

"We were looking at the Middle East, but that is definitely not going to happen," said Solskjaer.

"If there's one thing that worries me, it's not on the football pitch - there are other things that will worry me more than football.

"I'm going to give them a few days off. I don't know where they will all scatter around, but we will stay in

Europe.

"This mid-season break will be very important for everyone and we have five or six games until then.

"We're just going to stick at it, hang in there until then, get the performances and results we hope we're going to get, then get some vitamin D and get ready for the last three months."

United are no strangers to training in Middle East.

They've previously enjoyed trips to Dubai and Qatar.

However, following the USA airstrike that killed Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani, tensions in the region have escalated.

Bigwigs at Old Trafford will now consider an alternative destination for the team.

United secured a comfortable 4-0

win over Norwich on Saturday to ease the mounting pressure on Solskjaer.

After the game, the former striker was in a buoyant mood.

"Very happy," he said. "We started on the front foot.

"When you can walk off, and I am sure the opposition are talking about Manchester United as a very hard working team, that is what I want from my team.

"In any Premier League game you have to take advantage of the pressure and domination you get. Second half was very good.

"We reacted today, we can bounce back and we are taking more than two or three steps forward before one back, because behind the scenes we know we are doing good work."

Daily Star

Spurs sign Portugal's Gedson Fernandes with option to buy

LONDON - Portugal midfielder Gedson Fernandes became the first signing of the Jose Mourinho era at Tottenham yesterday as the manager bids to revive the club's Premier League campaign.

The 21-year-old signed an 18-month loan deal with an option to make the transfer permanent for a reported €56 million.

Fernandes will provide vital cover in the midfield following a three-month lay-off for Moussa Sissoko, who has had knee surgery.

"We are delighted to announce that we have reached an agreement for the 18-month loan of Gedson Fernandes from Benfica with an option to make the transfer permanent," said a club statement. Fernandes, capped twice at senior level, told Spurs TV he was looking forward to working with compatriot Mourinho.

"All young players want to work with Jose Mourinho because he's one of the best.

All of us as players want to stay near the best, so it's fantastic to work with him.

"I have no words

to say about the stadium because it is fantastic," he added. "I have never been or seen anything like this. It is unbelievable."

Fernandes was offered to Spurs by Mourinho's friend and super agent Jorge Mendes and they beat off competition from West Ham, who were keen to bring him to London.

The potential reported fee would mark a huge mark-up from the €250 and 25 footballs Benfica reportedly gave to Fernandes' club, Frelas, when he was 10.

Mourinho will be hoping that more arrivals may follow, particularly a striker following Harry Kane's potentially season-ending hamstring injury, with the club eighth in the Premier League, nine points behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

The club are understood to be interested in AC Milan's Krzysztof Piatek while Christian Benteke, Edison Cavani and even former striker Fernando Llorente have been linked.

There could also be departures at Spurs this month,

with Kyle Walker-Peters hoping to join

Crystal Palace on loan while the club are trying to offload

Christian Eriksen in order to get a fee for him.



AFP

Eriksen can leave with his head held high, says Jose Mourinho

LONDON - Tottenham Manager Jose Mourinho says midfielder Christian Eriksen can leave the club with pride amid reports that he is on his way to Inter Milan.

The Denmark international's Spurs career is definitely coming to an end, it is just a case of whether it will be this month or in the summer.

Reports in Italy suggest Eriksen has agreed a deal with the Serie A side, which could mean his outing in the 2-1 FA Cup win over Middlesbrough could be his farewell appearance.

Despite almost seven years of brilliant service to Spurs, where he was

at the forefront of the team which has been at the top of the English game for the last few years, his relationship with the fans has turned sour.

He was booed off against Liverpool at the weekend and again was jeered before kick-off in the third-round replay over Boro, where goals from Giovanni Lo Celso and Erik Lamela set up a fourth-round meeting with Southampton.

Mourinho says that Eriksen should be proud of his stint in north London.

"He played very well. Played very well, very professional which is what I expect from him," Mourinho said of his display against Boro.

"If his decision is to leave, I think he has to leave with his head up if he gives everything which is what he tries to do for the team.

"Fans, it's always to respect, we have to respect but I think the boy did it for us today."

TeamTalk Media



KENNY EYEING LONG-TERM FUTURE AT SCHALKE

LONDON - Everton defender Jonjo Kenny is relishing his time on loan at Schalke and could be eyeing a permanent move to the Bundesliga side.

The 22-year-old penned a season-long loan with the Bundesliga outfit last summer and has enjoyed 17 German top-flight starts for Die Königsblauen and 19 appearances in all competitions.

Having signed professional terms with the Toffees in 2014, the former England Under-21 right-back had loan spells with Wigan Athletic and Oxford United while making his Premier League debut

for Everton in May 2016.

Unable to secure regular first-team action with the Goodison Park club, Kenny opted for another stint away and has blossomed in Gelsenkirchen under the guidance of former Huddersfield Town boss David Wagner.

Schalke have made it clear that they want Kenny to stay beyond the summer but there is no clause in his contract that states Everton are obliged to sell him to the German club.

It seems as though there may be some intense negotiations ahead and, speak-

ing to Kicker, the Merseyside-born ace has made it clear that he has no intention of spending his time on the Everton bench. "It was extremely good for me to come here. He believed in me even though I hadn't played that many games before," he said.

"We're only in January now; there are still a lot of games to be played. I am not concentrating on what lies in the future; I just want to do my job well here. I don't want to be a bench player; I want to play."

TeamTalk Media

Greenwood needs time before England call-up - Solskjaer

MANCHESTER - Manchester United's young forward Mason Greenwood has all the qualities to have a successful career but he needs to be given time to flourish after making his breakthrough in the senior team this season, Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Tuesday.

Greenwood, 18, has scored nine goals for United in all competitions this season and he is the club's leading goal scorer in the Europa League with four goals. His eye-catching performances have led to calls for him to be handed his senior England debut and included

in the squad for the Euros but Solskjaer said the youngster first needs to focus on improving himself. "I think Mason will have a top and long career," Solskjaer told reporters ahead of yesterday's FA Cup third round replay with Wolverhampton Wanderers. "Let the boy settle in now first before we talk about England and the Euros. His focus has to be on playing more for us, improving. When he plays more for us that'll happen by itself. He's just been picked for the Under-21s so he's focusing on his football."

Despite losing two strikers - Romelu

Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez - to Inter Milan in the off season, Greenwood, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial have stepped up to deliver but Solskjaer refused to accept praise for their performances. Rashford, who made his 200th appearance for United over the weekend, already has 22 goals for club and country this season while Martial has scored 11 goals in all competitions.

"I don't want credit, they're working hard to improve their game, all done well," Solskjaer added. "Mason's in his first season, so to have nine goals in not 20 appearances is fantastic. *Daily Mail*

MOTAUNG REFLECTS ON GORDINHO DECISION

JOHANNESBURG - Bobby Motaung says it was not an easy decision to allow defender Lorenzo Gordinho to leave Kaizer Chiefs after 10 years at the club.

Gordinho has joined Bidvest Wits on a two-and-a-half year deal, bringing to an end a 10-year association with the Glamour Boys. The 25-year-old played 70 times for Chiefs in that period and was first-choice centre-back the last time the Amakhosi won major trophies - the Absa Premiership under and MTN 8 under Stuart Baxter in 2014/2015. And Motaung admits it was not

easy to see one of their most loyal players of the last decade exit the club. "Lorenzo leaving us is a touchy one, especially as he has been for almost 10 years with us, starting at our youth development. His challenge, however, was getting game-time," Motaung told the club's official website. "We also didn't want to block his career, as he got an opportunity to join another top club. We thank Lorenzo for his service to Kaizer Chiefs in all those years." Chiefs next face a trip to Black Leopards in an Absa Premiership clash on Saturday. Kick-off is at 15:30.

TeamTalk Media

Is it the end of Chiefs' Katsande era?

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs legend Patrick Mabedi has shared his thoughts on Willard Katsande's uncertain future as the veteran midfielder celebrates his 34th birthday.

The Zimbabwean hardman, is in his ninth season at Naturena since joining the club from Ajax Cape Town in 2011.

He is also one of the players whose contracts are coming to an end in June this year, meaning he is now able to sign a pre-contract with any other team.

Chiefs legend and former assistant coach Patrick Mabedi believes it would be foolish of the club to get rid of Katsande as he is still able to do the job on the field. "You mean Kitoko? I call him Kitoko, which is his area there in Zimbabwe. Look,

my opinion as a coach, as a player, as a supporter, as an athlete... I mean he has been the backbone of that team, he has done well," Mabedi tells KickOff.com.

"People must consider the contribution that he does. I mean to me he's the type of player that's got some years left, he's just born energetic. So my opinion of Katsande is it's not right to write him off, he's evergreen. That's what I can say about Kitoko. "You must remember, football is all about how you look after yourself as an individual and how you manage yourself. We make a mistake here in Africa by sometimes judging players by age.

"We just need to manage their training methodology. The way we manage them is very important because you can't expect Katsande to train the same way that you train an under-20 player. So the volume must be different." *KickOff*

DA GAMA DEFENDS CHIEFS TITLE STANCE

JOHANNESBURG - Highlands Park head coach Owen Da Gama has opened up about the backlash for his comments about Kaizer Chiefs as well as the rumour that he resigned.

After the club went on record to refute reports of the coach's exit, Da Gama says the whole thing was just a smear campaign.

"There's no such a thing [that I resigned], I don't know where it started or where it comes from, I think it's just a malicious rumour," Da Gama tells KickOff.com.

"No man it's just people [making up rumours]. It's just malicious. There is no such thing my man, I mean we've done so well hey. Please man.

"Just two bad results, come on, and we've got a lot of injuries. So I think it's just malicious, I mean I've done better than teams that are 20 years in this league.

"No no no, this is malicious. In the NFD we

broke six records. Last year we broke records straight into the top eight. This year we broke records straight to a final. Come on, please man [laughs]. It's just a malicious rumour by somebody, very malicious.

"The coach is still here for a very long time [laughs]. It's going to take me three, four years to build a very good team. And we are on that journey. It's not a destiny, it's a journey. It's not two matches, it's a journey.

"Last year Chiefs had four senior players out and they couldn't even make the top eight. I've got seven players out. Please man."

Asked about the fallout over his comments that he would prefer Chiefs to win the league this season and whether he regrets it, 'Rubber Doll' was unmoved.

"No no no! You know what, I think it was misunderstood. I said as a South African, and as a son of the soil, it's refreshing if Chiefs could win the league you know," he explains.

Only two clubs can still win PSL treble

PRETORIA - SuperSport United coach Kaitano Tembo believes that they can win a treble this season despite the current form of league leaders Kaizer Chiefs.

Matsantsa are in third position, 10 points behind Amakhosi, and have already won the MTN8. Last week in the Nedbank Cup they were drawn against neighbours Mamelodi Sundowns in the last 32, and Tembo remains confident they can beat Pitso Mosimane's side again in another cup competition.

Speaking after their 2-0 victory over AmaZulu on Sunday, Tembo said they must take things one game at a time to make it possible to win a treble. "It is one game at a time for us because the gap is big. We should try to focus on pick-

ing up points and be consistent," he said.

"We need to notch up wins and see if that gets us closer. It is very important for us to take one game at a time. Look, it is football and anything is possible. I think I should give credit to the players for coming out and dishing up [top] performances. This [AmaZulu win] was our third game in like eight days. It shows that we are in a good condition physically and mentally. We have to keep on going. We have a little bit of a break now because we are only playing on Sunday. That will give us more time."

Tembo then reacted to being drawn against Masandawana, a team they knocked out in the MTN8 semifinals on the way to winning their first trophy this season.

"I think it's Chiefs, Pirates, Sundowns, SuperSport... any one of them can win it still. But it's got nothing to do with a backlash or anything, it was just an opinion. I just believed that it will be good for soccer if Chiefs win the league you know.

"But Sundowns can still win it, SuperSport, Pirates I believe are still in the race as well. So anybody can win, I just meant that for the change you know... my opinion is my opinion as a South African, I was not speaking as a coach.

"I was speaking as a South African you know, as a football-loving person who has watched Chiefs for many years, and it's their birthday.

"I just thought it would be fitting, and I always said if Chiefs, Pirates, Sundowns do well it augurs well for Bafana Bafana. It augurs well for the league."

KickOff



a very good team, but we also have a good team that on the day can play and beat anyone," he warned. "For now we have to focus on our recovery. I could see a lot of tired legs out there from a few players who were coming back from injury. We had to take out Evans Rusike." *KickOff*



New coach summoned to first PSL DC

JOHANNESBURG - Cape Town City coach Jan Olde Riekerink has landed himself in hot water with the Premier Soccer League and is set to face disciplinary action for the first time since his arrival.

Riekerink has been working in the PSL for just over two months now but has already overstepped the line as he faces a sanction after being summoned to the Disciplinary Committee.

City have had their fair share of run-ins with the league's prosecutor this season, having had former coach Benni

McCarthy and midfielder Mpho Makola appear on the hitlist of Nande Becker.

This time, the Dutch coach contravened the NSL Compliance

Manual after he failed to attend to his post-match commitments after their 1-0 victory over Baroka earlier this month. "The Premier Soccer League has charged Cape Town City coach Mr Jan Olde Riekerink with contravening the NSL Compliance Manual (Media Manual) and not honouring his post-match media commitments," read a statement from the League on Wednesday.

He is now expected to appear in front of the PSL DC next Wednesday, to state his case and face possible sanctioning.



'No panic at the Park'

JOHANNESBURG - No panic at the Park.

This is the message from Highlands Park chairperson Brad Kafel after the 'Lions of the North' suffered disconcerting 3-0 and 4-1 defeats against Kaizer Chiefs and Stellenbosch FC respectively in their last two Absa Premiership fixtures.

In the process, Highlands have slipped from a burgeoning fifth position on the Absa Premiership log to barely holding on to a place in the significant top eight positions as they prepare to face Orlando Pirates at Orlando Stadium on Saturday.

"There were distinctive, unusual factors for the defeats against Chiefs and Stellenbosch after we had gained six points from our two previous matches," said the Highlands boss.

"In the first instance Chiefs were celebrating the club's 50th anniversary and this, no doubt, inspired them in front of a vociferous home crowd of 50 000, while our players appeared over-awed by the occasion.

"The home game against Stellenbosch, in which we had 80 percent possession, was in direct contrast in which we hit the woodwork three times, squandered countless opportunities and ended losing via breakaway goals." Kafel also pointed to the fact that "Highlands were currently suffering from injuries to several key players" - but he insisted that there was nothing basically wrong at the club that once dominated South African soccer with its feats in the old National Football League and only made a comeback to the country's major soccer echelon three seasons ago.

KickOff

Kerber suffers Australian Open injury setback

ADELAIDE - Angelique Kerber's preparations for the opening Grand Slam of the year were dealt a blow yesterday when she was forced to retire from the Adelaide International with back pain.

The German former world number one, who won the Australian Open in 2016, pulled out when behind 6-3, 2-0 in her second-round

clash with Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska.

The ninth seed began showing serious signs of the back problem early in the second set then stopped after two points in the third game on her own serve, calling for the trainer.

A medical evaluation on court ended with the 31-year-old world

number 18 calling it quits against her teenaged opponent.

Yastremska kept calm during the delay, reading what she called 'secret' notes.

"I didn't want to lose focus," said the world number 24, who has won three titles over the past two seasons. Men's second seed Felix Auger-Aliassime converted on the first of

six match points, firing a service winner to complete a 6-3, 7-6 (7/0) defeat of Australian James Duckworth.

The 19-year-old Canadian set up a quarter-final against a second straight Aussie wild card, local Alex Bolt, who defeated German seventh seed Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-4. "He pushed me to bring good shots when I needed them," Auger-Aliassime said of Duckworth.

"He had chances in the second set, but I got myself to the tie-breaker

-- from there I played fantastic tennis."

Women's top seed Ashleigh Barty got a today's opponent as Marketa Vondrousova hammered Australia's Arina Rodionova 6-0, 6-0 in 52 minutes.

Second seed Simona Halep will take on Aryna Sabalenka after the Belarussian booked her spot 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 over US qualifier Bernarda Pera.

AFP

VELDWIJK MOVES TO SOUTH KOREA

SEOUL - Lars Veldwijk has completed his move from Eredivisie side Sparta Rotterdam to Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

The Bafana Bafana striker has agreed to sign a two-year contract with the South Korean K-League champions.

Jeonbuk confirmed Veldwijk's signing on their official website. "Despite his tall stature, he has good body balance and speed, so he can play inside the box and breakthrough from the wings," read the club the statement.

"In particular, he is expected to be in charge of scoring the team at the forefront with Lee Dong-Guk because of his excellent goal conversion rate." Veldwijk has expressed his delight at joining the K-League champions.

"It's a great honour to be able to do the first challenge of the K-League stage with the best team in Asia," said Veldwijk.

Veldwijk scored four goals in 15 league appearances for Rotterdam this season.

Citizen



Jordaan threatens to boycott CAF executive meeting

JOHANNESBURG - South African Football Association (SAFA) President Danny Jordaan says he will not attend an upcoming Confederation of African Football Executive meeting, if it is held in disputed territory, the Western Sahara.

SAFA announced yesterday that they had already withdrawn their futsal team from the 2020 Futsal Africa Cup of Nations, because hosts Morocco are playing the tournament in Laayoune, the capital of the Western Sahara.

Clearly

The South African government has come out in support of independence for Western Sahara, currently under the administrative rule of Morocco, and are clearly behind the decision to withdraw from the Futsal Afcon, and behind Jordaan's potential decision to miss the Caf meeting.

"I phoned yesterday to confirm where exactly the CAF meeting will be, because as vice-president (of CAF) I am supposed to attend ... I am awaiting confirmation," said Jordaan.

Citizen

Messi makes huge Ronaldo claim

BARCELONA - FC Barcelona captain Lionel Messi believes the rivalry between himself and Cristiano Ronaldo will 'remain forever'.

Messi and Ronaldo are widely considered as two of the greatest footballers who ever played the game and have set the benchmark for serial goalscorers this generation. The Barcelona captain recently moved ahead of Ronaldo with a record sixth Ballon d'Or title after another incredible season in which his side lifted the LaLiga title.

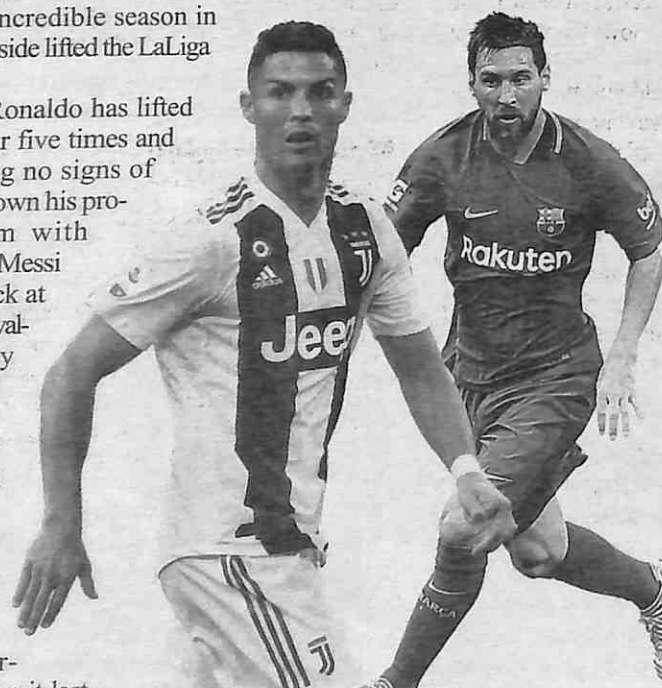
While Ronaldo has lifted the honour five times and is showing no signs of slowing down his prolific form with Juventus - Messi looked back at the iconic rivalry they shared when he starred for Real Madrid.

"It was a special duel, and it will remain forever because it lasted many years and it

is not easy to maintain certain levels for a long time," Messi told DAZN.

"Plus, the teams we played in were also very demanding, both Real Madrid and Barca, the two best in the world

"Competing on an equal footing for so many years, I think it will remain forever. The sporting duel between us was very nice on a personal level." AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

I didn't know Ernst Middendorp - Zinnbauer

JOHANNESBURG - "Before I came here I didn't know Ernst, but now I know him. I knew the name, but didn't have contact until now," he says.

Orlando Pirates coach Josef Zinnbauer might come from the same country as Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp in Germany, but the Bucs mentor reveals that he had no idea who the Chiefs coach was until he

came to South Africa.

Zinnbauer, who was revealed as the Bucs new coach last year in December is coaching in South Africa for the first time, while Middendorp has been in the country for a while having had spells with the likes of Maritzburg United, Bloemfontein Celtic, Chippa United and Golden Arrows.

"Before I came here I didn't know Ernst, but now I know him. I knew

the name, but didn't have contact until now," said the German-born coach.

Zinnbauer has only been in charge of Pirates for the last three games, but has enjoyed a decent start having registered two wins and one draw.

His countryman Middendorp has been having quite a good time with Amakhosi this season as they lead the Absa Premiership log with 41 points. Citizen

Federer, Nadal lead stars swinging racquets for bushfire relief

MELBOURNE - Tennis superstars Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal jointly donated A\$250,000 (R2.5 million) for Australian bushfire relief at a charity fundraiser in smoggy Melbourne yesterday.

The two tennis legends, with 39 Grand Slam singles titles between them, were at the Rod Laver Arena in a bid to swell the vast sums already donated to help victims of the devastating disaster.

They were joined by a who's who of the tennis world, including Serena Williams, Caroline Wozniacki, Novak Djokovic, Naomi Osaka, Petra Kvitova, Dominic Thiem, Coco Gauff, Nick Kyrgios, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander Zverev.

"Twenty years this has been my home and I've had so many great matches on this court and in this country," said



Williams, whose young daughter Alexis Olympia was thrilled to meet some firefighters this week.

"And that's we're all here tonight to support and help out." Tennis Australia

said it expected the 'Rally for Relief' to raise "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to add to the more than A\$2.8 million already stumped up by the global tennis community. AFP

TRANSFER CENTRE

DEALS EXPECTED BEFORE THE DEADLINE

LONDON - Time is running out for clubs to get their business done in January as we pass the halfway stage of the transfer window.

There have been very few marquee transfers done, setting up a potentially explosive few weeks as clubs look to strengthen their squads for the final few months of the season.

Here, Sportsmail analyses 10 potential deals that could be done between now and when the window slams shut on January 31.

Christian Eriksen's possible departure for Spurs is one of the deals to be sorted out this month.

- We are halfway through the January window with plenty of deals still to be done
- Some of Europe's hottest talents are in the process of completing transfers
- Will Bruno Fernandes join Manchester United? Where will Christian Eriksen go?

Christian Benteke (Crystal Palace to Tottenham/Aston Villa)

It seems odd that Benteke has any suitors, given his form of late for Crystal Palace, but such is the desperation for Spurs and Aston Villa to sign a striker that he may prove to be a useless stop-gap.

The Eagles are looking to send their record signing out on loan in an attempt to restart the former Liverpool striker's stuttering career. Earlier this month, the Eagles signed Everton's Cenk Tosun on loan for the rest of the season and Benteke could be the man to fill in for Spurs and Villa, amid their injury crises until the end of the season. Crystal Palace's Christian Benteke is an option for Spurs to replace the injured Harry Kane.

Hwang Hee-chan (Red Bull Salzburg to Leicester/Wolves/Brighton)

If Hwang were to leave Red Bull Salzburg then the Austrian side's forward line would have been completely decimated this month. First Takumi Minamino left for Liverpool before Erling Haaland jumped ship to go to Borussia Dortmund.

Surely they can't be tempted to let their third talisman leave before the end of the season? A host of Premier League clubs are hoping they can as they prepare to battle for Hwang's signature in the coming weeks.

Leicester are keen to provide competition for Jamie Vardy, as are Wolves with Raul Jimenez, while Brighton are desperate for a player who can put the ball in the back of the net.

Hwang Hee-chan's exit from Red Bull Salzburg would be another blow to the Austrian side.

Adrien Tameze (Nice to Sheffield United/Burnley/Southampton)

The Nice star is wanted by three Premier League clubs as they look to bolster their ranks for the second half of the season.

Tameze, 25, has made 85 appearances for Nice so far but has been deemed surplus to requirements and can leave this month. Cardiff thought they had signed him but their deal collapsed last week.

Sheffield United, Burnley and Southampton are all said to be interested in him and it should be an interesting battle to see who gets a move sorted first.

Nice midfielder Adrien Tameze is wanted



by three Premier League clubs, including Burnley.

Christian Eriksen (Tottenham to Inter Milan/PSG)

Eriksen will leave Tottenham but it is now a case of will they get some money for him this month or will he leave for free this summer? In either case, Inter Milan looks to be his next destination.

It would still be a good move for the Danish international but there is no denying that he looked set for the bright lights of the Bernabeu before his form dipped around 12 months ago.

Real Madrid don't seem to be keen anymore, neither do Manchester United, so a move to Italy is on the cards. Spurs rejected a £10m offer from Inter on Tuesday night and are holding out for a fee of £20m.

PSG are also in the hunt for his signature with the Ligue 1 champions monitoring talks between Eriksen and Inter. They are said to be encouraged by the low numbers surrounding the deal at present.

Bruno Fernandes (Sporting Lisbon to Manchester United)

It seems this transfer is becoming more and more likely to go through as United finally appear to have added some quality to their midfield ranks. Fernandes was linked with a move away from his native Portugal all summer but nothing materialised and he stayed put. United, desperate for an injection of class in the middle of the pitch, have made their move now and look to be close to a £64m deal. It was reported on Tuesday that Andreas Pereira could be part of the deal as negotiations con-

tinue between the two clubs.

Olivier Giroud (Chelsea to Inter Milan)

Along with Eriksen, Olivier Giroud is hopeful of making the move from London to Milan this month. The Frenchman has seen his game time limited at Stamford Bridge due to the emergence of Tammy Abraham and Frank Lampard's preference to select younger players. Giroud is still a capable marksman though and would be a welcome addition to Inter as they chase the Serie A title with Juventus. Olivier Giroud has struggled for minutes at Chelsea this season due to Tammy Abraham's form.

Bruno Guimaraes (Atletico Paranaense to Arsenal)

Mikel Arteta has only been at Arsenal a matter of weeks but already knows there are areas that need improving.

One of those is midfield and the President of Brazilian side Athletico Paranaense, Mario Celso Petraglia, confirmed this week that the Gunners are interested in Bruno Guimaraes - but will have to compete with Benfica for his signature.

Arsenal, unlike Benfica, are yet to lodge a bid for Guimaraes but the north London club could make an offer for the midfielder to ensure they don't lose out on one of South America's brightest prospects.

Krzysztof Piatek (AC Milan to Tottenham/Aston Villa/Newcastle)

Piatek is another striker who could profit from injuries by landing a move to the Premier League this month.

The Pole was the hottest striker on the planet around 12 months ago, scoring goals for fun with Genoa before continuing his fine

form once he had secured a January move to AC Milan. His momentum slowed this season though. Piatek has scored just four goals in 18 appearances and the arrival of Zlatan Ibrahimovic has nudged him further down the pecking order. Spurs are in the race for his signature, while Villa also have firm interest.

Emre Can (Juventus to Tottenham/Chelsea/Arsenal)

Not much has gone right for the German midfielder since he left Liverpool for Juventus in summer 2018 and now it looks like his time in Italy could be nearing an end. Can has found opportunities hard to come by as the Serie A champions added Aaron Ramsey and Adrien Rabiot to their squad over the summer and a return to England has been talked about.

He has been offered to Spurs, Chelsea and Arsenal this month while Manchester United are said to have turned down the chance to recruit him.

Moussa Dembele (Lyon to Chelsea)

Giroud's exit from Stamford Bridge would mean Lampard needs a replacement and somebody to offer competition and support to Abraham. Dembele could be that man.

A number of English clubs have had a long-term interest in the Frenchman and he is known in British football due to his success at youth level with Fulham and then at Celtic. He also shown his quality in the past few seasons with Lyon. Manchester United are also keen on him, while Manchester City watched him in the recent game against Bordeaux, when he scored the winner. It would be difficult to get him out of the club in January, though, with President Jean-Michel Aulas refusing to let him go.

Daily Mail



SHUKUMA



ESWATINI

BY DUMISANI NTIWANE (ESRC Media Officer)



IT'S 2020 AND BEYOND

SHU...Shu...Shukuma Eswatini! Sanibonani, greetings and welcome to yet another edition of your favourite read, Shukuma Eswatini.

Happy New Year to all! This, our first column of the New Year, takes the opportunity to wish everyone a prosperous one.

We are the Eswatini Sport and Recreation Council. We are here to serve the nation.

Nothing pleases us more than to see this nation developing through sport and quality recreational activities.

We noted with great pride last year that the 'Shukuma Gospel' has reached new heights over the last couple of years or so.

Shukuma, for the uninitiated, is the Eswatini Sport and Recreation Council's flagship mass participation programme that encourages mass participation in sport and recreation activities.

We visit the country's Tinkhundla Centres where we deliver the now popular programme to the masses. We have already covered a number of Tinkhundla Centres and this year will be no different, as we seek to cover as much ground as possible.

Lest we forget, Shukuma fulfils an important function in both the social and sporting landscape in the country, our beautiful kingdom.

Most people are aware that even though our programme Shukuma was established primarily as a social development tool, seeking to empower local communities, through the Tinkhundla Centres, its scope has quickly extended to fill a void left by limited sporting and recreation activities, which are available to the broader community.

Of course, this programme also aims at creating participation opportunities in sport/physical activity and recreation for people of all ages and gender groups.

Enough said about Shukuma.

Our national sports associations are kindly reminded that we have since entered the last quarter of the Eswatini Sport and Recreation Council's financial year, which ends in March.

This obviously means they (sports associations) have to meet their obligations.

Our sports associations are therefore requested to furnish our office with the relevant paper work and pending matters as soon as humanly possible.

They also know that it is that time of our annual review meetings with each association. Please note the key documents, which are as follows:

1. (i) Constitution

...our sports associations are reminded and urged to meet their obligations



2. (ii) Strategic Plan
3. (iii) Recognition by IF
4. (iv) Operational Plan
5. (v) AGM Report
6. (vi) WADA code Anti-Doping Policy

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Objective 1 (Sport for All)

To create participation opportunities in sport/physical activity and recreation for people of all ages and gender groups.

Objective 2 (Capacity Development)

To build capacity of the council and its recognised bodies to effectively and efficiently implement sport and recreation programmes.

Objective 3 (Marketing and Communication)

To define and establish brand SNSRC's value proposition in order to strengthen its perceived value amongst both internal (associates) and external (possible funders/sponsors) stakeholders.

Objective 4 (Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation)

To foster institutional sustainability through partnerships and resource mobilisation initiatives.

Objective 5 (Governance and Administration)

To streamline and coordinate all administrative activities of Council through development and utilisation of operational instruments and founding documents.

Objective 6 (High Performance)

To create an environment and programmes that will enhance the development of high level performance by Swati athletes

Objective 7 (International Relations and International Participation)

To maintain alignment of sport practice in Eswatini with international trends, practices and policies to enhance the quality and standard of sport in the country.

Objective 8 (Infrastructure Development)

To create an enabling, supportive and sustainable environment for proper practice of sport and recreation activities in the country.

OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA)
- Government ministries
- Parliament
- Gymnasium
- Municipalities
- Corporate sector
- Parastatals
- Media
- Community
- Development partners
- International organisations
- Non-governmental organisations
- Financial institutions
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Hospitality industry

OUR OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

- Financial and Knowledge Management
- Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Stakeholder Relationships
- Inclusive and Decentralised National Sport and Recreation Facilities
- Sports System and Professionalism
- Marketing and Communication
- Monitoring and evaluation

OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fos-

ter innovation

- Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

WELL DONE ATHLETICS ESWATINI

In the same vein, we are once again forced to shower the Athletics Eswatini executive committee with praise for continuously raising the bar.

They have become the first association to actually draft their calendar of events for the year 2020. That is the way to go.

It is crucial for our association to draft and submit their calendars as soon as possible.

We all recall that last year, the association hosted its graduation ceremony for the technical officials Level 1 Course and Level 1 Coaching Course, which were held at the Catholic Centre between September and November.

Athletics Eswatini requires that coaches and technical officials must go through a minimum one year for practical experience. A total of 26 coaches graduated with Level 1 coaching while 35 technical officials also graduated as National Technical Officials with Level 1 Certificate. A total of 32 coaches and technical officials were also handed attendance certificates.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"In the pursuit of happiness half the world is on the wrong scent. They think it consists in having and getting, and in being served by others. Happiness is really found in giving and serving others."
- Henry Drummond



WELCOME TO THE BULL'S KRAAL



Bhekisisa Dlamini



It's not yet over, we need to stay **focused**

THERE is no better way to wake up in the morning than with a smile on your face.

The one thing we can always count on, it's creating our own happiness in all situations.

Whenever there is a big derby in the country, the nation is divided into two parts.

Whatever happens prior to such a derby game produces so many assumptions about the outcome of the match. After all has been said and the game played, the two divided camps experience different after effects as a result of the match outcome which takes time to be forgotten.

You will all recall *boMagebhula* that we have been faced with off the field challenges as the derby game discussions' heat up. It was obvious that we were away from our comfort zone and I believe this assisted us greatly in being victorious over Swallows.

It has been proven *boMagebhula* that a comfort zone is the most dangerous area anyone can stay in. It is a place of no growth and no challenges.

Trials are an opportunity to test you and a perfect platform for you to rise to the next level.

I am reminded of Abigail Adams who said "It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties" *BoMagebhula*, the manner in which the team's stakeholders handled what was viewed as a serious challenge for the club proofed that Highlanders is an institution.

The way an institution works is that you go along with the prevailing fiction. Personally I have seen great characters being shaped across the team, from the highest to the lowest level of the team structure. My take home here is that bad times have a scientific value and of note, these are occasions that a good learner would not miss.

You will all concur with me that we don't have to run away from a challenge because we are afraid of it. We must run towards it because



the only way to escape fear is to trample it beneath our foot.

BoMagebhula, we need to appreciate that a gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials. To remain indifferent to the challenges we face is indefensible.

If the goal is noble, whether or not it is realised within our lifetime is largely irrelevant.

What we must do, therefore, is to strive and persevere and never give up. In my last week column, we said if we dream it we can do it and really this is becoming a reality for each passing day for me.

BoMagebhula, it is a fact in life that the only way you can ever truly destroy a dream is to have it come true.

PLAYERS AND THE TECHNICAL TEAM

Your hard work and effort have paid off! A success well deserved, an occasion worth celebrating! Congratulations. This win speaks itself about your capabilities and we

always knew you that you have what it takes to be real winners in such crucial games. Last Sunday, we observed that you had the fire in your heart and the determination to get the job done. Please remember that in life you don't always get what you wish for, but you get what you work for.

Welcome home Kenneth- wow what a goal scored by our young star. Kenneth Moloto, we welcome you at Highlanders and we wish you an enjoyable stay inside the Bull's kraal.

BoMagebhula, we need to be thankful to our managing director for bringing us such a quality player and we are looking forward to get yet another excellent additions to strengthen our striking force.

WARNING

The tragedy of life is not found in failure but complacency.

Complacency is the forerunner of mediocrity.

BoMagebhula, please be reminded that; he who is content with what has been done is an obstacle in the path of progress. Complacency will now be the only hurdle standing between us and our potential greatness. Beating Swallows does not mean we have won the cup.

Looking down at any team at this stage should be the last thing for us to do.

Our draw against Madlenya Football Club is a tough one and we cannot allow complacency to take its toll on us.

BoMagebhula the boys need to train like athletes, eat like nutritionists, sleep like babies and win like champions from now on. My experience has taught me that there is nothing which can stop a man who desires to reach the top in sports. Boys; the sky is not the limit but the horizon.

SUPPORTERS CORNER

BoMagebhula I hope you had a happy week following our derby win last Sunday.

Oh what a relief to most of our Swati people following our victory over Swallows. Its not the load that breaks you down but it's the way you carry it.

Our team is an institution and we need to understand that in the journey of life there are challenges to be faced. Even in teams such challenges will always be there for the team's leadership to tackle.

May we kindly request all of you to stop interfering with the management of the team.

Let us stop creating unnecessary problems for our managing director who has been officially given the team to run by the patrons.

If we want (Highlanders) to go back to where we belong, we need to support our leadership in all situations. I wish to encourage all Highlanders people to choose forgiveness rather than division and teamwork over personal ambitions.

BoMagebhula, coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success. For safety of everyone in our games we need to stop coming into the soccer field un-invited at all times. What happened on Sunday after the derby win is not acceptable in sports.

Please do come in your numbers once again to watch our game against Madlenya.

Gwaza Nkunzi



● Leicester City have asked Manchester United about the availability of 24-year-old defender Luke Shaw in case fellow English left-back Ben Chilwell, 23, moves to Chelsea. (Mail)

● Paris St-Germain are ready to rival Inter Milan for Tottenham Hotspur and Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen, 27. (Mirror)

● Spurs are edging closer to a first signing under Jose Mourinho after Benfica's 21-year-old Portugal midfielder Gedson Fernandes completed a medical in London on Monday. (Evening Standard)



● Atletico Madrid Chief Executive Miguel Angel Gil Marin has been in Paris to negotiate a deal with PSG for their Uruguay forward Edinson Cavani, 32. (Marca)

● Arsenal's 28-year-old France striker Alexandre Lacazette is an option for Atletico if they are unable to sign Cavani. (Sky Sports)

● Manchester City have ruled out 25-year-old England centre-back John Stones joining the Gunners this month. (Manchester Evening News)

● City manager Pep Guardiola has no intention of quitting at the end of this season and intends to see out his contract at Etihad Stadium, which runs to 2021. (Telegraph)



● Manchester United would have to pay £5m to sack manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. (Sun)

● Chelsea are unlikely to take up their £40m buy-back option for Bournemouth's Netherlands defender Nathan Ake, 24, and will also not be bidding for the Cherries' 27-year-old England striker Callum Wilson. (Sky Sports)

● France forward Olivier Giroud's potential move to Inter Milan is edging closer nearer, with Chelsea holding out for a fee of about £6m for the 33-year-old. (Star)

● Arsenal have made enquiries about signing Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie, 23, from AC Milan. (Corriere dello Sport, via Metro)

● Meanwhile, Athletico Paranaense president Mario Celso Petraglia has claimed the Gunners are interested in bringing in their Brazil Under-23 midfielder Bruno Guimaraes, 22. (Evening Standard)



● Manchester United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward was seen travelling to France amid rumours the club are targeting Lille's French midfielder Boubakary Soumare, 20. (Star)

LUBOMBO MARATHON UPGRADED

...annual race will see athletes compete up to 42km category

BY COLISILE SACOLO

ATHLETICS - THE TZD Club Athletics has since upgraded the Lubombo race from a half marathon into a full marathon

The newly introduced format of the second annual race will take place next weekend in Siteki where athletes will battle it out in the 42km for the first time in the history of the race.

The new editions were announced by the club's Public Relations Officer, Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini, who said the main aim of the event is to improve the standard of the sport within the SADC region.

This was revealed by TZD Sports Club Public Relation Officer (PRO)



Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini during an interview with this publi-

cation. "We are going to host this year's

event next weekend in Siteki where local and international athletes will be competing in several categories in the 5km 10km, 21km and the newly introduced 42km.

"As a club we are focusing on the SADC regions and the registration is open to everyone and the registration fee is E100 for all events starting from 6am. Tickets are sold at Fitness Zone (Manzini), Siteki Hotel and Mr Matata (Moneni, Matata, Pongola, Vryheid). We have also lined up the track events which includes (100m, 200m, 400m and relays to accommodate short distance athletes," he said.

Dlamini further stated that the first 500 runners would receive goodie bags as a reward for attending the race.

CBE aerobathon next weekend

BY COLISILE SACOLO

AEROBICS - THE Central Bank of Eswatini will next weekend host its aerobathon session at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday.

This was revealed by the organisation's Sports Secretary, Temhlanga Ginindza, who said the event would start at 8.30am.

This year's event is held under the theme of 'tivocavoc' and it's returning the first time in three years after hosting for the last edition in 2017.

"We will be having an aerobathon event and urge members of the public to attend the session aimed at ensuring a healthy lifestyle for the nation.

Registration fee for the event is E200 which covers the registration fee of E100, lunch, branded T-shirt and a team challenge," Ginindza explained.

"People can also register for E100 but they will not get the lunch and a branded T-Shirt," she said.

Ginindza further stated that people will be exercising in groups towards the end of the session.

"We are going to have the exciting group session towards the end of the event and we call upon people to form groups in order to stand a chance of winning the best team award. This award is for the team with most participants," she said. The first two CBE aerabathon editions were first held in 2016 and 2017.



Flag faces Siziba in Floating Trophy Challenge

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

POOL- SPARKS are set to fly in the Singles Floating Trophy Challenge when Flag Nxumalo takes on Zwelli 'Siziba' Dlamini.

The match is scheduled for Sunday at Mbabane Express Car Wash at 6pm.

The on-form 'Siziba' will be oozing with confidence following his victory over veteran player Sikhatsi Dlamini last weekend at the same venue.

The champion of the invitational tournament will take home E1 000 plus a trophy.

Mbabane Express Car Wash Coordinator Sicelo Mndzebele confirmed the match and urged pool lovers to come in their numbers.

"We are expecting fireworks from both players since they are the best pool players in the country," he said.

Meanwhile, in the Double Trophy Challenge, the pair of Flag Nxumalo and Eddie Mkhonta will face Dodge Matsebula and Siyabonga Dlamini where a E2 000 first prize is at stake.

Qiniso wins back-to-back Nomads Junior Competitions

By Jongile Xuba

GOLF - Qiniso Mkhonta won another Nomads Juniors Golf League A Division competition, making it his second in a row during the tournament played at Royal Swazi Spa Golf course on Monday.

There was a field of 26 golfers on the day and the young golfer, who is currently on a hot streak, made it back to back wins topping the division with a score of 85.

He was followed by Mfundo Nxumalo in second also on 85 as Phayo Dlamini rounded up the top three finishers with a score of 86.

In the B Division Neo Thorne finished in first place with 26 points followed by Naye Mkhaphi on 25 points. Sinethemba Mhlanga rounded the top three finishing with 20 points.

The girls division had Nomkhosi Dlamini place first with eight points followed by Kaylah Zwane on four points with Slungelele Dlamini placing third on two points.

Eswatini Nomads Development Coach Meshack Zwane congratulated the golfers for playing well in their last competition before school's open.

"Today we played Royal Swazi Spa and it was our last tournament before the first school term. Let's congratulate Qiniso Mkhonta for winning today's tournament after beating Mfundo Nxumalo in a sudden death playoff. Qiniso is currently on a hot streak after winning the Mbabane tournament," he said.

He also thanked all the parents and sponsors for making the competition possible.

"We thank all our sponsors, Eswatini FNB, Eswatini Nomads Golf Club, and Eswatini Royal Sugar Corporation and AD enterprises for making pos-



CONGRATS: Eswatini Nomads development coach Meshack Zwane.

Nomads Junior Golf League results

A Division

1. Qiniso Mkhonta 85
2. Mfundo Nxumalo 85
3. Phayo Dlamini 86
4. Melizwe Mkhize 92
5. Sibusiso Maphalala 92
6. Siphesihle Mhlanga 96
7. Sinabo Maphalala 101
8. Banele Shongwe 115

B Division

1. Neo Thorne 26 points
2. Naye Mkhaphi 25 points
3. Sinethemba Mhlanga 20 points
4. Joshua Potgieter 20 points
5. Sisekelo Masuku 20 points
6. Asande Chuma 18 points
7. Mongezi Ntombini 17 points
8. Tinaye Bukutu 15 points
9. Mongi Masuku 9 points
10. Asande Dlodlu 8 points

Girls Division

1. Nomkhosi Dlamini 8 points
2. Kaylah Zwane 4 points
3. Slungelele Dlamini 2 points

9 Hole Competition Boys

1. Penile Sifundza 11 points
2. Bandzile Nhleko 6
3. Panashe Bukutu 4
4. Darren Neil 4
- Daligcebo Nkambule 3

sible for our juniors to compete. We also thank the parents for their continuous support," he said.

Gomez for Malanti Chiefs return

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - Struggling Malanti Chiefs are set to sign former Green Mamba and Mbabane Swallows striker Gomez Gondwe before the registration deadline.

Gondwe had a brief stint at Green Mamba where he helped the Correctional Services side clinch the 2018/19 MTN Premier League title.

Malanti Chiefs Manager Mandla Maduna confirmed that the player would arrive in the country today to join the team.

"It's true that Gomez will join us. In fact, we are expecting him tomorrow (today). We are also working around the clock to sign local players in order to beef up our squad since we are not in a good position in the log standings," he said.

Maduna further stated that they would now shift their focus to the MTN Premier League following their



BACK: Gomez Gondwe.

exit in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup over the weekend.

Arrived

Gondwe first arrived in the country at the beginning of the 2014/15 season where he established a name for himself at Malanti Chiefs. He later played for Mbabane Swallows and

Green Mamba.

The gold and black outfit are lying at the bottom of the log standings with nine points.

The Christopher Temb-led side recently lost the services of centre back Thembumenzi 'Djemba' Mayisela last to Manzini Sea Birds.

'WESLIANS' OUT TO LEAPFROG ELANGENI IN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers will be out to secure a top spot in the Women Football League when they meet Illovo on Saturday at the Technical Centre.

Victory would see the Weslians jump to the top as they are currently second with 27 points after nine matches.

Bracket

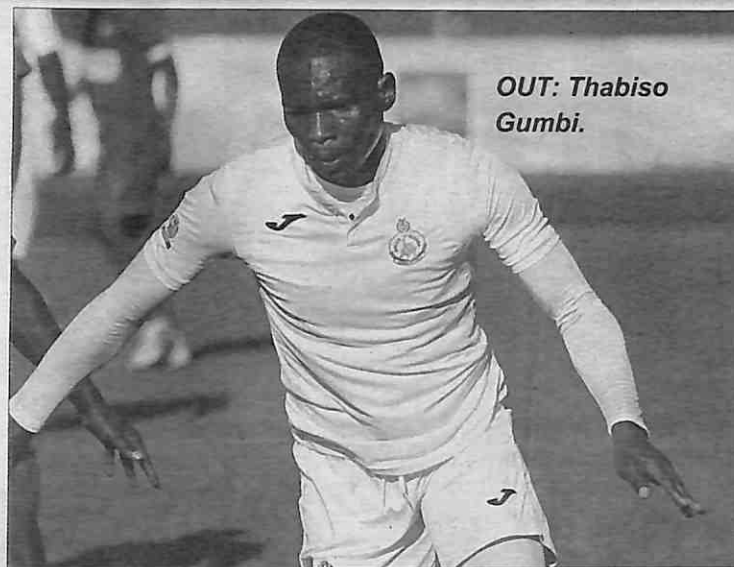
Another fixture will see Young Buffaloes taking on Happy Girls on Sunday at Lobamba Technical Centre in their quest to secure a spot in the top four bracket. Women's Football League Competitions Secretary Lucky Dube released the fixture yesterday.

WEEKEND FIXTURE

Saturday					
Technical Centre					
Interladies	vs Mbekweni	1pm			
M. Wanderers	vs	Illovo	3pm		
Young Buffaloes	vs	Happy Girls	2pm		
Sunday					
Sobhuza Memorial Stadium					
Young Buffaloes	vs	Kappa Ladies			

WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE LOG STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1. Elangeni	10	9	0	1	52	3	49	27
2. Manzini Wanderers	9	9	0	0	46	2	44	27
3. Royal Leopard	11	8	0	3	44	8	36	24
4. Young Buffaloes	9	7	0	2	53	3	50	21
5. Mbabane Swallows	11	6	1	4	36	11	25	19
6. Green Mamba	10	4	1	5	18	16	2	13
7. Kappa Ladies	10	4	1	5	18	20	-2	13
8. S. Oves	10	3	2	5	21	26	-5	11
9. Interladies	10	8	3	1	4	6	-3	10
10. Happy Girls	8	2	0	6	5	56	-51	6
11. S. Roses	9	1	1	7	5	47	-42	4



OUT: Thabiso Gumbi.

Thabiso Gumbi out of Buffs clash

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER-CORRECTIONAL Services side Green Mamba have suffered a major blow ahead of the Ingwenyama Cup quarter-finals against Young Buffaloes as they will be without defender Thabiso Gumbi.

The former Moneni Pirates left back will be serving a one-game suspension after being nabbed by the yellow card rule.

Regulations

The rule states that a player, having accumulated three yellow cards, automatically gets suspended for the next match.

The match between the security forces sides is scheduled for Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium. Kick off time is 4pm.

"According to a correspondence sent by the PLE Chief Operations Officer PAT Vilakati, the above-

mentioned player has accumulated three yellow cards.

"In terms of Article 6.2 of the MTN Premier League 2019/20 Rule and Regulations, the player is, therefore, automatically suspended from participating in the next match to be played by his team.

Suspension

"Kindly ensure that the said player, serve his suspension as stipulated in the rule aforementioned," read the statement from the PLE office.

Another team that has been affected by the infamous rule is First Division side Seven Dreams, who will be minus their player Ntokozo Sibandze during their quarterfinal clash against Moneni Pirates.

On another note, Green Mamba will welcome back the trio of Mxolisi Mkhontfo, Khetokuhle and Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo for the crucial encounter.

Jimmoh Moses for Eswatini Open trials

BY NOMALUNCELO PHIRI

SOCCER-MBABANE Highlanders captain Jimmoh Moses is one of the players who have registered for the Eswatini Open trials by the Professional Soccer Management (PSM).

PSM is a global marketing firm under Nigeria-born Emmanuel Emenogu and it has offices in south Africa, Nigeria Australia and the United Kingdom. The trials will run from January 20-30.

Emenogu confirmed the news, saying the main aim of the initiative was to produce quality players for the country.

PSM recently partnered with the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) to help local players secure deals in Europe.

"We're coming with a different story. We believe that in order for Eswatini to play competitive football, the country needs to have players in competitive leagues in Europe. These are not just any teams in Europe.

"We're in the business of football and we are partnering with both the EFA and league. The league is where

national team players are recruited. "We won't take every player to Europe as others have to remain behind to keep the league competitive," said Emenogu.

PSM has connections with some European clubs such as Empoli (Italy) and Galatasaray (Turkey).

The agency is also facilitating Highlanders' youngster Sisekelo 'Rio' Matsenjwa's move to Europe.

The youngster is destined for Turkish top-tier football side Alanyaspor and is expected to leave for assessment at the end of this month.

Players

Currently, there are no Eswatini players playing in major leagues in Europe. Manzini Wanderers playmaker Leon Manyisa tried his luck with little known FC van in Armenia, but returned home about two months later after the deal collapsed. Three other local players in Denver Sundowns goalkeeper Lwethu Simelane, Vovovo's Mxolisi Tsabedze and Wandile Dlamini recently left for Slovakia.

Meanwhile, EFA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said the football moto body was in full support of the Eswatini open trials run by the PSM.

Wanderers terminate Ugo's contract

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers have terminated the contract of Nigerian bulky forward Ugochukwu Ohakwe

The player joined Manzini Wanderers in the 2018/19 season and was loaned to Tambuti FC at the beginning of the current season.

The player has now joined Tambuti permanently after officially cutting ties with the 'Weslians'.

Manzini Wanderers Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini confirmed the news when contacted yesterday.

"It's true that we have terminated the contract of the player and we wish him well in his future endeavours," he said.

Ohakwe also confirmed that he parted ways with the hub giants last week.

"Yes, I've parted ways with Wanderers last week. I now belong to Tambuti," said the player.

Learnt

It had also been learnt that South Africa-born teen defender Thami Zulu is now a free agent after the Weslians Terminated his contract. The player has returned to his home country and currently looking for a team after his move to Steenburg United collapsed.

Other players who recently terminated their contracts with the 'Weslians' are Mandla Palma and Sanele Mkhweli.



NO CONTRACT: Ugochukwu Ohakwe.

RESULTS

Bidvest Wits
Orlando Pirates

3-2
1-0

Bloemfontein Celtic
Mamelodi Sundowns

Jimmoh back at Bull

BY MELUSI MLOTTA

SOCCER – MBABANE Highlanders captain Jimmoh Moses is back after he apologised to the team boss Ally Kgomongwe.

This comes after the Nigerian player had reportedly tabled personal demands before the club Kgomongwe, including a signing on fee and an annual travelling allowance of over E15 000. This resulted in the player not attending Tuesday afternoon's training session at Ezulwini Sports Ground under the guidance of head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

A source close to the matter revealed that the player apologised to the team authorities on Tuesday night. "Everything has been sorted between the two parties and Jimmoh is back at training," said the source. Kgomongwe also confirmed the news when contacted yesterday.

"Yes, the player has returned to training after we had successful talks with him," he said.

Moses joined Highlanders mid last season from the now defunct Matsapha United alongside the likes of Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze, Khanyakezwe Shabalala, Menzi Mamba and Mxolisi Dlamini, to mention a few.

He has been one of the best performers for Highlanders this season under the guidance of 'Koki' and Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini.

Moses arrived in the country about eight years ago and he has played for Mbabane Swallows and Denver Sundowns.

Meanwhile, the capital city giants will lock horns with National First Division outfit Madlenya FC on Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinal clash.



BACK: Mbabane Highlanders captain Jimmoh Moses.

Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Thursday January 16, 2020



BASE ACT TOUGH ON SUPERSTARS

BY JONGILE XUBA

BASKETBALL – THE Basketball Association of Eswatini has acted tough on reigning MTN Eswatini League Elite Men's League champions Manzini Superstars.

This comes after the national mother body handed Superstars player Phumlani 'Jones' Shongwe a life ban from the sport for misconduct as he was found guilty of assaulting referee Tsepho Nkambule during a game that was played last year.

The association further handed the hub giants coach Bheki 'Size' Nxumalo a one-year suspension from the sport after he was found guilty for insulting BASE executive members during the grand closing of the 2019 MTN League.

Misconduct

According to reports, both Shongwe and Nxumalo were charged with separate misconduct charges which occurred on separate occasions on September 28 and November 29 last year.

Phumlani 'Jones' Shongwe is said to have physically assaulted referee Tsepho Nkambule while coach Bheki 'Size' Nxumalo was found guilty of insulting the BASE executive in front of the sponsors who were waiting to do a presentation of medals and trophy inside court after Superstars had won the MTN Basketball League.

Shongwe and Nxumalo were called before the disciplinary committee chaired by Charlie Jele which was instructed by the association.

- EML champions player 'Jones' Shongwe handed a life ban for assaulting referee
- Coach Size Nxumalo suspended for a year for insulting officials
- Hub giants slapped with E10 000 fine



Shongwe is said to have shunned the hearing. It was stated that the player was not a first offender as he had a similar offence in 2018 after he was found guilty of violence against another player. His absence without an explanation was not taken as a sign of remorse by the DC and thus he was given the full punishment of the law according to the BASE Constitution.

According to Article 22 of the basketball Constitution titled Punishment for Misconduct by Players it provides that if a player assaults a referee or a match official he shall be, dismissed from the field of play by the referee in terms of the laws of the game and miss

two consecutive competitive matches and banned for life by the association. This is a clear indication that violence is frowned upon, in particular violence against fellow players and match officials.

It is reported the sanction against Shongwe is a life ban with the option of a review after three years from the date of the ruling, the 14th of December 2019.

Sanctioned

Nxumalo has been suspended for one season from sitting on his team bench during BASE events. He may train his team but may not sit on the bench in official matches and official friendly matches.

Superstars were fined E10 000 for their failure to control both the player and official by the DC.

BASE Secretary Noma Mkhombe could only confirm that a disciplinary case was recently heard before an independent panel established by the association.

"I cannot divulge the details of the ruling but can confirm we recently had a hearing which was conducted by an independent Chairman Charlie Jele to ensure fairness and further avoid biasness. "A ruling was made after long deliberation.

The hearing was held on the 14th December 2019 and ruling was sent to the team on the 8th of January 2020 after consulting the BASE Constitution, Rules and Regulations as well as FIBA guidelines," she said.

Bucs dent Downs' title hopes

JOHANNESBURG – Orlando Pirates reclaimed fifth spot in the Absa Premiership with a 1-0 win over Mamelodi Sundowns at the Orlando Stadium last night.

The Buccaneers displayed the same line-up that put Polokwane City to the sword a week ago, whereas Sphelele Mkhulise replaced the suspended Themba Zwane for the visitors.

Sundowns made a promising start, as Hlompho Kekana fashioned a dangerously looking free-kick from close-range over the top of the bar.

The Buccaneers remained on the back foot after 15 minutes as Anele Ngcongca headed Gaston Sirino's free-kick against the woodwork, with goalkeeper Wayne

Sandilands well beaten at the far post.

Then a minute later, Thapelo Morena got around the defence to draw Sandilands into a low save from close-range as the Buccaneers continued living on the edge.

Following a nervy start, the Sea Robbers went ahead on 30 minutes after Luvuyo Memela slid through a low pass for the red-hot Gabadinho Mhango who applied a simple finish past Denis Onyango.

Sundowns turned to the bench right after halftime and introduced Tiyani Mabunda, who entered in place of Andile Jali.

The Brazilians pushed strongly for the equaliser on 61 minutes, however, Sirino's dipping strike sailed over while Sibusiso Vilakazi saw his effort cleared to safety.

The Buccaneers' last league victory over Sundowns came in February 2011, with goals from Katlego Mashego and Thulasizwe Mbuyane, and were on course to end that barren spell.

Sirino though almost brought tears to their eyes when his low shot cannoned against the inside post before bouncing back into play and into the arms of Sandilands in the last 12 minutes. Masandawana pushed and pushed for the equaliser, but Kekana's powering free-kick outside the area flew into the stands as Pirates grabbed victory to go fifth. Kick-Off

