

ESWATINI Observer

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TUESDAY JANUARY 21, 2020

PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

BACK TO SCHOOL RUSH: Parents with their children crammed Pep Stores along Betfusile Street yesterday in frantic efforts to buy school uniforms and other materials in readiness for today's back to school for 2020 calendar First Term. The employees were clad in different school uniforms. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)



WIFE DRAGS EX-GOSPEL ARTIST TO COURT

STORY ON PAGE 3

● **NHLANHLA MBINGO INVOLVED IN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS WITH HIS WIFE OF 17 YEARS**

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 Root Cause Analysis - 04-05 February - **E 4230.00**

For more details please contact
 Lindelwa@: Telephone: +268 2416 3347 / +268 2416 3119
 email: lindelwa.machel@nosa.co.sz

merSETA

DOC21101

MIXED REACTIONS OVER MADZE'S ADMISSION

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QHAWE MAMBA WANTS HIS PROPERTY BACK

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DOC:20350

We are ready - Principals

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

WITH today marking the first day of the 2020 school calendar year, principals say they are ready to get back to work.

The year 2019 was described as a torrid year for principals as operation at schools were disrupted due to the fiscal

situation in the country which resulted in the late release of funds such as the free primary education grants (FPE) as well as the OVC grants.

It is also worth noting that last year, there were a number of strikes which affected operations at schools as public sector associations demanded the cost of living adjustment which has not been implemented for a number of years.

In an attempt to avoid last year's dif-

ficulties, government, through the ministry of education, began the process of distribution of the FPE grants early as in some received the grants in advance. Eswatini Principals Association President Welcome Mhlanga said as principals, they were ready for schools opening and urged government to be ready as well.

Confirmed

"We are all set for the schools opening and looking forward to the new school calendar year," he said.

He mentioned that following the challenges faced last year regarding the release of the grants, they were encour-

aged and happy that government saw the need to begin the distribution process early.

He confirmed that a number of schools, especially in the Hhohho region had received the grants and urged government to speed up the process so that all the remaining schools could begin operations early.

"Schools operations, especially primary schools depend on the timeous distribution of the FPE grants and once we receive the grants, we are all set for the school calendar year," added Mhlanga.

He said for the schools that receive the

grants later, the effects were evident on the results as they tend to have lower performances compared to the schools that receive their grants on time.

He acknowledged that there were some challenges encountered while principals were submitting their claims for the grants but stated that those challenges should not stall the distribution of the grants. He further said as principals, they would require cooperation from all relevant stakeholders such as government, parents, teachers as well as pupils as they would work together during the course of the year.

WE ARE READY FOR SCHOOL OPENING TODAY- MINISTER

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

MINISTER of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza has declared that schools opening today will be seamless following government's pro-active action in ensuring that all essentials are provided for on time.

Speaking during a press conference at the Pigg's Peak Hotel yesterday, the minister stated that they had started distributing the free primary education (FPE) grants.

The minister stated that not only had they paid early, but they also ensured that books and food rations (Zondle) are also delivered this week.

"For the first time in history, government will deliver food for the feeding programme early. The payment of FPE has already started."

as a number of schools around the country have received their grants," she said.

Mabuza said where there were teacher shortages, the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) was engaged in an exercise to hire and fill those posts.

The minister further warned head teachers to practise fair admission of pupils, as some schools only admitted pupils with good results.

Denied

"We request head teachers to afford every learner a chance to education by exercising indiscriminate admission.

A lot of concerns have been forwarded to the ministry about learners being denied admission simply because they are overaged or passed with a Third Class. The school administrations should comply with the policies of the ministry of education and training which discourage discrimination of learners," the minister said.

Mabuza said government was happy with the recent Junior Certificate (JC) results but decried the rise in violence and drug abuse at certain schools.

"All schools around the kingdom will return to life on Tuesday January 21, 2020 so the ministry of education and training would like to congratulate those (schools) that performed well in the 2019 external examinations as the results were the best in the past decade.

This was attributed to the tireless efforts and dedication of teachers and learners," she said.

Minister Mabuza had words of encouragement for those schools that did not perform well, encouraging them to improve and aim for better results this year.

She said as schools resume operations, all learners were encouraged to work hard to achieve quality education.

"For 2020 we envisage even better results than 2019 across the board," she said.

Mabuza added that the ministry had already published a list of legal private schools in Eswatini. The list can be obtained from the director of education's office and regional education offices.

"We are aware of the long queues in both public and private schools where parents are seeking admission for their children.

We kindly request parents to ensure that the schools where they seek admission for their children have authority to operate as per the standards of the ministry. Also, parents should prioritise the safety of their children, especially the younger ones," she added.

Mabuza concluded that she would be touring a few of the schools today.

All schools around the kingdom will return to life on Tuesday January 21, 2020 so the ministry of education and training would like to congratulate those (schools) that performed well in the 2019 external examinations as the results were the best in the past decade



READY: Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Lady Howard Mabuza speaking at the Pigg's Peak Hotel yesterday. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

'WE WILL BE VIGILANT ON BOMALUME'

BY DELISA THWALA

POLICE have warned all school bus drivers to be vigilant on the road and make sure their vehicles are road worthy and with valid public permits.

This was said by Sergeant Bhekumuzi Gule during his EBIS interview yesterday morning.

Gule said since schools would be opening today, they would be on the lookout for cars and school buses if they were road worthy and have permits to transport children.

"Since schools are opening, we have a lot of cars that operate as school buses and you find that they are illegally operating and may cause danger to the children they are transporting," said Gule during the interview.

Gule highlighted that there are ways to spot an illegal operating school bus. A permitted school bus has 'Children on Transit' written on it and a yellow placard.

Legit

"We will be very strict on school buses that will be found to be operating illegally as they will be removed and made to pay double in terms of penalty," continued Gule.

Gule said they would also be going around schools educating teachers and parents on how to identify a legit school bus for their children.

"We will not be merciful.

We are all for safety for the children, therefore, we will be all out cracking on illegal school buses," closed Gule.

A school bus owner Mandla Ngcamphalala said he was looking forward to going back on the road, adding that he has increased his prices.

"For me it is back to work today, and unfortunately due to the current increased of transport fares I have to also slightly increase mine too," said Ngcamphalala.

He also disclosed that he went through a very vigilant process to get his permit to operate a school bus and he always follows the right precautions when the children are in transit.

PICO's back to school warning

STORIES BY KHETSIWE
KHUMALO
Mbabane

AS schools open today, pupils and parents were warned to be cautious as they take their children to school to avoid unnecessary incidents.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Senior Superintendent Phindile Vilakati pleaded with the nation to work together with them and heed their request to reduce harm that might be caused to

pupils.

On the issue of school bag tags, parents were warned to write their names and contact details inside the school bags so that the pupils would not fall victim to predators who would call them with the intention to cause harm to them.

"As much as we need parents to keep this up, they rather have the name tags not visible to the predators, but should be written inside the school bags. We depend on this information to be able to return the pupils' belongings if, for instance, the bag has been misplaced or



WARNS: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Senior Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

forgotten," Vilakati said.

Vilakati further pleaded with boma-

lume who transport children to school to drop them inside the school premises or on the side that won't require them to cross the road.

"There have been several cases of pupils who have been knocked down by cars because of their recklessness when crossing the roads," said Vilakati. On the same note, bomalume were requested to use the right cars to transport pupils to school.

Bomalume were also cautioned against overloading. Vilakati also warned members of the public who illegally transport pupils to schools with their personal cars to stop doing so. She said that if people want to get into this kind of business they should follow prop-

er channel to get the rightful papers permitting them to do this business.

"This goes to parent's as well.

Parents should hire bomalume who operate legally so that in case of an accident they know which office they should approach. In some incidents people lie and say they have given lifts to their neighbours, yet they are in business. All of you are requested to comply and properly register this business," asked Vilakati. Pupils who walk to school are asked to be vigilant when crossing the roads.

Vilakati also asked parents to be wary and verify school fees payment methods. She said that they should not fall prey to people who would offer quick-

EX-GOSPEL ARTIST DRAGGED TO COURT OVER CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

HIS Majesty's Correctional Services Pigg's Peak based Deputy Officer-in-Charge Nhlanhla Zakhele Mbingo has been dragged to court by his wife over maintenance of their three children.

Information gathered was to the effect that Mbingo, famed for his leadership of Siphofaneni Born Again Crusade gospel group, and his wife Precious Sithembile Mbingo, are currently in the process of divorce which is pending at the Manzini Magistrate's Court where the maintenance matter is pending since March last year.

According to a founding affidavit by Mbingo's wife of 17 years, Sithembile who is the applicant in the matter, since she was not in good terms with Mbingo, she felt the need for her husband to contribute towards the upbringing of their three children aged 13, 11 and two years old.

This, according to Precious' affidavit, followed that Mbingo had breached his legal duty to support his children by neglecting them despite several reminders and demands to that effect.

The wife stated that after she and her husband had marital issues, Mbingo, while he was still stationed at His Majesty's Correctional Services in Matsapha, he chucked her and the children out of the government house where they all lived.

Subsequently, Sithembile said she was forced to rent a flat at Mhlaleni in Matsapha where she stays with the children.

She also mentioned that the estimat-

...the Pigg's Peak deputy Officer-in-Charge is involved in divorce proceedings with his wife of 17 years



FROM SWEET TO SOUR: His Majesty's Correctional Services Deputy Officer-in-Charge Nhlanhla Zakhele Mbingo has been taken to court over child maintenance. (R) Nhlanhla Mbingo and wife Sithembile during happier times. This was during Mbingo's 42nd birthday on January 1, 2016.

ed expenses of the children exceed E4 500 per month. The breakdown given by Precious was that E3 000 was needed for the children's clothing per quarter, E2 000 per year for school uniforms and E500 for lunch boxes.

Responsibility

She added that food and medical expenses were E1 500 and E450 per month, respectively. The total estimate of the expenses is E10 350, including E3 000 for rent, electricity and water.

"Mbingo is gainfully employed and is in a position to contribute towards the maintenance as he earns in excess

of E10 000 per month," stated Sithembile's founding affidavit.

However, the wife mentioned that she was cognisant of her equal responsibility to support the children and contribute towards their upbringing so she agreed to contribute towards school fees and all other school-related expenses for their eldest child while Mbingo did the same for their second born.

It was also brought to the court's attention that the couple's younger child is sickly and requires consistent medical support.

Therefore, Sithembile requested the

court to order Mbingo to pay E4 500 monthly because he was in a position to do so and also remain with an adequate amount of money for his personal needs. In his answering affidavit, Mbingo said the children had all along been staying with him and his wife at Matsapha Correctional Centre's staff houses. However, following the marital challenges that led to an unhealthy relationship between him and Sithembile, the gospel singer said he decided to relocate to his home at Siphofaneni and he took the children with him.

Sithembile, on the other hand, remained

in Matsapha but out of the government house.

Since he was still working in Matsapha, Mbingo said he used to commute with the children who attended one of the schools around Manzini city.

He said he would drop them off at school in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon when he knocked off.

Strained

This arrangement seemed to concern Sithembile as Mbingo stated that she suggested that a place close to the school should be found for the children as she felt they were being strained by commuting to school from Siphofaneni.

"I indicated that a lot of children commute to and from school. Still, I undertook to speak to my superiors to give me a new house within the correctional facility centre and they did," Mbingo stated.

He further mentioned that the children visited their mother and they never returned as per expectation. Mbingo said it was only after weeks after the children had been at their mother's place of abode that he received a notice of motion from Sithembile's lawyers. "I am a responsible father to my children and it would be unfortunate for Sithembile to use the children to fight her battles with me," read Mbingo's answering affidavit.

On August 5, 2019, Principal Magistrate David Khumalo issued an interim order that Mbingo should pay E3 000, and that E1 500 of this should be paid at Sithembile's lawyer's offices in Manzini. The matter is still pending in court as the two parties are yet to make their arguments.

Mbingo is gainfully employed and is in a position to contribute towards the maintenance as he earns in excess of E10 000 per month

Don't bully other pupils - Mhlanga

PRESIDENT of the Eswatini Principals Association (EPA), Welcome Mhlanga, asked that pupils refrain from bullying others.

Mhlanga said it was important to talk about bullying because in most instances, this occurs before the opening of schools.

"There have been many reported cases of past pupils who bully new pupils. We request that this does not happen because it creates a problem for the new pupils who are then forced to leave their new school due to bullies," he said.

Mhlanga also stated that there

er or cheaper payment methods because of desperation.

"Let us be sure before we do those kinds of transactions," she said. In closing, Vilakati said they would be visiting schools to talk

were several individuals that take advantage of the opening of schools and con parents into paying fees with them.

He urged parents to pay fees at banks, stating that they had several instances where parents were conned by individuals who tell them about quicker methods of payment.

"Parents must make payments at the right place and not give random people money. Parents must make it their responsibility to ask for stamped proof of payment and bank statements that will testify to payments made," said Mhlanga.

to pupils on safety precautions to follow in their everyday lives. She said they would educate pupils on how to keep safe but also advised parents to do the same at home.

MIXED REACTIONS OVER 'MADZE'S BABY ISSUES

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

MINISTER of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, who came out to confess to being the father of the child reported about in a weekly publication, saw his deeds receive mixed reactions yesterday from the public.

Bulunga came out to admit that he was the minister reported about over the weekend who is reportedly impregnated a school teacher and was not taking care of the three-month old child.

There are those who claim that the minister did well by taking responsibility and owning up to the issue while others felt he needs to be punished for his conduct.

Even though the minister apologised to the families, Cabinet and nation at large, some feel he should be punished.

Some said he must resign from office because he has failed to abide by the rules or expectations of someone holding public office.

They said this incident undermines his integrity as a minister of the Crown.



VIEWS: Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga.

"We all know that men cheat and do all sorts of stuff but he was wrong by not contributing the maintenance. He knew his misdeeds and had to do what was right for the sake of the mistress and child," said Telamisile Simelane.

Siphosile Matsebula was of the view that failure to take care of the child earlier was an indication that Bulunga was not ready

to take full responsibility until put under pressure.

"The fact that he refused to take care of the minor for months is proof that he was not ready for the consequences of his actions.

We all know that these things happen but one must play it safe and avoid such things, especially when occupying such a high office," said Matsebula.

Others defended the minister and noted that whilst what happened was wrong, he deserved a second chance so it is not the public's duty to crucify him on the matter.

"Honestly, who has not cheated in this lifetime? It is a pity it has resulted in this because of his standing in the public but we really have no business judging him," said Nosipho Mpanza.

Some were of the view that the minister could use this to redeem himself and prove not only to the nation but his family that he can do better.

"This is not the end, Bulunga just needs to use every chance he gets to work hard to redeem his image and do better than before. This too shall pass," said Mandla Mavuso.

BACK TO SCHOOL RUSH AT PEP



LAST MINUTE: Parents and pupils at Pep Store yesterday along Betfusile Street buying school uniforms and other materials in readiness for schools opening for the 2020 calendar year. Pep employees were clad in different schools uniforms in the spirit of back to school. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



PAY POINT: Peps Stores employees Neliswa and Nana attend to one of the parents.



SMILE: Lindelwa poses as she carried her duties clad in a school uniform.



NEXT CUSTOMER PLEASE: Nana and Neliswa hard at work.



A Pep employee assists a customer.



FITTING: Phumzile helps customers.



WAIT FOR YOUR CHANGE: Parents queueing at the pay point.

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.

For more information please contact the schools 25054494 (Primary & High school) 25055922 (Preschool)

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



Ka-Zakhali Private School

Train up a child (Prov. 22:6)

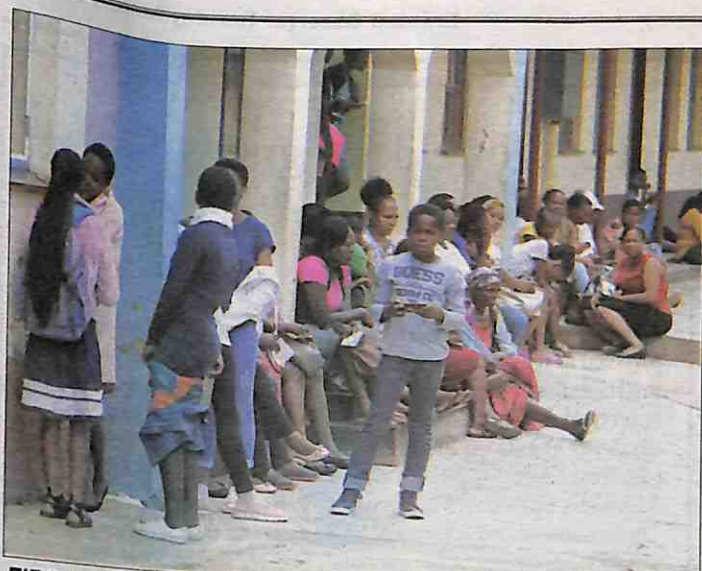
Doc.20683



YOU WANT THIS SHIRT: Lindelwa seems to be saying to some of the customers.



THOSE DAYS: Lindelwa and Gcinile clad in different school uniforms while on duty at Pep.



FIRST COME FIRST SERVE: Parents and pupils await their turn as they queue for Form One spaces at Ka-Boyce High School yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



AT WORK: Some of the teachers ready to assist pupils with admission and registration at St Mark's High School.



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



SAFE: Police officers have already been deployed in some schools to maintain safety.



PACKED: The St Mark's Sinqobile Hall was packed with pupils and their parents as they fill in admission forms.



INVITATION TO TENDERS

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	CLOSING DATE
ESCCOM/TS/002/2019-2020	Proposed Piling Works for Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) Head Office Development at Ezulwini	14th February 2020, 12h00 Noon

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified Piling Specialists Civil Engineering Contractors registered with the Construction Industry Council – Category C1 for the Proposed Piling Works for ESCCOM Head Office Development at Ezulwini

Tenderers should submit the following compulsory documents:

- CIC Registration Certificate
- Tender Document Receipt
- Company Profile with CVs of Key Personnel
- Certified Copy of Valid Labour Compliance Certificate
- Original Valid Tax Clearance Certificate
- Valid Police clearance for at least two (2) Company Directors
- Certified Copy of Valid Trading Licence
- Proof of Workmen's Compensation
- Signed and Completed Form of Tender
- Priced Bill of quantities
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years or since inception.
- Names and contact details of at least three (3) recent reference customers

Invited Tenderers should collect tender documents as from the **24th January 2020 at the Reception, ESCCOM Offices, Sibekelo Building, Fourth Floor North Wing, Mbabane** upon payment of a non-refundable **E500.00 (Five Hundred Emalangenani Only)**.

Tenders must be placed in the Official Tender Box located at the Reception, ESCCOM Offices, Sibekelo Building, Fourth Floor North Wing, Mbabane **NOT LATER THAN 1200 Hours, on the 14th February 2020.**

Compulsory Site Inspections:

Tender No.	Site	Date	Time
ESCCOM/TS/002/2019-2020	Ezulwini Opposite Total Filling Station	Tuesday, 4th February 2020.	1400hrs

****ESCCOM does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender!**

Doc.21105

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Applications to be sent: recruitmentswz@stanbic.com by **Friday, 24th January 2020**

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Doc.20448

QHAWE WANTS HIS PROPERTY BACK

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

HIS property comprising 18 vehicles, two plots and money were attached and seized after his arrest in the Channel S Club fraud case.

Channel Swazi Director Qhawe Mamba now wants his property and money back. Yesterday he filed heads of arguments in the application at the High Court where he is seeking an order of court declaring that all his attached property be released back to him.

According to the heads of arguments filed by his lawyer Leo Ndvuna Dlamini yesterday, the application for the return of exhibits has been filed under Section 21 (1) (2) of the Serious Offences, Confiscation of Proceeds Act of 2001 as read with Section 324 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act of 1938.

"It is clear that the application is governed by two statutes regulating the return of exhibits herein wherefore I pray that this honourable court should grant an order in terms of the notice of motion," reads the heads of argument.

frozen

Mamba filed the application where he, amongst others, seeks the release of his 18 vehicles including the Channel S Outside Broadcasting Studio, a Mercedes Benz bus.

According to papers filed at the High Court, Mamba also wants some of his accounts that were frozen after his arrest in 2007 unfrozen and the monies from four different accounts accessed to him.

The accounts are those of Channel S amounting to E2 705 642.27 and E53 489.22 respectively, while another is in respect of Ultimate Production trading as Channel Swazi amounting to a total of E22 479.42 and his personal account which had E734 572.89.

He said all these monies fall under Schedule A of the seized properties.

...in his heads of argument filed yesterday at the High Court two sections have been cited



Channel Swazi Director Qhawe Mamba.

OB STUDIO

On Schedule B, Mamba wants all his 18 seized vehicles being two Mercedes Benz sedans, the OB studio SD180PG and SD 314 JG, Toyota Town Ace, Toyota Camry, Toyota Corolla, Two Toyota Avanza, Mahindra, Honda Storm, Mitsubishi, Mazda Demio, Peugeot, three motor bikes released to him. In his application, he is also seeking, on Schedule C, an order for the release on all the equipment installed in the OB studio Mercedes bus, being an air computers, vision mixer machines, and cameras, four transmitters situated at Ntontozi, Hlathikhulu, BhamBham Mountain (Siteki) and one at Kelly area in Mbabane.

Proceeds

On the last schedule, Mamba, in his application, seeks for an order releasing to him two of his plots. One is portion 39, a portion of 29 called Flame Tree Park of Farm 180 situated in the Lubombo region.

Another is portion 42, a portion of 29 also called the Flame Tree Park of Farm 180 in the Lubombo region.

The said properties were seized following a court order issued after his

arrest in 2007 in terms of Section 3 of the Serious Offences Confiscation of Proceeds Act of 2001.

The order that was issued on May 2010, also interdicted Mamba, Channel S, the registrar of deeds, Nedbank, FNB, Standard Bank, Central Bank and the Motor Registry from disposing, alienating and or dealing in whatsoever manner with the properties mentioned in all the schedules.

Price Waterhouse Coopers Advisory Services had been appointed and directed to act as trustee by collecting rentals and keeping maintenance of the properties mentioned in Schedule D pending finalisation of the matter.

Mamba did time in prison as he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, four years of which were suspended and was released after serving his sentence. In 2007, he was convicted of fraud of about E18 million in relation to his running of a deposit taking scheme dubbed Channel S Club which was found by the court to have been illegal.

THE PARTIES IN THE PRESENT APPLICATION

Applicants

- Qhawe Mamba (first)
- Ultimate Production (Pty) Ltd (second)
- Channel S (third)
- Joux Media (Pty) Ltd (fourth)

Respondents

- Price water House Copper Advisory Service (first)
- Director of Public Prosecutions (second)
- Central Bank of Eswatini (third)
- Nedbank (fourth)
- First National Bank (fifth)
- Standard Bank (sixth)
- The Commissioner of Police (seventh)

CoLA for elderly grants effected

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

GOOD news for the elderly and disabled as they will start receiving their first instalment of the elderly and people living with disability grants on Friday.

In November 13, 2019, Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini announced what could be described as music to the ears of the elderly and people living with disabilities when he said the grant would increase by E100 as of this month. He said the beneficiaries of the elderly grants would be paid E500 per month, starting this month. He mentioned the grant was previously E400 per month and this was a way of effecting a cost of living adjustment. Dlamini said the adjustment would also come with an increase in the grants paid to people living with disabilities. The disability grants would increase from E180 to E280 per month.

In a press release yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) Principal Secretary Makhosini Mndawe announced that the distribution of the grants would commence on Friday January,

24. He, however, clarified that those who collected their grants from the post office as well as the various tinkhundla should expect to receive E400 per month for this cycle, meaning they would get a total of E1200 as their grants were released in arrears. However he clarified that in March, they would start receiving the E500 per month meaning they would receive E1 500. He said for those who receive their grants through bank deposits, the distribution of the grants began yesterday and they received E500 as they get their money on a monthly basis. He said the DPMO social workers would be available at the various pay points to assist those who might need help. He mentioned that as a safety precaution, the tinkhundla centres would be announced at a later stage by Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation. "This is a safety precaution as the early announcement of the tinkhundla centres would lead to exposure to robberies and hijackings as the money is transported in cash," he said.

He mentioned that for now, they would only release the dates of distribution per region.

HHOHHO	
DATE	TO
Fri-24-January-2020	Tue-28-January-2020
MANZINI	
DATE	TO
Wed-29-January-2020	Mon-03-February-2020
SHISELWENI	
DATE	To
Tue-04-2020	Fri-07-Feb-2020
LUBOMBO	
DATE	TO
Mon-10-Feb-2020	Wed-12-Feb-2020

UNESWA students get results but...

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

FOLLOWING fears of a possible clash between the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) and students over results, all went well yesterday as the learners eventually collected their results.

UNESWA had stated that owing students would not get their first semester results. As a result, students threatened to engage in strike action when classes resume for the second semester.

In a statement published yesterday by the institution, the students were advised that they may collect their first semester examination results yesterday from their various campuses between 11.00 am and 4.30 pm.

Privately-sponsored students were also advised to clear their first semester tuition fees before their results could be released.

They were informed by the institution that those who had not paid their caution fee of E280 and SRC fee of E150 would not get their results.

They, however, expressed their disbelief as information was not released officially, but they were

verbally informed by the institution which was not the usual form of communication.

UNESWA SRC Secretary General Mthunzi Shabangu said following minor issues yesterday morning, they engaged the institution over the matter and an agreement was reached with a condition that the students would get their results but would not be allowed to register for the second semester if they had still not settled the outstanding fees.

"Even though we had a few disagreements, we are happy that we ended up getting our results," he said.

He stated they appreciated the grace period granted to them by the institution, but mentioned it was not fair to the students who had still not received their allowances as they would not have money to pay for the fees.

UNESWA Registrar Dr. Salebona Simelane confirmed that the students collected their results yesterday. "Results were released yesterday to the students," he said.

Simelane further mentioned that the institution would issue a statement to formally communicate that the students should settle the fees before registering for the second semester on February 17, 2020.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licenses Board will hold its sitting to hear the following application/s at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **10 February 2020** starting at **10:00 A.M.**

Region Lubombo

1. Khutsele Dlamini P. O. Box 1050
Manzini **Renewal of a Bottle Store** Liquor Licence situated at **Skhuphe** Known as **Mahawukela Bottle Store.**

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE

RN 173640

LIQUOR NOTICE

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Region Lubombo

1. Khutsele Dlamini P. O. Box 1050
Manzini **Renewal of a Wine & Malt Liquor Licence** situated at **Skhuphe** Known as **Mahawukela Wine & Malt.**

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE

RN 173640



CONFIRMED:
UNESWA
Registrar Dr.
Salebona
Simelane.

NDMA CAN ONLY CATER FOR 122 000 DROUGHT STRICKEN PEOPLE

...leaving 109 000 of the 232 000 affected without relief

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

NATIONAL Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) CEO Russell Dlamini says they do not have adequate resources to cater for people affected by drought.

He said out of the 232 373, they only had enough resources for 122 500 people. He said as much as they appreciated the humanitarian aid from the European Commission (ECO), it was important to mention that they didn't have enough.

"We want to clarify that Eswatini only has money to cover 122 500 citizens in need. Out of that 122 500 people, 40 000 will be supported through ECO support. 28 000 will be assisted by UN agency the World Food Programme (WFP) and 12 000 by Eswatini Baphalali Red Cross.

You can see that we still need more help because there are 109



JOYFUL: NDMA Director Sustainability and Strategy Sihle Mzileni, CEO Russell Dlamini and Eraly Warning and Research's Eric Seyama during a press conference at the National Disaster Management Agency offices yesterday. (Pic: Nokuzola Thwala)

000 people from the total that will be short of help," he said.

Adding, Dlamini said 9 500 of the 122 500, which is 7.8 per cent, would get aid from the government and countries that have relations with the country. "Government

is trying to ensure that food security exists. Food security is the government's responsibility just like in any third world developing countries," he said.

Aid to be in cash

The CEO said the aid would be

in cash transit.

He said this was because they were also funded by ECO whose programmes use cash transfers and Eswatini tapping into this latest global trend.

"Cash transfer is a global trend. This will also help beneficiaries buy food of their choice. This method will also cut costs as handling the food is costly; food needs to be stored in warehouses, distributed, people employed to load and off load and more costs," he said. Further, Dlamini said authorities in communities did the selection processes of the vulnerable people. He said no agency would know everyone in the country. NDMA's Director Sustainability and Strategy Sihle Mzileni echoed the CEO. He said when cash is distributed, commodity handling costs are eliminated. He noted that the difference is then used to reach more. "That is the logic behind the cash transit. It is a new modernity that is used to hold more value," said Mzileni.



HIS LORDSHIP: Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala.

High Court opening set for January 27

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

THE official opening of the High Court of Eswatini is on January 27, it has been gathered.

The event will be held at Court A and it is expected to be opened by Chief Justice (CJ) Bheki Maphalala. During this day, the CJ normally gives direction on the judicial calendar for the New Year and addresses other issues touching on the Judiciary of the Kingdom of Eswatini. The first session of the High Court closes in the first week of May. Attending this special occasion are normally lawyers, the Judiciary, invited dignitaries and speakers are normally the CJ, ministry of justice, the Law Society and the attorney general, amongst others.

Some of the cases expected to form part of the first session include those of businessman Sipho Shongwe, Lucky 'Obama' Matsenjwa and Sibusiso Shongwe.

Security guard steals E2m EPTC, MTN batteries

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A security guard has been arrested and charged after allegedly stealing EPTC and MTN batteries worth over E2 million.

Bongani Velaphi Magagula (40) of KaPhunga faces 10 counts of the theft of 240 batteries belonging to Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications and MTN Eswatini. The batteries were stolen from the country's different regions between the month of February and September 2018.

According to Magagula's charge sheet, each set had a total of 24 batteries and was valued between E212 200 and E250 000. The total value of all the stolen batteries is E2 494 783. According to evidence before court, on September 19, 2018, Magagula allegedly stole 24 of the batteries belonging to EPTC that were housed at a site at Mkhuzweni and were in the legal possession of Patrick Sifiso Msibi.

The batteries, according to court records, were valued at E250 000. Information brought before court by Musa Mamba, who is the accused person's brother-in-law, on the day that the 24 batteries were stolen at Mkhuzweni, he was called by Magagula who asked for E20.

When they met up in Manzini later on during that day, Magagula asked his brother-in-laws to accompany him to Mkhuzweni without telling him why this was so.

Upon reaching the designated area, the accused person led Mamba into a mountain where there were some poles and aerials.

Out of a bush, Magagula allegedly took out some tools and among these was a hacksaw which he used to cut iron bars that were used to protect the 24 batteries belonging to EPTC.

Since the batteries were huge in size, Mamba alleged that Magagula asked him to help remove the batteries out of their enclosure. At first, Mamba said he refused but later assisted the accused person. Thereafter, Magagula allegedly called his friend

who runs a truck-for-hire business and asked him to fetch him from Mkhuzweni. Indeed, a mini-truck arrived and the stolen batteries were loaded onto the truck before being transported and delivered at a scrapyard in Matsapha.

The truck driver was paid E1 500 for his services.

In court, the truck driver said when Magagula asked him to transport the batteries, he claimed to be working for MTN, and that he was removing the batteries because they were old, and they would be replaced with new ones.

When driving to the scrapyard in Matsapha, the truck driver alleged that Magagula had informed him that he wanted to sell the batteries.

It was also brought before court that Magagula charged the scrapyard owner E16 500 for the 24 batteries.

"We then agreed that he would pay me the following day after he had been paid for the batteries," said the truck driver.

Indeed, this was confirmed by the scrapyard owner who said she managed to pay Magagula only E10 000 of the money charged and had made an agreement to pay him the balance at a later stage.

However, before this could happen, the scrapyard owner said Magagula informed her that he had been arrested, so the police confiscated the batteries.

On another note, EPTC's Senior Technical Officer Patrick Msibi told the court that on the day of the crime, he received a tip-off to go to Mkhuzweni base station which is one of the stations that he supervises on behalf of his company.

When he got there, Msibi said he found the police already swarming the area.

There, he said the enclosure meant to protect the batteries was broken into and a locker that was used was also tampered with. As a result of the stolen batteries, Msibi said there was no communication network in Mkhuzweni.

The matter is still pending before Principal Magistrate David Khumalo at the Manzini Magistrate's Court.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE US CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), UNDER PEPFAR

The United States is proud to be supporting Eswatini in its fight against HIV/AIDS and TB.

CDC-Eswatini is pleased to announce five new funding opportunities available through the United States' President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR):

1. CDC-RFA-GH20-2025- Strengthening National Epidemiologic and Research Capacity to Track the HIV/TB Epidemic and Improve Health Outcomes in the Kingdom of Eswatini under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
2. CDC-RFA-GH20-2026- Strengthening the Delivery of Quality HIV/TB Laboratory Services at all Levels Including Quality Management Systems, Equipment, and Laboratory Network Optimization for Efficient Patient Management in the Kingdom of Eswatini under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
3. CDC-RFA-GH20-2027- Support Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (GKoE) to Provide Comprehensive, Quality Assured Care, Treatment and Prevention HIV/TB Services to Achieve and Sustain Epidemic Control under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
4. CDC-RFA-GH20-2028- Coordination and Strengthening of the Kingdom of Eswatini Ministry of Health's HIV and TB Programs under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
5. CDC-RFA-GH20-2029- Strengthening of the Kingdom of Eswatini's Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) program under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

To apply for these funding opportunities, please go to <http://www.grants.gov>. You can go to the "search grants" tab, and under the basic search criteria "keywords" you can type in the CDC-RFA number that you are interested in viewing.

CDC Eswatini regrets that we cannot respond directly to questions regarding these Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). To assure that all interested parties have equal access to information, questions and answers are managed through a centralized process. Please see the individual FOAs on <http://www.grants.gov> for details on who to contact if you have any questions.

INJOMANE GOLF FOUNDATION

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

MUNICIPAL Council of Mbabane CEO Gideon Mhlongo yesterday distributed E30 000 to needy families from the capital city.

The money was proceeds from a recent golf tournament hosted by Injomane Golf Foundation, which is owned by Mhlongo.

The donation took place at the council offices. The needy residents were identified in Mbabane.

Mhlongo said the initiative was for people who do not have anything or do not have enough. "Today was made possible by the golfers who

braved the scorching sun on December 26 and played in this tournament and through it, we managed to raise E30 000," said Mhlongo.

The CEO and golfers were helped by the Methodist Church and the Mbabane Municipality to identify the neediest families to receive the money.

The CEO also disclosed that the initiative was not part of Mbabane City Council but a stand aside group. "The E30 000 is actually available for distribution and the beneficiaries will receive E2 700 each, but only two will get their money today," explained Mhlongo.

The Injomane Golf Foundation is not targeting needy people only, but also those with

autism, fire victims and students.

Phindile Masuku, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, thanked the golfers for the kind gesture.

"God has spoken to us through the golfers, we are very thankful. It is beyond words; we cannot even begin to show appreciating for this act of kindness," said Masuku.

She said the foundation had offloaded the load on them as the money would go a long in helping them.

Amongst the beneficiaries were pupils Thembekile Lukhele, who is going to Form Four, and Sebenele Mabuza, who is doing Form One.

They were presented with their cash. When interviewed, the pupils thanked the CEO and his team for the help and promised to work hard in school.

"I cannot express in words what this means to me. I'm so happy and thankful to the Injomane

Golf Foundation. This money will help me in securing my future and now I'm even motivated to work even harder," said Lukhele.

Mabuza said the donation came just when he was worried how his parents would pay for his secondary school fees, but now there was hope for him.

"I'm very thankful that my future looks bright because of Injomane. Now I can go to school with ease and hope to do better and make everyone proud," said Mabuza.

The beneficiaries who were tipped that they would receive their money through a the bank also thanked the foundation for extending a helping hand.

"When God does wonderful things like this, we are only thankful to him. He has shown us mercy through this foundation and we are only grateful to them, and God," said Catherine Dladla.



INVITATION TO TENDERS

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	CLOSING DATE
ESCCOM/TS/001/2019-2020	Proposed Earthworks for Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) Head Office Development at Ezulwini	14 th February 2020 12h00 Noon

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified Civil Engineering Contractors registered with the Construction Industry Council – Categories C1 & C2, for the Proposed Earthworks for ESCCOM Head Office Development at Ezulwini.

Tenderers should submit the following:

- CIC Registration Certificate
- Tender Document Receipt
- Company Profile with CVs of Key Personnel
- Certified Copy of Valid Labour Compliance Certificate
- Original Valid Tax Clearance Certificate
- Police clearance for at least two (2) Company Directors
- Certified Copy of Valid Trading Licence
- Proof of Workmen's Compensation
- Signed and Completed Form of Tender
- Priced Bill of quantities
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years or since inception.
- Names and contact details of at least three (3) recent reference customers

Invited Tenderers should collect tender documents as from the **24th January 2020 at the Reception, ESCCOM Offices, Sibekelo Building, Fourth Floor North Wing, Mbabane** upon payment of a non-refundable **E500.00 (Five Hundred Emalangeni Only)**.

Tenders must be placed in the Official Tender Box located at the Reception, ESCCOM Offices, Sibekelo Building, Fourth Floor North Wing, Mbabane **NOT LATER THAN 1200 Hrs, on the 14th February 2020.**

Compulsory Site Inspections:

Tender No.	Site	Date	Time
ESCCOM/TS/002/2019-2020	Ezulwini Opposite Total Filling Station	Tuesday, 4th February 2020.	1400hrs

****ESCCOM does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender!**

Doc.21105



HELPING HAND: City Council CEO Gideon Mhlongo making remarks on behalf of Injomane Golf Club at the Mbabane Municipality offices yesterday.



KIND: Mhlongo handing over some money to one of the beneficiaries.



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ONE TEAM: Mhlongo and Cosmo Mthethwa of Injomane with the beneficiaries.



THANK YOU: Phindile Masuku speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries.

APOSTLE JUSTICE EDUCATES YOUTH ON SEX

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

APOSTLE Justice Dlamini of Worship Centre has been hailed by many for introducing comprehensive sexuality education in church.

Apostle Justice took the youth members of his church to a picnic at Sibebe Resort on Saturday, where he together with other speakers from the church, educated the youth about issues of Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHR).

This concept is not popular with many churches as many pastors tend to shy away from such topics during church services. Apostle Justice left no stone unturned when it came to SRHR issue. He even went to an extent of opening up about the much avoided topic of welcoming gays and lesbians in church.

The apostle said his church welcomes members of the Lesbians Gays Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex community, otherwise known as LGBTQIs.

He said those who were attracted to people of the same sex were a free to come to Worship Centre and his church would not discriminate.

The apostle, during the event, addressed many issues affecting the youth, including drug abuse, relationships and how the youth should respond to their bodies while growing up.

The youth was given a chance to pose questions and get answers on issues concerning their sexual rights.

Apostle Dlamini said the aim of the event was not to leave anything affecting the youth.

He said if there were any issues that were left out during the session, members were free to write them down and state how they would like those issues addressed and the church would act on them accordingly.

He said his belief as an apostle was that every person must be given a chance in life. The apostle received a nod from most people for the initiative. Some even asked when would be the next picnic so that they can take their children there.

The apostle also stated that such events were not only open to church members, but everyone.

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Pots Electrical wins E600 000 high masts tender

BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlalango

POTS Electrical has been awarded a tender by Nhlalango Town Council of installing two high masts in selected areas, a project which will cost around E600 000.

It has been explained that during the bidding process, Pots Electrical presented all the necessary documents meeting the criteria outlined by council.

With concerns that most of the street lights were not functioning properly, the town council has sprung to action.

According to the Mayor Deon Anderson, as a town council, they would do everything within their power to improve the lighting system. He said there were high masts in different areas around town but there were still areas that were always in darkness.

"We are responding to the concerns that the residents and ratepayers brought up about the poor light-



A section of Nhlalango streets.

ing system around town.

It's important to listen to the ratepayers as we are their messengers.

The issue of poor lighting system has been raised several times and this time we will improve it," said Anderson.

The installation of the two high masts was supposed to commence late last year and it is understood

that this could not materialise due to certain challenges.

"Initially, we had thought by the festive holidays the high masts would have been installed. This never happened as we were delayed, which was part of the procedures. It's now a pleasure to announce that our patience has paid off.

Anytime from now, the compa-

ny will begin installing the two high masts.

One will be installed at the park and another one next to Anglican Church.

It's a three months project but the company assured us that they may take a month or so to finish it depending on the availability of all necessities," said Anderson.

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

THE truck driver who was arrested and slapped with an eight-year sentence in South Africa after a tragic accident in Pine Town, has still not been granted parole.

Sanele May was sentenced to eight years and 10 months imprisonment after his truck ploughed into six vehicles at a busy Durban intersection in 2013, killing 24 people. Having served over six years in prison, May, according to legal experts, now qualifies for parole.

However, it was gathered that up to now May is still serving time in one of the correctional facilities in South Africa.

It could not be ascertained why May has still not been considered for parole as some prisoners who were serving similar sentences as his have been granted parole.

May, it has been alleged, is yearn-

ing to come back home.

His visitors who always check on him in prison continue sharing stories of May with the outside world. One of May's visitors Peach Piche shared on how he was grateful to everyone who has been supportive to him.

Piche stated that tears rolled down May's face as he expressed how he was grateful to everybody.

The supporter said their conversation turned to how much May has grown as a person "from that terrified 22-year-old that was entertaining suicidal thoughts to the strong 29-year-old he is today."

"He spoke of the lessons he has learned which include how to cohabit with such different people, as well as exercise self-control even when having to dig really deep.

"He has received death threats, he has had supporters and haters inside and out of prison but the prison offi-

cials have all been amazing along the way," Piche said.

She said May remained mentally, spiritually and physically strong to endure it all. She further shared on how May has been moved around from one prison to another and how he has grown from all these experiences.

Piche added that conversations with May always turn to life after prison, him walking free. "Again, the tears flowed as he expressed how he cannot wait to be united with his family in Eswatini and we spoke of life lessons like the Starfish principle and how he too can help people in the future in his own little way," Piche stated.

She said as someone who has received so much love and kindness while in prison May is planning to do the same to others in life. Piche reminded other May supporters that as they reflect on his

life, let them never forget the families that were affected as Sanele will always be mindful of their loss and challenges.

He spoke of the lessons he has learned which include how to cohabit with such different people, as well as exercise self-control even when having to dig really deep.

STILL NO PAROLE FOR SANELE MAY IN SA

Freedom of association, assembly limited in 2019 - report

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

THE year 2019 has not been good for unions in terms of exercising the right to freedom of association and assembly.

This is according to a report from Human Rights Watch for 2020.

The report focuses on human rights issues and events which took place in Eswatini and other countries in 2019.

In the report it is stated that the various legislative improvements on freedom of association and assembly contained in the new Public Order Act of 2017, which imposes restrictions on the government's power to limit free-

doms of assembly and association, were not fully tested in practice in 2019 as restrictions on freedom of association and assembly prevailed in Eswatini.

The report states that in August, civil servants who are members of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), the Swaziland National Association of Government Accounting Personnel (SNAGAP), and the National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) began mobilising for a nationwide strike to demand an increase in wages.

It states that police did not disrupt the nationwide mobilisation campaigns, but fired teargas and water cannons to disperse thousands of protesting

government workers on September 23.

"The new Police Service Act of 2018 limits police powers to prevent gatherings as it requires only a 'notice of gathering' to be submitted to the relevant local authority, unlike the previous 1963 law that required the police to issue a license to permit public gatherings," the report reads.

According to Human Rights Watch, although Eswatini signed the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in January 2018, the government did not take steps to ratify or implement the charter.

In a move significant for women's rights, according to the report, the Eswatini High Court ruled on August

30 that the common law doctrine of marital power (giving a husband the ultimate decision-making power over his wife and the matrimonial property) is unconstitutional as it discriminates against women and denies their constitutional right to equality.

The progressive ruling, according to the report, builds on Eswatini's ongoing law reform process, aimed at promoting and protecting women's and girls' rights that included the passing of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2018, which provides a framework to curb sexual and gender-based violence in the country.

"The court also struck down sections

of the Marriage Act that subjected African women to customary marital power, perpetuating the violation of their rights contrary to constitutional provisions," part of the report reads.

Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini has been criticised in the report for not raising concerns on human rights issues during the SADC annual summit which he attended in Tanzania between August 17 and 18.

The report states that SADC leaders congratulated Eswatini on holding peaceful and successful elections in September 2018.

It is stated that concerns about human rights conditions in Eswatini were not raised though.

Maximum amount paid to pro-deo counsel for murder cases

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
Mbabane

THE maximum amount paid out by the state to pro-deo counsel for murder cases is fixed at E16 000.

Defence counsel is allowed to handle at least 21 cases on a pro-deo basis per quarter on average.

According to the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act No.67 of 1938, any accused person charged with murder is entitled to legal representation that shall be paid for by the state.

This is contained in budget submissions for the Kingdom of Eswatini's Judiciary for the years 2018 to 2021.

According to the submissions, under item number four on policy challenge, lack of adequate funds and professional services, the Judiciary is required to pay professional services engaged under this item and these include payment of pro-deo counsel, Industrial Court of Appeal, security contracts for all judges, sitting allowances for members of the Industrial Court, the Judicial Service Commission and cleaning contract within the Judiciary.

It has also been disclosed that the Supreme Court currently requires three more judges as a number of matters were not heard in the past year due to shortage of judges.

Special family court

By 2022, the Judiciary is expected to have put in place a special family court, commercial and small claims courts. In order to achieve this, the hiring of judges is required as currently judges find themselves handling a large volume of cases per session, which limits the number of cases completed by the court per session.

Worth noting is that there are no judges of the Industrial Court of Appeal which has resulted in judges of the High Court being appointed on acting basis to preside over matters, increasing the volume of work in the process.

TEENAGERS SENTENCED TO COMBINED 56 YEARS IN JAIL

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

THREE teenagers were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment each for attempted robbery and robbery.

Mncedisi Mkhululi Dube (19) Sakhile Lwethu Dlamini (19) both from Bethany, Sikhanyiso Thando Jikemantini Shongwe (17) of Kudzeni and 20-year-old Sandziso Msandzi Nkwanyana of Ndzevane were co-accused with Bandzile Tsabedze (21) and Majahodvwa Major Mkhonta (17) on the two charges. Magistrate Sebenzile Ndlela, who presided over the matter, meted out judgment on the matter last Thursday. According to the accused person charge sheet, the two crimes were committed on two different days during the month of July 2019.

In the first count of attempted robbery, all the accused persons report-



edly jointly unlawfully and intentionally used force and stabbed one Lwazi Magagula (17) with a knife on the spinal cord with the intent to rob him.

This incident happened on July 14 near Nazarene traffic lights.

A medical report produced in court stated that Magagula sustained a five

centimetres deep cut as a result of the stabbing.

On the second count, only four of the six accused persons had another gig on July 22, near William Pitcher College in Manzini.

Court records state that Sandziso, Sikhanyiso, Mncedisi and Sakhile robbed one Zakhe Mbingo (46) two

cellphones, eye glasses and a hat all valued at E17 300. To induce submission, these are said to have used a knife to stab him at the back.

When leading evidence in court, Magagula said he was from a car spinning show at Mavuso Sports Centre and was by Leites Motors when he met the accused persons.

He said they demanded his cellphone. When doing this, Magagula's assailants reportedly forced him to the ground and Sandziso drew a knife with which he stabbed him on the midline of the spinal cord.

The accused persons did not take anything from Magagula who was left lying in cold blood.

In Mbingo's case, records state that the 46-year-old was from the Mavuso Trade Centre with his friend.

Mbingo said they grabbed him and snatched his Samsung Galaxy cellphone worth E9 000, a Mobicel phone,

eyeglasses and a hat.

When they did this, the accused person stabbed him on the back and he sustained a two centimetre laceration.

He said since he resides at Fairview North, he rushed home to take his car and returned to the scene to look for his eyeglasses but his search proved futile. Mbingo said he then went to report the robbery to the police.

Police officers' investigation led them to one of the cellphones that were confiscated from Mbingo.

The person who had the phone told the court that it was sold to him for E50 and he topped up the payment with a Vodafone.

The police were further led to one of the accused persons, Sikhanyiso, who, after being interrogated, disclosed all that he and his crew were up to, and the some of the stolen items were recovered.

Magistrate Ndlela sentenced Sandziso, Sikhanyiso, Mncedisi and Sakhile to 14 years imprisonment with an option of E14 000 fine each.

Meanwhile, Bandile and Majahodvwa were each sentenced to seven years imprisonment with an option of E7 000 fine.

Family smuggles dead minor into Eswatini at night

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

A desperate family at Mvembili smuggled a corpse of a young girl, aged eight, into the country.

This was so that she could be laid to rest at her parental homestead near Lufafa on Saturday evening.

The minor passed away last week after suffering from a severe case of asthma while visiting her extended family near Nelspruit in the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

Due to the fact that the deceased went to the neighbouring country through illegal means with her parents, they opted to smuggle the body back into the kingdom fearing the South African and Eswatini law enforcements.

Due to the sensitivity of the matter, the name of the deceased's family has been withheld. Sources at Mvembili confirmed that the deceased's body was smuggled into the kingdom during the night. "At the beginning of December the family in question smuggled the minor into South Africa with her mother via an informal border crossing.

It is important to mention that Emaswati who live near the borders are often allowed to use the many informal border crossings

by both Eswatini and South African law enforcements.

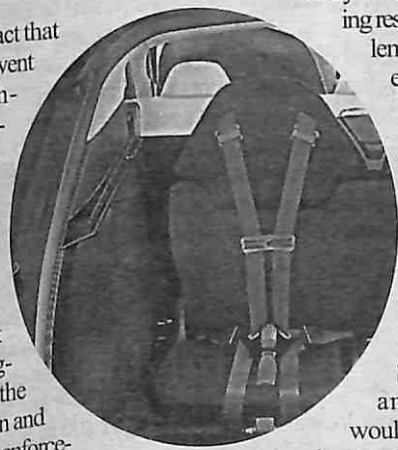
After reaching South Africa the mother left her daughter with her cousins for the festive season," said a source.

The sources added that the mother returned to Eswatini while her daughter enjoyed her holidays near Nelspruit.

"While still in South Africa, the deceased suffered from chest pains, prompting the relatives in South Africa to contact her mother in Eswatini.

While the mother rushed to Nelspruit, the deceased passed away after experienc-

ing respiratory problems. The mother arrived at the homestead and contacted the deceased's father at Ntfontjeni. The father then went to South Africa and said he would smuggle the deceased's body back



into Eswatini because law enforcements will suspect foul play due to the fact that the deceased crossed into South Africa illegally," added the source.

The source went on to say the father and five other relatives placed the body in a wooden box and headed for the informal border crossing near Mvembili, where it was smuggled.

Confirming the incident was former Mvembili Bucoph Mphikeleli Dlamini.

Quantum prices remain unchanged in Pigg's Peak

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

QUANTUM operators in Pigg's Peak will not increase public transport fares due to strong competition from buses along the Pigg's Peak-Mbabane route.

The operators, who approached this publication yesterday, stated that for the next few weeks Quantum fares from Pigg's Peak to Mbabane will remain at E35 and not increase to E45 as reflected in the recent public transport hike gazette.

"Quantum and kombi fares from Mbabane to Pigg's Peak and vice-versa will remain at E35. The main reason

for this is that the Pigg's Peak to Mbabane route has a massive 47 Quantums which all compete for passengers.

Due to this large number, some only ferry passengers once a week.

Furthermore, the same Mbabane to Pigg's Peak route is being serviced by five buses which operate daily.

Attracting

The buses charge cheaper fares of E30, hence attracting more passengers. Also, the buses accommodate more passengers due to the many seats," said one operator.

The operators added that currently they were waiting to meet with two local public transport associations to sort out the fares.

"As you know Pigg's Peak has two public transport associations which will meet on Wednesday to sort out this issue.

It is not fair that the buses still charge passengers E30 but the same buses expect Quantums to charge those same passengers E45.

This will mean that passengers will pay E15 more for using Quantums," added the operators.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Pigg's Peak Bus and Mini-Bus Association Vuyani Dlamini was unreachable as he was dealing with an unspecified family emergency.

SWAGAA TRAINS 56 TEACHERS ON GBV

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

SWAZILAND Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) has trained 56 teachers on gender-based violence (GBV).

SWAGAA is off to a good start, as they had gathered teachers to enlighten them on GBV, during a three-day workshop at Esibayeni Lodge in Matsapha yesterday.

The aim of the training is to; refresh the teachers in preparation to receive new programme members within the schools at which they teach under.

According to SWAGAA National Director Nonhlanhla Dlamini, they were working towards having a country that is free from all abuse, especially towards the girl child.

She stated that teachers played a huge role in the life of a child because they spend 80 per cent of the time with them. "Although this is not the first time gathering in such a manner, it is always good to meet and get updates

on how things are in your various schools.

I hope that by the time the training ends, a lot would have been done towards building a better country for the girl child," she said.

Another speaker at the training was Gcinaphi Ndlovu, who is the Project Manager of the school based programme. She stated that the programme had been running since 2008 to date.

She said they were glad to have partnered with the ministry of education in this regard because without them, SWAGAA could not have reached its main audience, the children.

Ndlovu further stated that they were planning for upcoming trainings which will commence during the holidays and this indicated how committed the organisation was in improving child protection and welfare.

"We want teachers to continue helping us in this regard because they are the ones who deal with the pupils on a day to day basis. You are expected to report any usually behaviour spotted in a child. The training course is

part of the girls empowerment and boys for change curriculum which seeks to empower, teach and re-socialise the stereotypical attitudes that perpetuate violence and abuse in the life of a child," she said.

Ndlovu mentioned that the organisation's statistical analysis indicated that children, especially the girls, were more susceptible to abuse and therefore had to be empowered so they avoid being victims of this scourge.

She further mentioned that since abuse had to be learnt, young boys were discovered to learn this increasing violent behaviour.

"These programmes which the teachers are being trained on then subsequently assist in facilitating an empowerment programme for the boys to grow up and be nurtured than violators," she added.

Ndlovu added that she has seen tremendous change from different girls with this programme, and hopes more change is on the way, in order to have a better country.

WLSA, PARTNERS HOLD PRAYER AGAINST GBV

BY BONCIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

PRAYER seems to be the ultimate tool to make people change their attitude towards the vulnerable groups within society.

It is for this reason that the Women and Law in Southern (WLSA) – Swaziland Chapter, in partnership with Liphimbo Labomake, Swaziland Action Group against Abuse (SWAGAA) and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office

(DPMO), will hold a prayer regarding the violence against women and girls as well as teenage pregnancy.

The event is slated for Thursday, at King Sobhuza Park in Manzini from 9am until noon.

According to WLSA Director Colani Hlatjwako, the prayer is one of the activities of the One Billion Rising Campaign of 2020, which aims to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The campaign was launched by the DPM on November 8, 2019,

with the theme 'Raising the Vibration; Rising against violence to women and girls.' Hlatjwako said the aim of the prayer was to take issues of SGBV and make them national priorities through a medium that many Swazis identify with. Therefore, she said prayer is a powerful tool to reach to the hearts of Eswatini citizens to change their behaviour towards the vulnerable within the society.

"As a predominantly Christian country, we believe that the message against

SGBV will be heard better and more clearly within the context of God's word and how we should behave towards each other as well as follow the teachings of Christ that we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves. With this teaching, it should be easy for us to fight abuse," Hlatjwako said.

The director stated that the prayer would also touch on issues of teenage pregnancy not only as a violation against girls, but also as a social illness as values and principles have since been

eroded.

She added that it was essential for Emaswati find their way back to a society that respects and protects girls from being exploited; a society that will allow girls to enjoy their childhood. "The prayer will be led by Bishop Grace Masilela. All God-fearing Emaswati and concerned citizens are invited to join us for this event.

"We particularly invite men and boys as well as the clergy from other denominations to join us," concluded Hlatjwako.

Man accuses supervisor of misusing govt car

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A former government driver accused of stealing over 70 litres of fuel has turned the tables and say his supervisor was guilty of misusing government vehicles.

Regional Matron at the Mbabane Public Health Unit, Albert Thwala, was testifying against Sikelela Manana when the latter revealed that although he was standing trial for theft, the former was equally guilty.

Thwala stated that as his role as a regional matron, he was tasked with, amongst other duties, monitoring the use of government vehicles for national events.

On the day in question, the department is said to have been preparing to deploy emergency vehicles to be used by health officials at the 2018 Baganu festival in Hlane.

"We discovered that the car which was meant to go to Hlane was low on fuel, whilst the one driven by Manana had fuel. I instructed the drivers to swap vehicles and that saw Manana driving the vehicle which was low on fuel.

"I instructed him to drive to Central Transport Administration (CTA) at the Matsapha depot to refuel the vehicle, whilst Dlamini drove to Hlane," Thwala stated.

Thwala added that later on that day, he received a phone call from an employee at CTA, who asked him if he had authorised for Manana to refuel the vehicle twice on the same day.

However, Manana, through his attor-

ney, questioned Thwala's memory after he admitted that he did not remember most of what happened that day.

Manana said Thwala's statement was filled with untruths, as he had assigned him to deliver a caravan at Hlane on the March 14, 2018.

"You are misleading the court, as my client's instructions state that you assigned him to fill up the vehicle and then proceed to deliver the caravan at Hlane.

"The register book was marked on the 14th and you authorised for Manana to fuel the vehicle twice, as you also wanted to use the vehicle that evening.

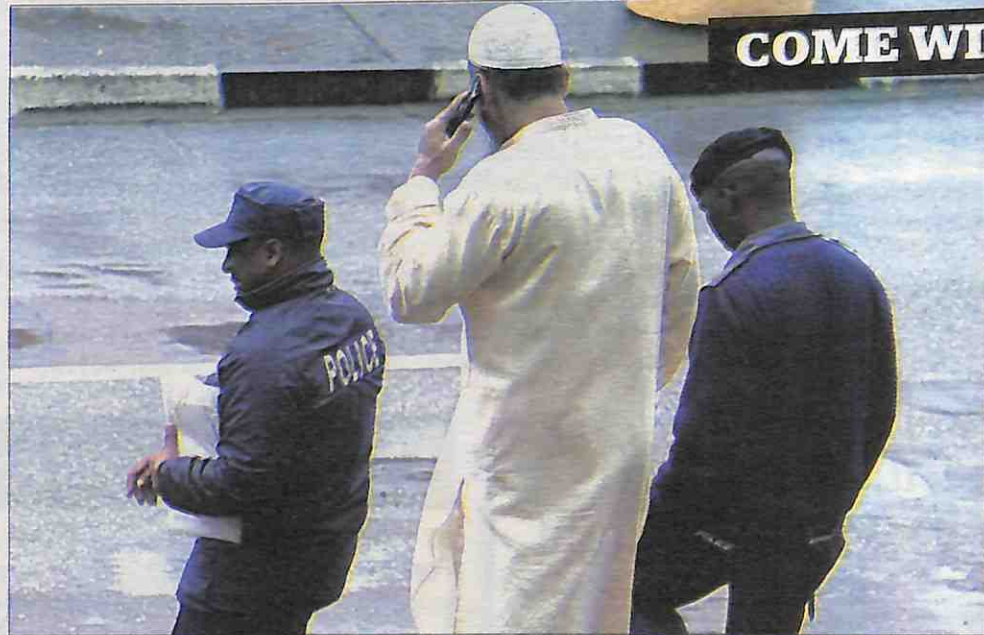
"Is it not true that you normally request drivers to take you home or drive the vehicle yourself?" Manana's attorney questioned. Thwala disputed this, stating that he had not used the government vehicle to drive home that day.

"I never sent him on any assignment that day. I only instructed him to fuel the vehicle and park at the Public Health Unit (PHU) in Mbabane.

"I have forgotten the exact dates that I instructed him to fuel the vehicle, but I do remember that it was the same week we were preparing for the Baganu festival.

"I also would not have assigned him to any duties knowing very well that the vehicle he was driving was low on fuel," Thwala responded, frantically.

As the prosecution was set to call its second witness, Christopher Vilakati who was the fuel manager on duty on March 14th 2018, the defence made an application for postponement as they had only received his affidavit in the morning. The matter continues on Friday.



COME WITH US SIR

ASAMBE BABE: Police officers escort an Asian national to the Mbabane Police Post for questioning yesterday.

(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Man sentenced to 3 years for strangling woman over phone

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man is living in a world filled with regret after he was sentenced to three years in prison for robbing a woman.

Mozambican national Albert Mhlanga stated that he had not woken up with the intention to commit the crime on the day in question.

"My friends had called me for some drinks and I obliged as I hadn't seen them in a long time.

"However, the night turned out to be a rowdy one when, as we were walking from town towards the golf course,

we met a woman and we all harassed her," Mhlanga admitted.

He added that he was the one tasked with robbing her, something he claimed he did just to earn clout with his friends.

"The court records state that I strangled her, yet I only grabbed her phone and ran away. I did not hurt her in any way and I cannot begin to explain how much I regret my actions.

"I hope that the court will be lenient with me, and I hope that she will forgive me for everything that I did to her," he pleaded.

Mhlanga was arrested and charged with robbery. He is said to have robbed Mbalenhle Gina of her Samsung cell-

phone.

According to the charge sheet, Mhlanga unlawfully, with intent to induce submission to the taking of the property, threatened Gina with assault.

Mhlanga is said to have threatened Gina that if she resisted, he would use force and assault her with open hands.

After hearing his mitigation, Magistrate Temantimandze Shongwe sentenced Mhlanga to pay a fine of E3 000 and in default of payment, serve three years in a correctional facility.

His sentence was suspended for a period of two years on condition he does not to commit a similar offence during that period.

OVC grants distribution to begin next month

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

WITH schools opening today, the distribution of the OVC grants is set to commence next month.

With the release of the Free Primary Education (FPE) grants already underway, the distribution of the OVC grants is set to begin in February where a third of the the money would be distributed. Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) Under Secretary Hlobisile Dlamini said the distribution of the grants would kick off soon, adding that they were waiting for principals to submit new lists of beneficiaries.

She said the DPMO would also use data from last year to identify the beneficiaries of the grants.

She, however, said this was nothing new as the process normally begins immediately after schools open.

"The principals are expected to submit the lists so the process can begin," she said.

Dlamini said the current process was the cause of the delay in the distribution of the grants. She

said the DPMO together with the ministry of education and training were considering adopting a new approach where principals would be requested to submit the lists at the end of November as they would already have the reports for the beneficiaries who were still in school and needed the grants.

"This process is not working well and there is a need to adopt another approach," she said.

She stated that the delay was not fair to the parents who were paying for their children's school fees as the money, also support the OVC beneficiaries who receive their grants later.

She said for Form One, they were currently exploring the possibility of using the FPE grants list to determine the number of pupils who would be included in the OVC grants.

She, however, acknowledged that this might not yield accurate results but would at least provide an idea of how many pupils should be included in an attempt to speed up the process.

The US also assured that even though the process was slow, a third of the grants would be distributed before the end of the current financial year.

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

Toyota Corolla / Runx.....	E525.00
Toyota Hilux D4D.....	E599.00
Nissan Almera/Sunny/Primera.....	E523.00
Honda Jazz.....	E683.00
Golf 4.....	E612.00
Polo Round Lights.....	E773.00
Mazda Demio.....	E523.00
Mazda 3.....	E523.00
Vitz / Yaris.....	E523.00
AE110 Corolla.....	E643.00



ESWATINI MOBILE BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



BACK TO SCHOOL: Eswatini Mobile staff members pose in their different school uniforms during the Back To School campaign held at the head offices over the weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



GIFTS CORNER: A young customer viewing her gift voucher after popping a balloon.

PUBLIC NOTICE

UPWARD REVISION OF STATUTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

By Managment



1,2,3 - TAKEN CARE OF: The customer consultants attending to their clients.

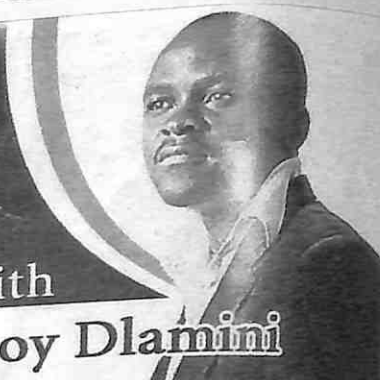


ESWATINI NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

TOLL FREE LINE 800 6002 +268 2508 2000 +268 2508 2001 info@snpf.co.sz MyENPF @ENPF

LUBOMBO NEWS

Siteki Office

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

THE prevalent stock theft in the Lubombo region has left a retired member of the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) with an empty kraal after rustlers stole his 41 cattle.

Sabelo Maziya of Makhewu is devastated that his only fortune, which he had accumulated over four decades, disappeared into thin air.

Narrating his ordeal, an emotional Maziya said he believed he was being targeted by certain people who wanted to see him suffering.

He disclosed that the cattle totaling 41 were stolen last year November, and at about the same time in 2018.

"In November last year, a herd of 13 cattle was stolen from the grazing land while another herd of 28 cattle was stolen just before Christmas in 2018. The cattle have not been recovered," he said.

RETIRED SOLDIER LOSES 41 CATTLE TO RUSTLERS IN 12 MONTHS

He said the second batch of cattle was stolen at daylight at a grazing land, which is not far from his homestead.

Maziya believes that the stolen cattle were taken into neighbouring Mozambique.

"I have reported the matter to the police and further made several follow-ups but in vain. I also formed

a search party which went to Mozambique to look for the stolen cattle, but we did not recover even one of my cattle," said Maziya.

Responsible

Maziya added that he believed some community members were responsible for the disappearance of his cattle.

"I submitted the names of sus-

pects to the police, but they were never arrested," said Maziya.

Suggest

The retired soldier said the suspects would at times make comments which suggest that they knew something about the disappearance of his cattle.

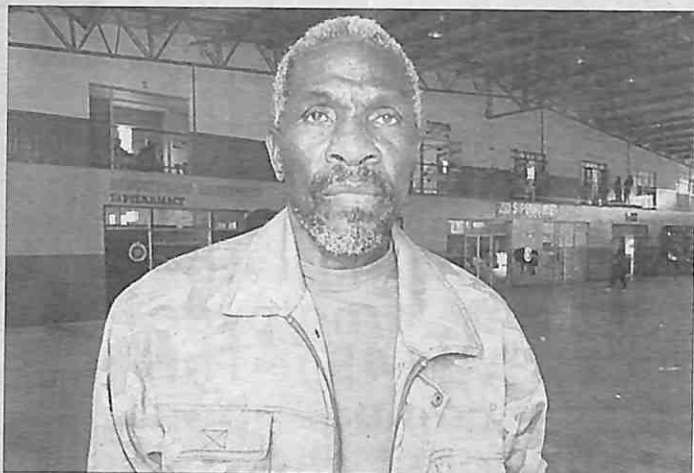
He alleged that the men he believed stole his cattle were now after his

life.

He said he had received information that the men were planning to kill him in cold blood.

Theft

"I have now given up on livestock farming because clearly, the theft of my cattle is personal than just a matter of livestock theft," Maziya said.



BEWARE: Lugongolweni community police leader Kaizer Mathonsi.

'Be weary of vendors selling meat portions in buckets'

MEMBERS of the public around the region have been warned against buying meat portions sold by street vendors.

The meat pieces are mostly carried in buckets.

This warning was issued by community police who are working on the issue of stock theft.

Lugongolweni community police leader Kaizer Mathonsi said the issue of stock theft has taken a new twist, with most stolen cattle now being slaughtered locally and sold in portions.

Over the past years, some stolen cattle would be recovered in neighbouring Mozambique.

Locals were said to be collaborating with their Mozambican partners in stealing cattle and rustling the livestock into that country.

However, with improved relations between the Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) and their

Mozambican counterparts, the rustling of cattle into Mozambique has declined significantly. This led to cattle rustlers coming up with a new plan they now steal and slaughter the cattle locally.

Mathonsi said there had been instances where some were seen carrying beef portions and selling them around the communities, moving from one door to another.

Theft

"The rustlers now steal one or two cows at a time, slaughter and then portion them for sale. There is also a high prevalence of theft of chickens in the communities," Mathonsi explained.

He said the thieves use water to ensure the chickens do not make a sound when they take them from their nests at night.

"They splash the chickens with water and the chickens would not make a sound," said Mathonsi.

Destitute Form Three pupil pleads for sponsorship

A needy pupil of Lubombo Central High is pleading for assistance to pay for her school fees in Form Three.

Simphiwe Dlamini (16) was in the same class last year, but she failed due to a medical condition. Simphiwe lost her eye in 2015 while still at St Boniface Primary. This was when a teacher was meting corporal punishment to another pupil and a splinter flew into her left eye, damaging it permanently.

Dlamini said she had been experiencing severe headache ever since her eye was damaged.

Affected

She also disclosed that this had affected her performance in school work hence she failed the 2019 Junior Certificate examinations.

"I hope I will do better this year and proceed to the next class," said Simphiwe.

She disclosed that her mother who had raised her single-handedly was unemployed, thus there was no one to pay for her school fees.

Members of the public who may want to extend a helping hand can contact Simphiwe's mother, Sindi Gumede on 7639 0795 or the admin-



SEEKING HELP: Simphiwe Dlamini.

istration of Lubombo Central High School.



REVAMP: The Siteki Town Council is in the process of redeveloping the town.

Siteki Town Council in process to reshape town

SITEKI Town Council is in the process of implementing new planning systems in as far as the development of the town is concerned.

As such, the council has called a mass meeting for residents tomorrow at Siteki Town Hall.

Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane said during the meeting, the council would make presentation on Volume 4 (Development Code) of the town plan-

ning scheme. Simelane explained that the town would normally implement new or improved plans for its development every 10 years.

During the meeting, the council will be presenting a document that binds the development of the town.

She said it was important, therefore, for residents and property owners to be present at the meeting so that they could make their contributions.

During the meeting, residents will be informed of specific projects or establishments that are allowed on specific areas of the town.

"Residents and property owners are not supposed to set up structures anywhere, there are specific rules for every zone of the town," Simelane explained.

She invited residents to come in their numbers and not miss out on the presentation of the binding document.

'HE RAPED MY DAUGHTER ON THEIR WAY FROM CHURCH'

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

A woman has shared a detailed ordeal where her only daughter was raped on her way from church by a local boy who is known to be a trouble maker around the community.

The mother who identified herself as Sindi Mavuso said she was hurt and mad at the rape accused identified as Samkelo Mthembu.

"My daughter came back acting rather strangely and when I asked her what was wrong she informed me that the local boy had forced himself on her," said Mavuso.

It is said Mthembu waited for the minor to come back from church as he already knew which route she will use going back home.

He then pounced on the helpless girl.

After this act, he is alleged to have continued with his journey as if nothing happened and he hung out with his friends like he normally did.

During his appearance at the Magistrate's Court, Mthembu denied the allegations and told the court that he did not rape anyone.

Route

He actually went to church with his sister who was later brought as a witness. The witness who was identified as Nolwazi Mthembu, a sister to the accused, said her brother went to church and they didn't go back home together.

"We both left home for church.

After church we went separate ways, so I do not know what happened later but I know my brother is not a rapist. All know is that he drinks heavily," she said.

When delivering his side of the story, the accused said after church he went straight home using the normal route.

"I left my sister in church and rushed home as I was supposed to meet up with my friends but I did not meet anyone along the way nor did I rape anyone," said Mthembu. In a strange twist of events, the mother of the minor who was allegedly raped says the witness Nolwazi was actually his girlfriend not his sister.

"He is fooling us, I do not know how he went around doing it but the girl who testified as a witness is not his sister. We know them to be lovers in the area," said Mavuso.

Mthembu was remanded in custody and told to come back on February 23 where a verdict will be issued. He was advised not to interfere with the complainant and witnesses.

Man killed by car while trying to cross road

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

A 33-year-old man lost his life after he was knocked down by a car while attempting to cross a public road.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the accident.

She said the accident happened on Saturday at 1420 hours at Maseyisini along Nhlango/Mahamba MR9 public road where a BMW sedan driven by a 28-year-old of Mahlalini knocked down the 33-year-old man of Maseyisini.

The pedestrian sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Nhlango Health Centre where he was certified dead upon arrival. The driver of the BMW escaped unharm.

An eye-witness said the pedestrian was knocked down by the vehicle while attempting to cross the road in front of a kombi parked on the side of the road.

He said the state of sobriety of the pedestrian was questionable as he was carrying a beer bottle. He stated that the pedestrian might have been obstructed by the parked kombi as he crossed the road without looking. Vusweni Indvuna Reggie Lukhele said the area where the accident occurred was prone to accidents as no less than eight people



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

were knocked down by cars each year. He said they had on a number of occasions requested for speed humps to be installed in the area.

"People around the area are now losing patience and consider installing the speed humps," he said.

Lukhele mentioned that on other occasions, the community members resorted to using gravel on the road in order to try and force motorists to slow down.

He said as a community they were concerned that their speed humps will not be up to standard and be without proper signage. Otherwise they would have long undertaken the exercise.



CLICK CLICK: Well-wishers taking pictures of a couple Keiren 'Mahlalekhikini' Thurgood and Ntsikie Bhembe during their lobola ceremony held at Dalriach over the weekend. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu) ...see more in page 16

BODY OF MAN WITH DOUBLE CITIZENSHIP FINALLY HOME, BURIED

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

THE family of Richard Ginindza, who died two weeks ago, is relieved after finally repatriating his body home from South Africa where he met his death.

Ginindza had double citizenship, thus his family was frustrated as they could not repatriate the body.

It was not until the past week that the body was finally brought home with the funeral held on Saturday.

During the night vigil, the deceased's wife Dorothy Lukhele was applauded for her patience and devotion in bringing back the body.

"Today would not have been possible had our brother's wife not devoted herself to the whole exercise.

She suspended the mourning process and helped us sort this issue," said Mavi Ginindza when addressing the mourn-

ers.

The Ginindza home was littered with mourners who had come to pay their last respects. Some of the mourners said they were relieved that Ginindza had finally been laid to rest.

"I am glad that we were able to bury him.

The family would have been a sorry sight in the community. Of course, we are saddened by the Ginindza family's loss but we are relieved that he is finally at his resting place," said Sihlangu Dlamini.

The late Ginindza's wife also shared her sentiments about the whole ordeal. "Finally my husband's body is home and resting in peace.

I am thankful that my wish was granted.

This was the most difficult period for me but I'm glad it worked out well, for that we are thankful," said Lukhele.

The deceased's children also expressed their pleasure that their father had been

laid to rest.

The eldest daughter Mbali Ginindza said she could now focus on healing and taking care of her siblings.

"Now I can finally say that I am at peace, my father is home and resting in peace. Now that we have closure and can move forward, all that is left for me is to take care of the kids as the first-born of the family," said Mbali.

“

Today would not have been possible had our brother's wife not devoted herself to the whole exercise. She suspended the mourning process and helped us sort this issue

”

'Teach men kusoma tricks'

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

MEN should be taught the tricks of proposing love (kusoma).

This was said during Men Engage network meeting at The George Hotel last Friday. The aim of the meeting was for the network members to come up with strategies of stopping the rapidly increasing rate of abuse in the country.

All the members of the network were proposing strategies that will reduce the abuse cases.

During the deliberations, it was stated that one of the reasons behind men being so abusive was because they lacked the skill of courting the opposite sex.

Instilling

It was further mentioned that this issue has to be dealt with by instilling the skill of proposing love to those open to the idea.

The gathering felt the skill should be taught at a very early stage of a man's life. The lack of skill for courting a woman brought forth anger to a man which leads to abuse.

Speaking at the gathering was National Coordinator of the Men

Engage Network Bonginkhosi Ndlangamandla, who is also part of the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGGA).

Ndlangamandla mentioned that they had noted an increase in reported cases of abuse in 2019 compared to previous years.

"This shows that a lot still needs to be done in ensuring that the scourge is dealt with in the country. More boys clubs must be opened in schools all over the country," he said.

Moreover, it was mentioned that drug and substance abuse was another driver of abuse as most of the incarcerated persons were supposedly under the influence of a drug.

It was further mentioned that when under the influence, they found themselves falling into unbecoming act.

Adding, it was advised that boys should be taught about the effects of drugs abuse from a very young age, either by forming clubs or working with existing clubs in the various schools and higher institutions of learning. The final deliberation was that every network should implement every strategy they worked on, for better results on matters of abuse.

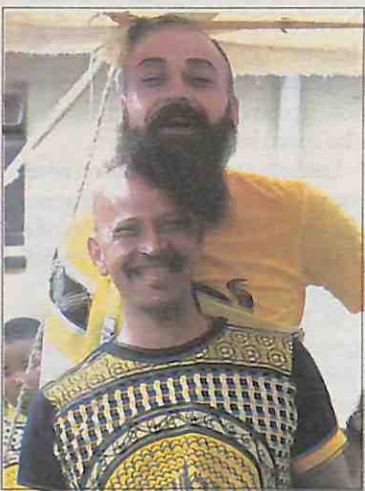
'MAHLALEKHIKHINI' PAYS LOBOLA



TOGETHER FOR LIFE: Businessman Keiren Thurgood of Sharks Cellular poses with his wife Ntsikie Bhembe during their lobola ceremony held at her parental home in Dalriach over the weekend. The ceremony was attended by relatives, friends, business people and other high ranking officials. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



UNITY: Keiren in a discussion with his wife Ntsikie.



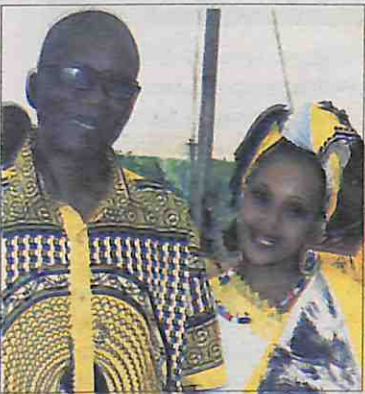
BUDDIES: Tiaan and Davie enjoying every moment during the event.



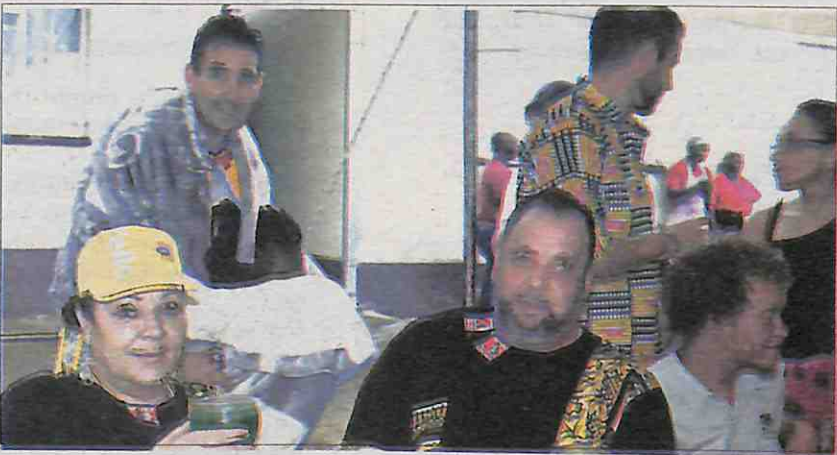
CHEESE: The bride flanked by her friends before lunch was served for the guests.



GENTS: Nhlanhla, Bheki, Brian, Philani and Sean pose.



PROUD: Former Commissioner of Correctional Services Mnguni Simelane with his granddaughter Ntsikie Thurgood.



POSE: 'Mahlalekhikhini' poses with some of his friends Roslyn and Brian Carrington from the Swazi Boyz MCC.



IN SONG: 'Mahlalekhikhini' and his wife with the bridal party at the end of the ceremony.



RELAXED: Ministry of Health PS Dr Simon Zwane was among the well-wishers.



SUPPORT: The bride with some of her friends and relatives.



RELATIVES: Some of the relatives following proceedings of the event.

What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER

... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

BREEDING A
NEGATIVE CULTURE

ORGANISATIONS thrive through creating a positive culture that allows people to use their talents to benefit them, however, it does happen that a leader promotes a negative culture, at times without being aware of it.

A negative leader instils dread on team members but a poised leader let the people do what they were hired to and that is work.

Poised leaders do not intimidate team members by making them feel watched like a hawk, micromanage them in their tasks, track every move they make, or enact rules or policies that make them feel constrained and under 360 degrees surveillance.

Such behaviour is practiced by leaders who lead through fear. Micro-management breeds a negative culture that is marked by terror, timidity, and low morale.

Some of the significant signs that may indicate that a leader is breeding a negative culture are listed as follows and these are significant signs that you might be leading from anxiety. If they sound familiar, you need to drastically change your leadership style to clean up the toxic culture and begin creating success and happiness for yourself and your team.

Limited interact - When people keep to themselves and are scared to step out of line. If your employees and team members' main goal is to keep their heads down and stay in their own lane, your organisation will not be competitive because the people are afraid to cross a line.

Order is maintained through punishment - People who work in punitive environments are frightened most of the time. It is incredibly demoralising to feel you are constantly being monitored to be caught doing something wrong. Effective leaders spend their time listening to people, solving problems and celebrating successes, not punishing people or trying to catch them doing something wrong.

People do not speak the truth or rather speak many truth - Under fear-based leadership, people are afraid to tell the truth because



● When people work under a cloud of fear and suspicion, they act out of anxiety and timidity, and they are incapable of bringing their best. You cannot work well with the notion that you can lose your job over a misstep. Your job as leader is to bring the best out of people, and that's not possible in a climate of fear.

they already know no one wants to hear it. They keep problems and challenges to themselves because they know that bringing them into the open will not help and may even do them harm. The open communication that needs to happen for a team to work effectively is shut down completely.

People are constantly afraid of losing their jobs - When people work under a cloud of fear and suspicion, they act out of anxiety and timidity, and they are incapable of bringing their best. You cannot work well with the notion that you can lose your job over a misstep. Your job as leader is to bring the best out of people, and that's not possible in a climate of fear.

People are terrified of messing up - When people have a leader who addresses problems by penalising someone, they learn to

lay low and blame each other when things go wrong because they are scared to be the one called out for a mistake. It is one of the surest routes to a toxic culture.

Talent has no space and it does not advance - With a fear-based leader, the smartest and most competent people do not tend to advance. Instead, promotions go to those who most wholeheartedly embrace the culture and agree with whatever the leader says. Over time, unthinking agreement becomes the only way to get ahead.

People desire not to be visible - In a climate of fear, it is so hard for people to be authentic or present.

They keep to themselves, worried about making waves or standing out. The main goal of most employees becomes to avoid being noticed, which leads to mediocrity across the

board.

If you recognise this culture, you need to know that leading through fear is doing direct harm to your leadership, your team and your organisation. It is likely that many of your most talented and gifted people have already left you, so take immediate steps to make the necessary changes before you lose the rest.

Real leaders lead from within and they create a positive culture that makes people thrive. As a leader, your job is to make people feel secure, safe and supported.

If you are instead creating havoc, control and anxiety, you are a fearful leader and need to make some changes so to create a desirable culture that enhances productivity and performance. A negative culture does not benefit anyone, instead it robs an organisation of productivity and realising synergy.

THE world's elite, heads of states, heads of NGOs, heads of businesses, leading journalists, are in Davos, Switzerland this week, for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

This year's theme is 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World.' In a world divided, chaotic, unsafe, with low levels of economic growth, cooperation to build a cohesive and sustainable world is needed.

We need a leadership well-prepared to confront today's pressing global challenges.

The first step to building a cooperative and cohesive world, will be an objective analysis

Davos 2020: Focus should be on poverty, not inequality

of the socio-economic problems we face as mankind.

Among these socio-economic problems, and perhaps the biggest, are poverty and lack of opportunity.

In my recent piece published in New York's Sahara Reporters, I argued that post-Cold War, the humanity has made significant strides on the fight against poverty.

But with this remarkable progress, we must not shy away from the fact that millions around the world still live in dire conditions. Lifting these millions out of these deplorable living conditions ought to be a major focus at the WEF, and in other global forums. Sadly, the very much needed dialogue on how to strategically win the fight against poverty and open up opportunities for the

millions around the world, is, in many occasions, overshadowed by the obsession over income inequality. This obsession over how much money Bill Gates or Johann Rupert earns in comparison to other individuals around the world, seems to be shaping the world's discourse.

I believe this obsession is unnecessary and is a serious distraction to what we must be paying atten-

tion to as citizens of the world.

To emphasise this point, there are two very important things that I must remind you about.

Firstly, there's no way we can equalise people's incomes because the differential results from different production skills, opportunities, culture, age, geography, and much more, that differentiates us as human beings.

ON THIS DAY

...JANUARY 21

1954 - The Nautilus was launched in Groton, CT. It was the first atomic-powered submarine. US First Lady Mamie Eisenhower broke the traditional bottle of champagne across the bow.

1954 - The gas turbine automobile was introduced in New York City.

1970 - The Boeing 747 made its first commercial flight from New York to London for Pan American.

1970 - ABC-TV presented "The Johnny Cash Show" in prime time.

1976 - The French Concorde SST aircraft began regular commercial service for Air France and British Airways.

1977 - US President Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

1980 - Gold was valued at \$850 an ounce.

1986 - Former major-league player, Randy Bass, became the highest-paid baseball player in Japanese history. Bass signed a three-year contract for \$3.25 million. He played for the Hanshin Tigers.

1994 - A jury in Manassas, VA, acquitted Lorena Bobbitt by reason of temporary insanity of maliciously wounding (severing his penis) her husband John. She accused him of sexually assaulting her.

1997 - Newt Gingrich was fined as the US House of Representatives voted for first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

1998 - A former White House intern said on tape that she had an affair with US President Clinton.

1999 - The US Coast Guard intercepted a ship headed for Houston, TX, that had over 9,500 pounds of cocaine aboard. It was one of the largest drug busts in U.S. history.

2002 - In Goma, Congo, about 50 people were killed when lava flow ignited a gas station. The people killed were trying to steal fuel from elevated tanks. The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo began on January 17, 2002.

2002 - In London, a 17th century book by Capt. John Smith, founder of the English settlement at Jamestown, was sold at auction for \$48 800. "The General History of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles" was published in 1632.

2003 - It was announced by the US Census Bureau that estimates showed that the Hispanic population had passed the black population for the first time.



REVEALED: Women work near the town of Nanukye, Kenya.

...Women risk being trapped in poverty with little time to get an education, earn a decent living or have a say in how society is run, Sriskandarajah added.

MIND THE GAP: 22 MEN ARE RICHER THAN ALL OF AFRICA'S WOMEN

ECONOMIC inequality is widening across the world and women in particular are feeling its effects as care work remains undervalued, according to a new report by anti-poverty charity Oxfam.

The world's 22 richest men, for instance, own more wealth than all 325 million women in Africa combined, Oxfam's Time to Care report showed.

"When 22 men have more wealth than all the women in Africa combined, it's clear that our economy is just plain sexist," Danny Sriskandarajah, chief executive at Oxfam Great Britain said in conjunction with the report's publication yesterday.

Published in advance of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where world leaders will meet this week, Oxfam's report

highlighted how women are 'chronically undervalued' for unpaid care work, Sriskandarajah said.

"If world leaders meeting this week are serious about reducing poverty and inequality, they urgently need to invest in care and other public services that make life easier for those with care responsibilities, and tackle discrimination holding back women and girls," he said.

Poverty

Women risk being trapped in poverty with little time to get an education, earn a decent living or have a say in how society is run, Sriskandarajah added.

Men not only own more than 50 per cent more wealth than women, but they also control government decision making. On average, women make up only 18 per cent of cabinet ministers globally and 24 per

cent of parliamentarians.

Oxfam's data showed that more women are left out of the workforce during their peak productive and reproductive ages, worsening the income gap between men and women.

The problem of inequality affects more than just women as more than half of the world is trying to survive on \$5.50 a day or less, according to data from the World Bank.

Report

"Many people are just one hospital bill or failed harvest away from destitution," Oxfam said in its report.

The world's total number of 2 153 billionaires had more wealth than the poorest 4.6 billion people, which is more than half the global population, Oxfam's data showed.

The pressure on carers is set to grow in the coming decade as the world faces not only an ageing pop-

ulation but also the negative effects of climate change, such as requiring women to travel further to get clean water for their households, said Oxfam. Fairer tax systems that tighten and close loopholes should be prioritised by governments, which should invest in national care systems so that the burden of care does not fall on unpaid work by women, the charity urged.

"[Our] research has shown that providing access to an improved water source could save African women significant time, for example in parts of Zimbabwe up to four hours of work a day, or two months a year," Oxfam said.

"Investments in water and sanitation, electricity, childcare and public healthcare could free up women's time and improve their quality of life." *Al Jazeera*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Emma Bunton
(Pop Singer)
January 21, 1976 -
44 years old



Jerry Trainor
(Movie Actor)
January 21, 1971 -
42 years old

Adriaan Basson: This is the type of rogue who wants Gordhan fired

ON August 1 2015, a property developer from the small Free State farming town Vrede called France Oupa Mokoena emailed the CV of Mosebenzi Joseph Zwane to Tony Gupta.

Zwane was a former teacher-turned-mayor from Vrede who had served in the provincial cabinet of then premier Ace Magashule between 2009 and 2015.

A few hours after receiving Zwane's CV, Tony Gupta - the youngest of the Gupta brothers - emailed it to Duduzane Zuma, for-

mer president Jacob Zuma's favourite son and proxy in the Gupta business empire.

Copy

On September 2, 2015, ANC Deputy Secretary General Jessie Duarte informed Parliament that a vacancy in the ANC's benches would be filled by Zwane. On the same day, Tony Gupta received a copy of Duarte's letter.

Three weeks later, Zuma snr unceremoniously sacked Ngoako Ramatlhodi as resources minister and replaced him with Zwane.

Two months into the job, the inexperienced and unqualified Zwane boarded a jet to Zurich in Switzerland where he and Tony Gupta persuaded Glencore to sell their Optimum coal mines to a company owned by the Guptas and Duduzane Zuma.

Eskom, then under the control of Brian Molefe, Anoj Singh and Matshela Koko, assisted the Guptas by squeezing Glencore out of business and then handing guarantees for a coal contract to the Guptas to obtain a loan.

Why are all this relevant today? Because we have short memories.

We read that Zwane led the attack to oust Pravin Gordhan from his portfolio as public enterprises minister at the weekend's meeting of the ANC NEC and we forget to ask, "who is Zwane again?"

And why would Zwane want Gordhan out of Cabinet?

Based on the evidence above and more, former public protector Thuli Madonsela concluded that Zwane potentially committed a crime. *News24*

REFLECTIONS

WITH MIKE DREW
GUEST WRITER

IT WAS A TOUGH YEAR FOR PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER

...being new to Cabinet is not easy and the writer wishes the minister every success in the second session of this parliament, by taking a more pro-active and a more visible approach to the challenges that lie ahead



OF all the newly appointed Cabinet ministers in the 11th Parliament, it is respectfully suggested that Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Ndlehlhla Ndandwe has probably experienced the steepest learning curve in the first session of the new parliament.

It is critical to any minister's credibility that they are seen to be accountable for any decisions made and take ownership for their actions, rather than seeking to delegate responsibility to others.

On reflection, an experienced Cabinet minister has the ability to anticipate and control events rather than being dictated to by events. An experienced minister also understands that promises made to deliver within an agreed timescale must be kept, otherwise it can cause resentment and distrust.

As evidenced by the tertiary students' response because they did not receive their allowances within the agreed timescale and the government suppliers not being paid in September 2019, as originally agreed by the minister of finance.

Having met with the transport operators late last year to agree the way forward on the hike on bus fares, events seemed to have overtaken the minister.

The issuing of the extraordinary gazette was all very last minute, in an attempt to avoid a strike by the public transport operators, causing uproar amongst commuters.

And the inevitable confusion over the hike in bus fares, particularly in relation to short distances, where it would appear that in some cases, commuters are being overcharged.

It would appear the minister is failing to prevent the Eswatini Road Transport Council (ERTC) from instructing its members to implement the hike in fares even before the gazette had been officially posted, right in the middle of a calendar month immediately following the festive season, so commuters have not been able to budget for the increase in fares.

In fact, so last minute that the minister found himself having to ask for an amnesty period from the public transporters, whilst giving verbal assurances that the gazette would be issued on Monday, January 13 2020.

A minister needs to be pro-active in anticipating potential problems through actions which may have been overtaken by others. So for example, the badly timed rise in the fuel tax levy of 0.85 cents by the minister of finance directly impacted on the decision by the opportunist public transport operators to implement such a steep hike in bus

fares.

This should have been anticipated and responded to sooner by the minister, rather than the last minute rush to issue the gazette.

In the writer's opinion, it would appear that public transport operators, through the ERTC, are now dictating to the minister and are exerting too much influence on the direction of travel.

Operators

In the writer's opinion, public transport operators need now to be much better regulated for the safety of their customers and the number of kombis on the road significantly reduced. Because, not a week seems to go by without a public transport operator being involved in a potentially serious accident.

As evidenced by yet another near fatal accident involving a kombi operating as Sanele Transport due to a probable brake failure. Even the judiciary has rightly observed that kombi drivers "behave as if they own the road."

Some of them have no respect for other motorists to the extent that they insult them."

The writer, therefore, finds it slightly ironic that the minister has been accused of a lack of respect by not implementing the gazette sooner. Respect needs to be earned and needs to be a two way. The current standard of driving by the majority

of public transport operators is totally unacceptable and is putting lives at risk.

So, in the writer's opinion, a key target for the minister in 2020, in partnership with National Commissioner of Police William Tsitsibala Dlamini, is to make the public transport operators more accountable for their actions.

Insurance

The hike in public fares means that public transport operators will now have the money to invest in vehicle safety, regular servicing, third party insurance and better driving standards.

As public transport operators continue to exhibit wayward and inconsiderate behaviour to other road users, it is respectfully suggested that under the banner of 'Together Making Eswatini Roads Safe for Everyone', a key target for the minister in 2020 is to ensure much better standards of driving by public transport operators and more road-worthy vehicles.

With the Road Traffic Act continuing to be robustly enforced by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), public transport operators must accept that they may have their livelihood threatened.

Eswatini Railway has allegedly procured six vehicles from a local dealer without going to tender in violation of the Public Procurement

Act 2011.

The willingness to take ownership of an issue rather than always looking to delegate creates both trust and confidence in a minister.

The writer finds it difficult to accept that Corporate Communications Manager Sive Manana was not aware of the processes and principles which guide procurement compliance.

The communications manager, having demonstrated such an obvious reluctance to address the issue, it is slightly disappointing that when asked to comment, the minister advised he had not yet engaged with the Category A parastatal and referred all questions back to the Eswatini Railway spokesperson. It is respectfully suggested that, an experienced cabinet minister would be taking the initiative now to address the issue and not just wait for events to unfold. It is readily accepted that, the minister has inherited the problems associated with the controversial Nhlhlangano/Sicunusa road project from his predecessor and now Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini.

Notwithstanding, there are still issues the minister can address now whilst awaiting the conclusions of the requested independent forensic audit for the road project; which may support Auditor General Timothy Matsebula's view that, before the

contract was terminated, there were a number of 'irregularities' noted, to include possible corruption in public office at the highest levels within government.

If contract obligations were to be enforced, Kukhanya Civil Engineering would now apparently be owed E100 million by government in settlement for the early termination of the contract in April 2018. Whilst negotiations are ongoing, government is apparently still attracting monthly penalties in the region of E5 million. Money that could be better spent on a road repair programme.

The continuing delays are clearly to the benefit of Kukhanya and to the detriment of tax payers.

When reporting to the Senate in November 2019 the Principal Secretary Khangeziwe Mabuza is quoted as saying that "the Ministry is engaged in concerted efforts to complete the stalled projects".

The writer wonders whether the political will still exists to address the issue and if so, respectfully suggests that the minister should now take a more pro-active role by publicly supporting the PAC Chairperson and Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi, in requiring both the uncooperative Senate president and the very elusive Director of Kukhanya Civil Engineering, Peter Nqwenya to appear before the Public Accounts Committee, to answer a few searching questions before any possible settlement negotiations are even considered.

An experienced minister will not work in isolation but will seek to build a good working relationship with his Portfolio Committee and other ministers, to the mutual benefit of all parties. The current state of even the major roads creates such a poor first impression to tourists.

Roads which motorists have described as potential 'death traps' and which will have a negative impact on tourism.

So, my respectful request to the minister of public works and transport is to take the opportunity to engage with the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Moses Vilakati, to make his own significant contribution to the growth of tourism numbers in 2020, by investing in a much needed road infrastructure repair programme, despite the present fiscal challenges, for the benefit of the many anticipated tourists to the kingdom, following the very positive revue by 'Lonely Planet'.

An experienced minister understands that the timing of any communication which is going to be in the public domain is critical. And hopefully, the minister has learnt important lessons from his timing on the extraordinary gazette and his press statement on the new fleet of BMW escort vehicles. Which in the absence of clear channels of communication, lacked any real substance or transparency; which left too many questions unanswered and which caused so much reputational damage internationally to the government. Any future press statement must now be timely, transparent and accurate.

Having been involved in local government in my own country, the writer understands the frustrations and occasional feelings of isolation and occasional loss of confidence, sometimes associated with the need to make unpopular decisions for the greater collective good.

Being new to Cabinet is not easy and the writer wishes the minister of public works and transport every success in the second session of this parliament, by taking a more pro-active and a more visible approach to the challenges that lie ahead and by not allowing himself to be dictated to by organisations such as the Eswatini Road Transport Council.

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

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

VITALS

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

SEDCO, YERF to launch online business directory

BY BAHLE GAMA

IN the coming week the Small Enterprises Development Company (SEDCO), in collaboration with the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF), will be launching an online business directory for the Fund participants.

Speaking on behalf of SEDCO CEO during the youth fund loan beneficiaries announcement, Samkelo Lushaba said Eswatini youth needed to recognise the importance of innovation.

"Eswatini youth need to take note that innovation and entrepreneurship are important to address major developmental challenges such as inclusion, sustainability and shared prosperity.

"Innovative entrepreneurship spurs



TAKE NOTE: Samkelo Lushaba represented SEDCO CEO during the youth fund loan beneficiaries announcement.

productivity and economic dynamism. "The recipients will be given the opportunity for an online presence.

We, therefore, implore the nation to make deliberate and intentional efforts to support the young busi-

nesses. We have the confidence in quality and other aspects since we work with them," he said.

He further disclosed that SEDCO had the pleasure of working with the first cohort of the fund recipients, whereby 43 youth enterprises participated in different sectors such as manufacturing, construction, service, agriculture, wholesale and retail.

"However, the missing link remains the innovation element. As a nation we need to have structures and policies that will encourage innovation, especially in the context of youth entrepreneurship," he said.

Lushaba added that the first cohort of the fund beneficiaries created 105 jobs with an average cumulative loan portfolio in excess of E2.4 million and a combined cumulative turnover in excess of E4 million over the past six months.

FSRA CANCELS FOREX CASH LOANS LICENCE

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Financial Service Regulatory Authority (FSRA) has cancelled a licence by service credit provider Forex Cash Loans.

This follows an application by the company to have the licence called because they have since closed and ceased operations.

The FSRA granted this application after being satisfied that the service provider has ceased to exist.

"In the exercise of the powers conferred on

the FSRA by section 42(1) (b) read together with section 59 of the Financial Service Regulatory Act, 2010, the FSRA hereby advises all creditors of Forex Cash Loans (Pty) Ltd and members of the general public that the company's as a credit provider has been cancelled," reads part of a notice released by the company.

The Authority added that creditors and members of the general public were hereby notified of the cancellation and that Forex Cash Loans was no longer authorised to operate as a credit provider in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

FSRA Head of Stakeholder and Consumer

Affairs Mbuso Gamedze confirmed the developments when sought for comment yesterday.

"The Authority has cancelled the company's licence following their submitted application. There is nothing sinister with this move as it was in the instance of the company which has ceased to exist," he said.

BUSINESS EXTRA

5 REASONS TO BUY PROPERTY IN 2020

JOHANNESBURG - South Africans enter 2020 with one of the best property buyer's markets in years - and the reasons to buy are compelling, says Samuel Seeff, chair of the Seeff Property Group.

OVERSUPPLY

Most areas are still overstocked, he argues, so there are still plenty of excellent buys in the market.

NEGOTIATING POWER

It's a buyer's market, meaning prospective buyers can negotiate strongly.

WAITING PERIODS

Sellers who have been holding out may be more ready to sell.

BORROWING CONDITIONS

The flat interest rate and July rate cut has contributed to low borrowing costs and favourable mortgage lending conditions, says Seeff. Related to the above, banks are keen to lend, and first-time buyers are finding bonds of up to 105%, he notes.

FLAT PRICES

Price growth has barely kept track with inflation and will likely remain flat for some time, which means buyers can find homes at 'last year's prices'. However, he adds, property does generally appreciate in value, meaning prospective homeowners can start small and renovate or customise to suit their needs. *source/fin24*

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 20 JAN 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.4233	14.4733
British Pound/SZL	18.7430	18.8080
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.6134	7.6377
Swiss Franc/SZL	14.8985	14.9486
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3269	1.3460
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9304	9.9663
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.0438	11.0804
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.0105	16.0896
Gold	1,561.7080	
Oil	64.34	

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



Standard Bank

BACK 2 SCHOOL



Don't forget our amazing:-

Branding - bring the uniforms for branding.
Jerseys - we have the best in the country.

**TO THE SCHOOLS:
BRING A SAMPLE SO WE
CAN MANUFACTURE FOR YOU
THE BEST QUALITY AT THE BEST PRICE.**

Eswatini Observer Tuesday January 21, 2020

Schools should support SMEs on merchandise - Minister

BY BAHLE GAMA

MINISTER of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo has urged principals and the nation at large to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) specialising on school related merchandise.

Speaking during a tour of the Small Enterprises Development Company (SEDCO), Khumalo said having declared 2020 a year for SMEs in Eswatini, he felt it is necessary for Eswatini to support SMEs, especially during the back to school period.

"As we draw closer to the re-opening of schools around the country, parents and guardians will be busy with securing school requirements for their children such as uniform, stationery and other items.

This year I have declared that it is a year for SMEs in Eswatini. As a ministry, we wish to focus much of our effort into identifying growth opportunities for the SME sector," he said.

He further stated that they were driven by the belief that a thriving SME sector could make a significant contribution to sustainable economic growth, job creation and subsequently poverty alleviation.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to both buyers and sellers to transact in harmony during this engaging period and to all players in



URGED: Minister of Commerce Manqoba Khumalo with one of the women selling school uniforms at the SEDCO premises.

the education materials supply chain, to support SMEs for their school requirements. In the same vein, I encourage the SMEs themselves to supply quality products and ensure customer satisfaction in order to guarantee repeat business," he added.

The Back to School campaign run by SEDCO is aimed at encouraging the nation to support SMEs dealing with school merchandise. SEDCO, through

the 'Business Incubation Programme,' incubated a number of SMEs who manufacture quality and affordable school products such as uniforms; jerseys, tracksuits, neckties, shirts, and beverages such as fruit juice and bottled water.

The incubated SMEs are found at the SEDCO Nhlanguano Estate, Mbabane Estate at the Industrial Site, Sidwashini Estate and Manzini Estate – adjacent the old Metro Cash & Carry building.

Do not give up on agribusiness - entrepreneur

STOIRIS BY BAHLE GAMA

YOUTH Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) benefactor and agri-farmer Nozipho Mashinini has urged other entrepreneurs not to give up on agribusiness no matter how many times they fail.

Mashinini was amongst the 72 beneficiaries of the E3.8 million from the fund. Speaking yesterday, Mashinini, who



Agri-farmer Nozipho Mashinini.

received E30 000, said agribusiness was the go-to place for entrepreneurs because most inputs were viable and variable, as they included naturals like land and water.

Now specialising in piggery, she disclosed that being born into a family of farmers in Motshane played a vital role in fuelling her passion of being a farmer. She grew up rearing poultry and a cattle feedlot. However, as she got deep into agri-business, she learnt that she lacked knowledge and had to do research.

"I have failed in previous attempts of different farming due to my lack of refresher courses and research.

Now that I am in piggery I have learnt a lot that I wouldn't have had I not done any research," she said.

She mentioned that before piggery she had attempted and failed in other areas like

farming vegetables and rabbits.

She has only succeeded in piggery, baby vegetable farming and makhaya chicken.

"Due to proper research, now I know that piggery needs one to grow yellow maize to enhance feeds and growing of cabbages to boost feeds, hence I have decided to learn more on making my own feed and keeping sows for not more than three years as they depreciate in giving birth as time goes on. Piggery is an easy project to tackle on and does not need a lot of work as long as one has water," she said.

She further stated that with the loan acquired, she intends expanding her business in pork production, further stating that she wanted to have an abattoir as she currently has three sows and one boar with 10 piglets.

"In the next two years I want to expand and keep 10 sows and two boars. In the next five years, I intend owning a big company whereby we would sell all pork products and have my own butchery," she said.

...Lack of stigma towards women an encouragement

AGRI-FARMER Nozipho Mashinini says the lack of stigma towards women in farming has encouraged her and urged other women entrepreneurs to take advantage.

"Women nowadays are privileged because there is no longer any stigma in the market world, hence I would like to urge women to pick

up their tools and go to work. I can assure you that it is very refreshing being your own boss as you make your own decisions at your own time, own bank accounts and hire people of your choice, thus fighting poverty at the same time," she said.

She further noted that young entrepreneurs had a chance of surviving in the market to an extent of export-

ing their products just like she does her baby vegetables to South Africa.

"I would also like to urge entrepreneurs out there to always ensure that they register their companies, have a business plan then keep records of every transaction in the business.

Also make sure you know your target market and what they want," she added.

NECSA salary payments hang in the balance

JOHANNESBURG - The Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa acknowledged to Fin24 yesterday afternoon that its ability to pay salaries to employees at the end of January is within doubt.

This followed a tweet from energy expert and Managing Director of EE Business Intelligence, Chris Yelland, which said NECSA's acting CEO, Ayanda Maloyi, told employees that the company would not be able to pay salaries at the end of the month.

Last week, the three remaining members of the NECSA board handed in their resignations to Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, which the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse blamed on interference from government.

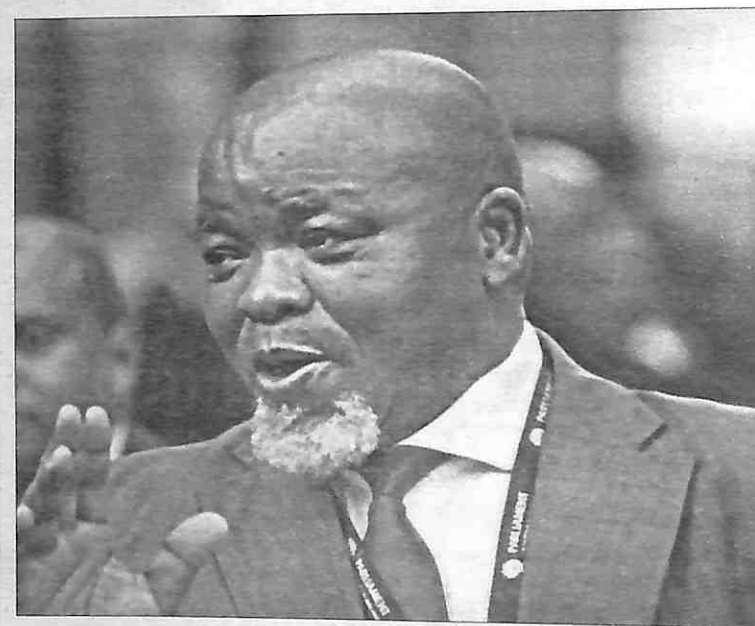
Contacted by Fin24 yesterday afternoon for comment,

Department of Energy spokesperson David Shabangu referred all questions to NECSA. NECSA spokesperson Nikelwa Tengimfene told Fin24 that the corporation was working with the department to seek a solution and pay salaries on time.

"NECSA is currently facing serious financial difficulties and management is working with the department of mineral resources and energy to find a solution. Urgent priority will be given to ensure that salaries for staff are paid on time," said Tengimfene.

Speaking to reporters last week, when asked about the board resignations and the alleged interference that caused them, Mantashe said there was no way to protect NECSA from financial and operational risks without improving its governance first.

Fin24



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Gwede Mantashe.

IMF CUTS SA'S 2020 GROWTH FORECAST

JOHANNESBURG - Structural constraints and deteriorating public finances are impacting SA's growth prospects negatively, with the International Monetary Fund revising down growth projections for the country.

The IMF yesterday published its world economic outlook for 2020. South Africa's growth has been revised down by 0.3 of a percentage point to 0.8 per cent, compared to projections made in October 2019.

"Structural constraints and deteriorating public finances are holding back business confidence and private investment," the IMF said of SA's performance.

South Africa's downward revision pulled down growth expected for the sub-Saharan Africa region, where growth

is expected to tick in at 3.5 per cent. This is 0.1 of a percentage point lower than the October projection for the region.

Overall global growth is forecast at 3.3 per cent in 2020, a downward revision of 0.1 of a percentage point. Similarly, growth for 2019 is estimated 0.1 of a percentage point lower at 2.9 per cent. Growth for 2021 is estimated 0.2 of a percentage point lower at 3.4 per cent.

"The downward revision primarily reflects negative surprises to economic activity in a few emerging market economies, notably India, which led to a reassessment of growth prospects over the next two years.

"In a few cases, this reassessment also reflects the impact of increased social unrest," the IMF said. **Fin24**



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A STAKEHOLDER
EDUCATION
FORUM

THE PRICING OF FINANCIAL SERVICES PRODUCTS

Insurers may also set minimum premiums for a type of risk which is also subject to change and that is because a premium is calculated based on a variety of factors which impact the total cost to you.

THE way in which financial services products are priced varies amongst the different authorised financial service providers.

There are, however, common factors that determine how much a consumer should pay either for an insurance policy, credit or a shareholding. Having discussed the need to do comparison shopping in last week's article, today we will discuss what financial services providers consider when pricing their products.

HOW DO INSURERS DETERMINE A PREMIUM?

Insurers rely on a range of information to calculate a premium they may charge for accepting a particular risk. Every risk is different and can incorporate different rating factors which affect the premium.

For example, an insurer may consider the following types of information when deciding what premium to charge for a policy:

1. The type of insurance policy (or the level of cover) you choose;
2. Optional extra cover you may choose to include in your policy;
3. Your claims history;
4. The excess you choose should you need to make a claim; etc.

WHY DO PREMIUMS CHANGE?

Insurance premiums often change annually or during the anniversary of the policy. Premiums may increase or decrease when there are changes to your risk. Insurers may also set minimum premiums for a type of risk which is also subject to change and that is because a premium is calculated based on a variety of factors which impact the total cost to you.

PREMIUMS MAY CHANGE WHEN:

1. Your risk is rated differently by the insurer (especially after a claim, a natural disaster, new statistics etc.);
2. Changes you make to the risk;
3. The number of claims you file;
4. The value of the item to be insured and changes to the value or quantity of what you are insuring;
5. Inflation;
6. Impacts to the insurer's financial performance;
7. The insurer's investment performance and returns; and
8. Costs of obtaining re-insurance, etc.

HOW DO CREDIT PROVIDERS DETERMINE AN INSTALMENT?

The type of credit is key in determining the amount of instalment you pay for credit granted. The two types of credit are;

1. Secured Credit

This is commonly used to purchase a large item, such as a home or car. An asset called collateral secures the loan. If you do not keep

the monthly payment arrangement, the creditor may claim the collateral.

2. Unsecured Credit

This is credit extended without collateral. Because of the higher risk to lenders, unsecured credit generally carries a higher interest rate than secured credit.

WHAT CONSTITUTE THE COST OF CREDIT?

In determining the overall costs of credit over and above the principal debt, credit providers may look at the following;

1. Annual percentage rate (APR)

The APR is the annual rate of interest charged on the outstanding balance.

2. Initiation fee

Means a fee in respect of costs of initiating a credit agreement, and-

- a) charged to the consumer by the credit provider; or
- b) paid to the credit provider by the consumer upon entering into a credit agreement.

3. Default administration charge

Is a charge that may be imposed by a credit provider to cover administration costs incurred as a result of a consumer defaulting on an obligation under a credit agreement.

4. Collection costs

Is an amount that may be charged by a credit provider in respect of enforcement of monetary obligations for a consumer under a credit agreement.

5. Credit insurance

Is a premium payable to an insurer to cover your debt or outstanding debt to your credit provider should you become unable to fulfil your commitment.

6. Service fee

The service fee covers the cost of administering a credit agreement.

WHY DO INSTALMENTS VARY?

Instalments vary because of the following;

1. Character

Character refers to how responsible you are with repaying your debts. Most credit providers judge this by looking at your credit report and/or score. Your credit report tracks your credit activity. Your credit score is a numeric summary of the information in your credit report.

2. Capacity

Capacity refers to the ability to repay what you borrow.

3. Capital

Capital refers to the assets that you have.

4. Collateral

Collateral is a property, surety or other asset that a borrower offers as a way for a credit provider to secure the loan.

WHAT INFLUENCE THE VALUE OF SHARES

Consumers looking to invest in companies need to understand what factors influence the share price.

When a company first lists its stock through an initial public offering (IPO), an evaluation of the company's current and projected per-

formance is conducted to determine the value of the IPO for the business.

This can be done by comparing the company with the IPO of another similar company or by calculating the net present value of the firm. This valuation is important in deciding the initial share price when a company goes public.

SETTING THE SHARE PRICE

1. Supply and Demand

Share prices are largely determined by the forces of supply and demand. A company that demonstrates long-term earnings potential may attract more buyers. A company with a poor outlook, may attract more sellers than buyers. In general, prices rise during periods of increased demand, when there are more buyers than sellers. Prices fall during periods of increased supply, when there are more sellers than buyers.

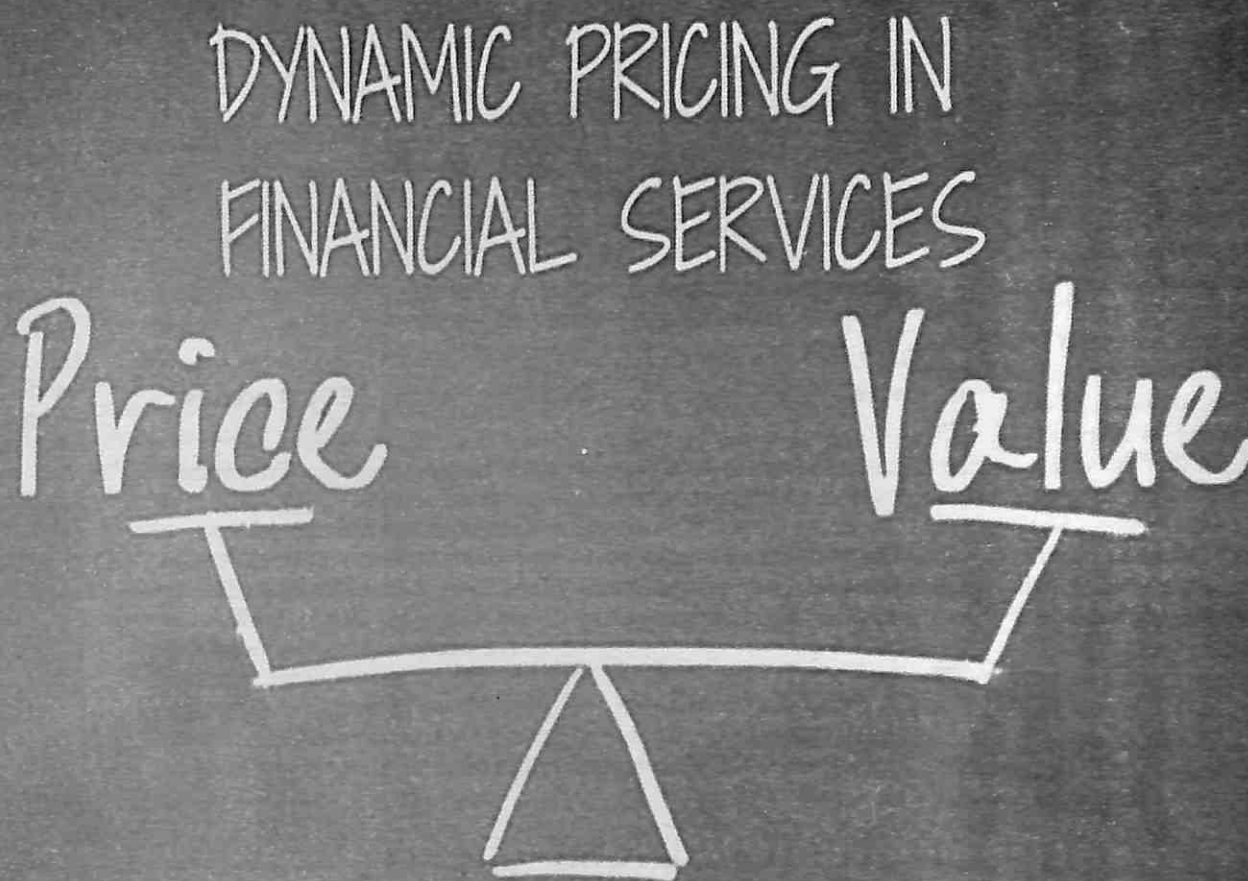
2. Market News

Market news can cause changes in price. Some examples include earnings reports, political events, material company events, and economic news.

3. Herd Instinct

Stock prices can also be driven by the tendency for people to mimic the actions of a larger group.

Information provided in this article is meant for financial literacy purposes only and should not be construed as financial advice. For further information on the pricing of financial services please contact FSRA at 2406 8000 or email us at stakeholder@fsra.co.sz



FASHION, HOME RETAILERS REPORT MIXED UPDATES

JOHANNESBURG - Fashion and home retailers Mr Price, The Foschini Group (TFG) and Truworths last week reported a mixed bag of trading updates, reflecting the effects of the weak economy and self-inflicted problems.

TFG led sales growth ahead of its peers in the nine months to December, while sales at Mr Price recovered in November and December, and sales at Truworths rose by a meagre 1.2 per cent to R10.6 billion for the 26 weeks to the end of December.

TFG said consolidated turnover grew by 5.9 per cent for the nine months to December 2019, compared with a year earlier, in line with expectations in all regions, apart from TFG Australia, which exceeded expectations.

The group said on Friday that same-store turnover grew by 4.1 per cent, cash turnover jumped 11.2 per cent and credit turnover declined by 1 per cent as a result of its prudent approach to credit in the current constrained economic environment.



ment.

TFG said the turnover growth included a record Black Friday performance, which helped to offset the negative impact of load shedding in December.

Mr Price said earlier on Friday that it had continued to gain market share in November, an increasingly key trading month because of Black Friday. Mr Price said it was hurt by load shedding and heavy downpours in December.

"Business activity in key weeks in December was materially affected by Stage 6 rolling power blackouts and prolonged periods of torrential rain in the inland areas, partially diluting the anticipated impact of the extra week of school holidays," the group said.

Statistics SA last week said November retail trade sales had jumped to their highest year-on-year growth since the Easter holiday in April, buoyed by the significant increase in Black Friday discounts.

Lulama Qongqo, an investment analyst at Mergence Investment Managers, said on Friday that the reports from the retailers showed that consumers were trying to stretch their wallets as much as possible by looking for bargains and opting to buy necessities before buying discretionary items and it had been difficult to get price increases through.

Business Report

Govt still looking for R2bn to save SAA

JOHANNESBURG - Flights will remain operational as government struggles to raise business rescue money.

Government has yet to find the remaining R2 billion needed for the South African Airways (SAA) business rescue plan but has reaffirmed its commitment to seeing the business process to its successful conclusion.

"Following a meeting with the practitioners at the weekend, the Department of Public Enterprises is engaging with the National Treasury to raise funds for the airline in line with the [post-commencement funding] undertaking," the Public Enterprises Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

When SAA took the route of voluntary business rescue in December, Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan said R4 billion would be needed for the operation, and that half of the amount would be raised from lenders while the other half would be raised in a "fiscally neutral manner". Speaking at a breakfast briefing ahead of the annual World Economic Forum on Thursday, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni said the government was still working on securing additional funding for SAA.

While it emerged last week that the airline had placed nine of its aircraft, 15 engines and other parts for up sale on January 10, it denied claims that this was in order to raise the R2 billion. Instead, the airline said the sale was to accommodate four new aircraft that have been added to its fleet.

Business Day reported business rescue practitioner Les Matuson as saying that government had until January 19 (Sunday) to release the money or SAA would have to suspend certain flights. In response to Moneyweb's questions, Matuson Spokesperson Louise Brugman was able to confirm that flights would remain operational. **Moneyweb**

Life Healthcare seeks new CEO

DURBAN - JSE-listed private hospital group Life Healthcare is searching for a new chief executive to take over the reins from Shrey Viranna, who announced on Friday that he is stepping down with immediate effect after almost two years on the job.

Viranna, who was appointed in February 2018, led a successful disposal of the 49.7 per cent stake in Max Healthcare in India last year to Radiant Life Care, with the group pocketing R1.5 billion in profit.

Proceeds from the sale of Max Healthcare were used to settle debt.

The group said Viranna would also step down as an executive director of the board and its related subsidiaries. He was emigrating to Australia for personal and family reasons.

The group has appointed Pieter van der Westhuizen, the current chief financial officer (CFO), as interim chief executive.

"Pieter van der Westhuizen will also retain his role as CFO, supported by the company's highly capable finance function. Pieter has been with Life Healthcare for 20 years, the last five as group CFO.

Dr Viranna will remain with the company as a special adviser until February 29 to provide continuity," the group said.

Mustaq Brey, chairperson of Life Healthcare, said: "Pieter has vast experience of the industry and Life Healthcare and, having also previously acted as chief executive, will provide immediate strategic, operational and leadership continuity for the business as they start the new year."

Business Report

Oil rises to more than a week high

INTERNATIONAL - Oil prices rose to their highest in more than one week yesterday after two large crude production bases in Libya began shutting down amid a military blockade, setting the stage for crude flows from the OPEC member to be cut to a trickle.

Brent crude LCOc1 futures were up by 70 cents, or 1.11 per cent, to US\$65.55 by 0731 GMT, having earlier reached US\$66 a barrel, the highest since January 9. The West Texas Intermediate CLc1 contract was up by 56 cents, or 1 per cent, at \$59.10 a barrel, after rising to \$59.73, the highest since January 10.

In the latest development

in a long-running conflict in Libya, where two rival factions have claimed the right to rule the country for more than five years, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) on Sunday said two big oilfields in the southwest had begun shutting down after forces loyal to the Libyan National Army closed a pipeline.

"If this sort of disruption endures, it's meaningful ... the market is right to be reacting with a bullish tone," said Lachlan Shaw, head of commodity research, at National Australia Bank in Melbourne.

"It just continues to emphasise, notwithstanding that the world market is clearly in surplus and there are plenty

of stocks, the fact is the market still depends on a number of key regions that have heightened geopolitical risk."

Oil prices had fallen back in the last two weeks. After the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Iran at the beginning of the year triggered a jump, both sides took steps to pull back from conflict, calming the market's mood.

If Libyan exports are halted for any sustained period, tanks for storage will fill within days and production will slow to 72 000 barrels per day (bpd), an NOC spokesman said. Libya has been producing around 1.2 million bpd recently. **Reuters**

Union warns of mass action over Telkom job losses

JOHANNESBURG - The Communication Workers Union has called on the ANC and the government to step in as Telkom plans to retrench more than 3 000 workers.

Last week, Telkom sent out Section 189 notices to its employees as it announced it was planning to restructure its business.

In a statement, CWU Secretary General Aubrey Tshabalala dismissed the company's claim that market conditions, regulatory uncertainty and the competitive environment had made it difficult for the company to thrive.

Tshabalala accused Telkom Chief Executive Siphosiso Maseko and another



top executives of making personal fortunes for themselves while they sent workers packing.

"As the CWU we find the presentation by the company ridiculous

and undermining not only workers, but the country at large. In 2016 the company presented almost the same reasons to cut over 2000 jobs and further outsourced thousands more jobs. The executives of Telkom rewarded themselves in 2018 with a total sum of R153.9 million for dismissing workers, and then claimed the company made profits," Tshabalala said. He said the company's revenue had grown by more than 58 per cent in the 2018/19 financial year through mobile services, while its subscriptions grew by more than 85 per cent to 9.7 million subscribers.

"This was at a time when the company refused to reward workers with a decent salary increase. Instead,

workers pocketed only 4 per cent on average in a three-year cycle," he said. Tshabalala said the government had to account for its role in the decision by Telkom. "The CWU wants to know when the board took this decision, and who was present?" he asked.

The government currently holds a 40 per cent stake at Telkom, and the CWU wants the ANC and Finance Minister Tito Mboweni to use their influence to block the planned retrenchments.

Tshabalala accused the government of happily collecting dividends while workers were being fired from companies where the state had shares. **IOI**

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

ANCYL leader barred from NEC venue because of dress code

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Youth League spokesperson Sizophila Mkhize on Sunday alleged that she was barred from entering the venue of the ANC national executive committee lekgotla meeting because her dress was "too short".

Mkhize, in a post on her Facebook page, said that she was blocked by an ANC staffer at the door and told to cover up.

The Sunday meeting in Irene, Pretoria, was called to draft the party's plans for governance for the year ahead. But Mkhize, who posted her picture in her yellow and green dress, said she was told she could not enter the meeting because the dress was "too short".

"A staffer from the (secretary-general's) office stops by the door and tells me to go look for *ihya ngibhinc* (to cover up) because old people are complaining about such dress code! "I am told that my dress is too

short, a young woman from the Presidency was called to come and explain this nonsense to me.

"And her explanation is 'inking a umekahle and this dress ikukhipha izinga, manje they will complain and they will shout at me for allowing you with this dress. (the problem is that you have a nice body and your dress is revealing and they will complain and shout at me for allowing you in.)', " reads the post. She said she was not going to "shrink to make men or anyone comfortable".

"I am not going to be bullied by anyone regardless of the office they come from. I refuse to be sexualised inside the ANC or whoever in the world! "I'm a woman and you'll give respect to my womanhood and my name," she said. She was eventually allowed into the venue. ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe was not available for comment.

Sowetan Live



Man dies after 'stick attack' by shopkeeper

JOHANNESBURG - A man suffered brain damage and died in a Pretoria hospital after a shopkeeper allegedly assaulted him with a stick.

Semake Malebye, 50, from Makapanstad, near Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria, succumbed to injuries he sustained when he was allegedly assaulted on January 6.

Malebye was certified brain dead at the George Mukhari Academic Hospital in Garankuwa last Wednesday.

Malebye's aunt Lorraine Malebye, 62, who lived with him, said she went looking for him in his bedroom at the back of her house and found him sitting on the floor with his head buried in his hands.

"When he lifted his head to look at me I was shocked to see blood all over his face and clothes," Lorraine said. "I cried for help and my neighbours came rushing. He looked at us; he didn't cry or even say a word as he was unable to talk."

Malebye was rushed to Hammanskraal's Jubilee Hospital by ambulance but was transferred

to George Mukhari three days later due to the seriousness of his injuries. He later died.

Police confirmed that 24-year-old Bangladeshi national Mohammed Molla was arrested and appeared in court last week. The matter was postponed until next week.

Tshepo Maboya, 26, said he saw the drama unfold. He said Malebye was repeatedly assaulted with a stick by the shop owner after they argued over money apparently owned to him for painting the shop.

"The shopkeeper told him he must pay him for the cigarettes he took on credit first," Maboya said.

North West police spokesperson Adele Myburgh said: "The cause of death will be determined by the postmortem [results] and it forms part of the police investigations."

The shop was shut down after the incident and its stock was removed under heavy police presence as angry residents demanded it be closed.

Sowetan Live

NO MORE POORLY-QUALIFIED PEOPLE - RAMAPHOSA

PRETORIA - While struggling state-owned enterprises such as Eskom and SAA are diminishing the state's capacity, the practice of parachuting poorly qualified, but politically connected people into key positions will come to an end, President Cyril Ramaphosa wrote in his weekly newsletter.

The topic of Monday's letter was 'a capable state'.

Ramaphosa recounted being struck by the "need to significantly improve the capacity of the government that is meant to improve their lives" while walking through the streets of Kimberley and other towns in the Northern Cape two weeks ago, as part of the ANC's January 8th celebrations.

"It was disheartening to see that, despite progress in many areas, there were several glaring instances of service delivery failures," Ramaphosa wrote.

"Many of the places we visited struggle to provide social infrastructure and services simply because they have such a small revenue base. But, in some cases, elected officials and public servants have neglected their responsibilities."

"A common feature in most of these towns, which is evident throughout all spheres of government, is that the state often lacks the necessary capacity to adequately meet people's needs."

He said public representatives and civil servants derived their legitimacy from their ability to act professionally while serving the public and managing state resources to the benefit of the public.

"Poor coordination and alignment between departments and lack of effective oversight has meant that policies and programmes have not had the necessary impact on people's lives," Ramaphosa said.

"That is why this administration has prioritised the task of building a capable state." He added that a capable state started with the people who worked in it. "Officials and managers must possess the right financial and technical skills and other expertise. We are committed to end the practice of poorly qualified individuals being parachuted into positions of authority through political patronage. There should be consequences for all those in the public service who do not do their work."

He also said a capable state meant state-owned enterprises needed to fulfil their mandates effectively and add value to the economy.

"State companies that cannot deliver services - such as Eskom during load shedding - or that require continual bailouts - such as SAA - diminish the capacity of the state. That is why a major focus of our work this year is to restore our SOEs to health. We will do this by appointing experienced and qualified boards and managers. We will be clarifying their mandates and give them scope to execute those mandates."

Ramaphosa said while South Africa faced "great challenges, we do not have a dysfunctional state".

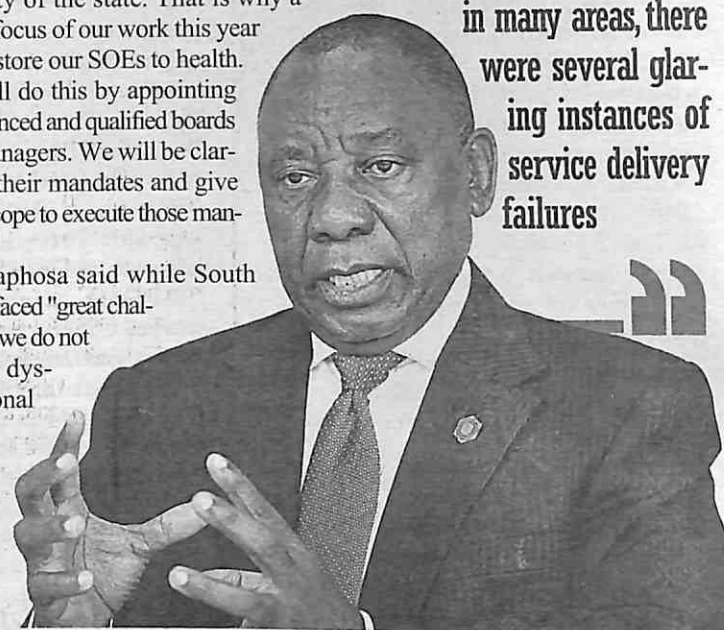
For the

building of a capable state to be successful, citizens need to get involved.

"We must all participate in school governing bodies, ward committees and community policing forums. It is on citizens that government will rely to advise us on the standards of public services in communities. It is on you that we depend to hold those who are failing you to account."

"Where government needs help, we should be prepared to draw on the skills, expertise and resources of the private sector and civil society. If we all work together to build a more capable and developmental state, we will be that much closer to realising the South Africa that we all want." *News24*

It was disheartening to see that, despite progress in many areas, there were several glaring instances of service delivery failures



NO MORE: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES MAY TOP

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC's national executive committee has kicked off its lekgotla, amid a plethora of crises, chief among them being how the governing party's leadership handled Eskom's debilitating power woes.

Following bombshells of how Eskom's management and Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan allegedly misled President Cyril Ramaphosa regarding challenges at the power utility, gloves are expected to come off as the 108-year-old party attempts to come up with solutions.

But Secretary-General Ace Magashule

on Sunday insisted that despite disputes among the party leaders on resolutions adopted at the ANC's 54th national conference in 2017, including the nationalisation of the South African Reserve Bank, the government had the duty to implement them (resolutions).

Economy

"Even in terms of state-owned enterprises and the economy."

"We checked and looked at the 51st, 52nd, 53rd and 54th conference resolutions and we said this is the year of implementation of our policies," he said on the sidelines of the meeting

held in Centurion near Pretoria.

Magashule also denied that the party's top leadership was plagued by growing disunity, which some claimed is part of a plot to unseat Ramaphosa at the ANC's national general council scheduled for June.

"We always see the media reports and highlights. There weren't any turf battles."

"This was the best national executive committee we had starting and beginning the year 2020."

"I think the president, and all of us, have once more emphasised the issue of building a capable state and the issue

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

ZONDO DISMISSES APPLICATION TO HALT TESTIMONY FROM PWC AUDITOR

JOHANNESBURG - Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo yesterday dismissed an application by former KwaZulu-Natal Treasury head Sipho Shabalala.

Shabalala had wanted to stop PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) forensic auditor Trevor White from testifying at the state capture commission.

After Zondo's dismissal, the commission is now expected to hear from White.

"I'm going to dismiss the application. If the applicants really require me to

give reasons, they will request them and they will be given."

White's name was brought up by Hawks colonel Johannes van Loggerenberg who testified about interference with law enforcement agencies last week.

White is expected to lead evidence on the alleged criminal activities of Durban businessman Thoshan Panday and how he was vetted by PwC.

Van Loggerenberg told the commission that decisions on Panday's case were political because "everyone including investigators" knew that Panday and

Edward Zuma were business partners.

Shabalala is one of the main accused in the fraud and corruption trial case now known as amigoss and his lawyer Advocate Shezi said he would be prejudiced.

"If this testimony is allowed to continue before it is heard in the criminal court, it is trial-related prejudice. The presiding officer who might be handling this matter may be watching the commission."

EWN

'Good Samaritan' turned out to be a monster

CAPE TOWN - "It happened so fast, I went inside a shop to buy food and in a blink of an eye my baby was gone.

A woman whom I thought was a Good Samaritan turned out to be a monster."

These were the words of a 29-year-old Asanda Tiwane from Khayelitsha after one of her two-months-old twins, Kwahlelwa Tiwane, was kidnapped in Parow on Thursday by a woman only known as Monica who pretended to be a social worker. The mother now fears for the life of her child.

Tiwane, an unemployed mother of three said that the woman first visited the family on Friday, January 10, promising to assist them with food hampers and a R1 000 voucher.

"I never suspected anything because she had visited other families and came to us more than three times before the incident, including the other day where we went to Mitchells Plain to do an affi-

davit which we later did not but instead made copies of the babies documents," she said. On the day of the snatching, Tiwane said the woman called in the morning informing her that she would be late and on her arrival later in the morning took a taxi to Parow, where they were to receive the voucher. She carried one of the twins.

At Parow, Tiwane said the woman told her to get something to eat at a nearby food outlet and that she was going into the post office with one of the twins, "where her office was".

"I called her twice and after not picking up I panicked. After some time she sent an SMS saying I should go back home, she will keep the baby until our situation at home has improved and I never heard from her again," Tiwane said. Police spokesperson André Traut said a case of kidnapping was under investigation. "The circumstances sur-

rounding the kidnapping of the child are being investigated and the assistance of the public will be appreciated so that the mother can be reunited with her child," he said.

Missing Children South Africa National Co-ordinator Bianca van Aswegen said children that go missing was a big concern, and the number was alarming.

"Children get kidnapped for various reasons such as ransom demands, traditional medicine (*muti*), human-trafficking purposes and also family abductions," she said. "People are still under the impression that they have to wait 24 hours before reporting a child or person as missing. There is no waiting period at all to open a missing person's case," Van Aswegen added.

Ward councillor Xolisa Ngwekazi said this was the first incident of this nature reported to his office and advised parents to be vigilant. *News24*



'We are turning our schools into mortuaries'

JOHANNESBURG - Gauteng education MEC Panyaza Lesufi on Sunday vowed to expel school staff if they were found to have been negligent in the protection of pupils.

Lesufi was speaking to the media after meeting the family of 13-year-old Keamohetswe Shaun Seboko who drowned in the hotel swimming pool at Laerskool Bekker in Magaliesburg, Gauteng.

Seboko's body was found on Wednesday, the same day Parktown Boys' High Grade Eight pupil Enoch Mpianzi drowned in the Crocodile River during an orientation camp at the Nyati River and Bush lodge in the North West. Mpianzi was not wearing a life

jacket when the pupils' raft on the river capsized — and his disappearance went unnoticed for 17 hours. Lesufi bemoaned the fact that he spent "more time comforting families" than speaking to teachers. "This must come to an end."

He warned that the department would take action against negligence.

"Where it is staff-related negligence, the department will take action. If they need to be expelled or banned ... we will do it. It is non-negotiable," he told broadcaster eNCA in Magaliesburg.

"We are turning our schools into mortuaries ... we must stop that." *News24*

Medical intern found dead on hospital resident grounds

JOHANNESBURG - Sbonile Pretty Nkwashu, 24, was found dead in her dorm at the Mankweng Hospital resident grounds in Limpopo on Sunday, 19 January, reports Review Online.

The police had to break down the locked door of her dormitory to access her body after the hospital's executive management

team made the discovery. The 24-year-old, who was from Dzumeri in Giyani, was one of the interns who had just completed her studies and started work with the department on 2 January.

The police have launched an investigation into her death.

The MEC of health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, said in a statement: "We will work with the police through our Forensic Unit and we will not rest until we find out what happened to our young and beautiful smart doctor."

The MEC further extended her condolences to the Nkwashu family and visited the family yesterday to convey her condolences.

Citizen

TITO MBOWENI CLEARS AIR ON 'RETIRE GRACEFULLY' TWEET

CAPE TOWN - Finance Minister Tito Mboweni has clarified a social-media post which sparked speculation that he might be leaving office.

At the weekend, Mboweni tweeted that "it is good to retire gracefully" and not "overstay your time in office".

The tweet sent social media into a buzz, as some of his followers were worried about his employment status.

However, Mboweni told the SABC he was not going anywhere soon.

"Resigning from where? No, no, no. I was referring to heads of state who have overstayed their welcome. I'm not a head of state," said Mboweni.

The tweet came after he recently got into hot water with the ANC after calling for a public debate on the party's resolution to nationalise the SA Reserve Bank (SARB).

Last week, Mboweni made Twitter's top trending list after he questioned what the ANC sought to achieve by nationalising the bank.

He also suggested that there was no logic behind the exercise, as "90 per cent of the SARB profits were handed over to the National Revenue Fund".

Times Live reported that the party's spokesperson, Pule Mabe, expressed concern over Mboweni's comments, saying he should act



CLARITY: Finance Minister Tito Mboweni.

with care and be cautious at all times on matters of policy, given his position as minister of finance, including subjecting himself to the overall communications protocols of the ANC.

"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."

Times Live

ANC NEC LEKGOTLA AGENDA

of unity."

Insiders are tight-lipped on whether the lekgotla will entertain calls for Gordhan to step down as some NEC members gun for him while others have shown him support.

Also expected to form part of discussions is the progress on the implementation of the expropriation of land without compensation policy. Magashule said the party's top brass aimed to look at ways of giving practical expression to the January 8 statement delivered by

Ramaphosa in the Northern Cape earlier this month.

The governing party has also set its sights on local government and weakened service delivery by the municipalities in the country's provinces. "We have seen as we walked in the streets of Northern Cape the sewage all over and we have seen rubbish and refuse all over and we are saying we are not going to allow these things.

"There are going to be consequences," Magashule said.

Delivering the January 8 statement, Ramaphosa warned ANC's public representatives, who he said continue to spoil the party's standing among its supporters through bad performance and wrongdoing.

He maintained that these members, especially in the municipalities, would be monitored and punished if found to be in the wrong. The party is expected to announce the outcome of its meeting tomorrow.

Political Bureau

Focus on World News

Global News

TRUMP HAS KILLED THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

WASHINGTON - On July 14, 2015, top diplomats from Iran and six world powers announced they had finally - after nine years of planning and negotiating - come to an agreement to curb Iran's nuclear production and prevent it from becoming a nuclear power.

Then President Barack Obama lauded the deal - officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - as a "chapter in this pursuit of a safer and more helpful and more hopeful world," and later called it "the strongest non-proliferation agreement ever negotiated."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, at the same time, called the landmark agreement a "historic deal and Iranians will be proud of it for generations to come." People in Tehran danced in the streets to celebrate.

Four-and-a-half years later, this cooperation between the US and Iran has relapsed into enmity, and the optimism has faded into tensions so high they risk all-out war.

President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the deal in May 2018, citing a lack of trust in Iran and calling Obama's work a bad deal. He then imposed punitive sanctions to cripple Iran's economy in an unsuccessful effort to force the regime's leaders to comply with US demands



KILLED IT: President Donald Trump.

on its behaviour. Trump's actions have been widely viewed as the catalyst of a series of escalating tensions between the US and Iran, which bubbled to a historic height in recent days. On January 3, the US killed revered Iranian military leader Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike ordered by Trump. Two days later, Iran announced it was fully withdrawing from the JCPOA, having since last summer openly taken incremental steps from its commitments that could

allow it to develop a potential nuclear weapon. Last Thursday, Rouhani said the country was enriching more uranium than it did before completing the JCPOA in 2015. Europeans are scrambling - and failing - to save the deal. Meanwhile, the European signatories of the deal - Britain, France, and Germany - have been scrambling to save the deal, and bring Tehran and Washington back to the negotiating table.

Business insider

I had no other option but to end royal role, says Prince Harry

LONDON - Britain's Prince Harry spoke on Sunday of his sadness at being forced to give up his royal duties in a deal with Queen Elizabeth and senior Windsors that will see him and his wife Meghan exit official roles to seek an independent future.

Buckingham Palace and the queen announced on Saturday that Harry and Meghan would no longer be working members of Britain's monarchy, no longer use their 'Royal Highness' titles and would now pay their own way in life, freeing them to forge new careers. The new arrangement was struck to end

a crisis the couple sparked by announcing earlier this month they wanted to cut down on official engagements and spend more time in North America, while remaining active royals. In a speech to the Sentebale charity on Sunday, a clearly upset Harry said the final outcome was not what he and his American wife, a former actress, had wanted. "Our hope was to continue serving the queen, the Commonwealth and my military associations without public funding. Sadly that wasn't possible," the prince, the sixth-in-line to the throne, said. "I've accepted this knowing it doesn't change

who I am, or how committed I am. But I hope that helps you understand what it had come to, that I would step back from all I have ever known to take a step forward into what I hope can be a more peaceful life." Under the arrangement, Harry will remain a prince and the couple will keep their titles of Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they begin a new life split between Britain and North America where they will spend the majority of their time. But they will not take part in any future ceremonial events or royal tours.

Reuters

Ukraine's president REFUSES to accept resignation of prime minister

KYIV - Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday refused to accept the resignation of the country's prime minister, saying he wanted to give Oleksiy Honcharuk 'a second chance'.

"I have decided to give you and your government a second chance," Zelensky said during a meeting with Honcharuk who had offered his resignation earlier yesterday.

Ukraine's prime minister submitted his resignation yesterday, days after he was caught on tape saying the country's president knows nothing about the economy.

In a Facebook post, Oleksiy Honcharuk said he had given his resignation to President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"I took this post to implement the president's programme. He is an example of transparency and decency to me," he said.

"However, in order to dispel any doubts about our respect and trust for the president, I have written a resignation letter and submitted it to the president for introduction

to parliament," Honcharuk's statement read.

Earlier this week an audio recording surfaced in which Honcharuk appeared to make disparaging comments about Zelensky's understanding of economics.

He called Zelensky 'a layman' in economics and said the president should be better educated about the national currency.

Honcharuk said the recording was a compilation of 'fragments of recorded government meetings' and blamed unidentified 'influential groups' for making it look like he doesn't respect the president. "It is not true," the prime minister insisted.

On Thursday, lawmakers from the opposition party Opposition Platform-For Life demanded Honcharuk's resignation, saying he and his cabinet discredit Ukraine's president and exacerbate the economic crisis in the country.

Members of the ruling Servant of the People party said there were no grounds for Honcharuk to resign.

Reuters

75 inmates dig their way out of prison

ASUNCION - At least 75 inmates, including members of Brazil's most powerful gang, escaped from a Paraguayan prison on Sunday after digging a tunnel in an operation that prison officials were believed to have been aware, the government said.

The director of the prison in the city of Pedro Juan Caballero, near the Brazilian border, was fired along with six other prison officials, Paraguay's Minister of Justice Cecilia Perez told reporters.

The escaped prisoners included gang members from First Capital Command (PCC), Brazil's most powerful and sophisticated organized crime group, the government said.

"It's an operation that took days

and it is impossible that the officials did not realise that they were leaving... obviously this was a paid plan," Perez told local radio station Monumental.

The border region near Pedro Juan Caballero is considered a transit point for drug-trafficking and other criminal activity by gangs like Brazil's PCC and Comando Vermelho, or Red Command.

The government said it alerted Brazil's federal police, but the prisoners are believed to still be in Paraguayan territory.

"In that area there are many woods and they know the territory... these are highly dangerous people," Paraguayan Attorney General Sandra Quinonez told Monumental.

Reuters

BRIEFS

Dust storms batter Australia

SYDNEY - 'Apocalyptic' weather conditions, from hail to massive walls of dust, with authorities warning that the bushfire season still has weeks to run.

'Apocalyptic' dust storms swept across drought-stricken areas of Australia over the weekend, with thunder and giant hail battering the east coast, as extreme weather patterns collided in the bushfire-fatigued country. The southern city of Melbourne was lashed by huge hailstones late Sunday and fire-ravaged parts of Victoria state overnight received heavy rainfall, prompting new extreme weather alerts.

AFP

Gunman who killed two Hawaii cops dies

HAWAII - Two Hawaii police officers were fatally shot on Sunday by a man who authorities believe later died in his home after he set it on fire in a quiet neighbourhood not far from Oahu's busy Waikiki Beach, officials and local media said.

"Our entire state mourns the loss of two Honolulu police officers killed in the line of duty this morning," Hawaii Governor David Ige said in a statement. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell called the shootings 'an unprecedented tragedy' for the state.

Reuters

Second patient dies of mystery virus

CHINA - A second person has died from coronavirus in China amid fears the lethal outbreak may spread globally, officials have said. The 69-year-old man, named only as Xiong, died in the early hours of January 15 at Jinyintan Hospital in Wuhan city. He had been admitted to hospital on December 31 with symptoms of the virus, said officials at the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission. Medical treatment failed to save him after his health deteriorated on January 4, local media claims. A total of 41 patients in Wuhan have been struck with pneumonia caused by the virus since December. *Daily mail*

Corpse in a body bag left lying

ARGENTINA - A corpse in a body bag was left lying in the middle of a busy junction after falling out the back of a hearse. The footage was recorded in San Antonio de Padua in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In the video, the black body bag can be seen on the carriageway at a cross-section of road as dozens of cars attempt to edge past it. One man in the background can be heard laughing as he says: "The deceased fell." The driver of the hearse then comes back into sight from the left-hand side of the screen after realising that his cargo is missing.

Daily mail

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

LESOTHO FIRST LADY'S RISE TO INFAMY

MASERU - The wife of Lesotho Prime Minister Tom Thabane, who is wanted in connection with murder, has been a controversial figure in the mountain kingdom for a while now.

Maesaiah Thabane's rise to power as the first lady of Lesotho in 2017 was nothing short of a miracle. She controversially married Thabane, who was still married to his estranged wife Lipolelo Thabane, just in time before Thabane's inauguration.

Lipolelo, 58, was shot dead on June 14 2017, two days before Thabane's inauguration. Lipolelo had refused to divorce her husband and took the fight to court where she won the battle for her privileges as the first lady. Maesaiah is now wanted by Lesotho police to answer questions related to the murder of Lipolelo.

Police suspect Maesaiah was behind Lipolelo's killing and asked her to present herself for questioning on January 10. When she failed to do so, a warrant of her arrest was sought but she had gone into hiding.

Maesaiah, who was born Liabiloe Ramoholi, gained notoriety after Thabane's ascendancy to power, apparently calling the shots as to who should be appointed to ministerial roles and who should



POWERHOUSE: Maesaiah Thabane and husband Lesotho Prime Minister Tom Thabane.

be fired. In the past two-and-a-half years of Thabane's administration, Maesaiah has been accused of causing chaos in the government by allegedly meddling in the affairs of the state.

She has also been accused of seeking to control ministers, especially when it comes to the awarding of tenders. She allegedly ordered the removal of former health minister Nyapane Kaya after he refused to unlawfully award a multimillion-rand catering and laundry tender to her preferred candidates. In 2018 Maesaiah allegedly assaulted a foreign

doctor on call at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital for delaying to attend to a patient who had been brought in by her bodyguards, who had hit him in a road accident. In one of her latest gaffes last year, Maesaiah threatened to assault the minister of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation Dr Mahali Phamotse for having spoken to Thabane without her consent. This after Phamotse had asked Thabane, according to protocol, to greet the players before a soccer match kicked off.

Sowetanlive

Britain must open new chapter in its relationship with Africa

LONDON - Africa is the coming continent. Its population is predicted to double to two billion people over the next three decades.

That growth will mean enormous opportunities for business and investment, but will also create huge challenges around sustainability and the environment.

An Africa focus is, therefore, essential, particularly for a post-Brexit Britain.

The 2020 UK-Africa Investment summit, which took place in London yesterday, should be the occasion to open a new chapter in Britain's relationship with Africa.

Up to now, despite the significant amounts of aid Britain spends and the strong political and diplomatic footprint it has in Africa, investment lags. Between 2014 and 2018, UK direct investment into Africa was \$17bn (£13bn), well below China's \$72bn, France's \$34bn, the US's \$31bn and the United Arab Emirates' \$25bn. This needs to change. Africa provides a huge opportunity for the UK to maintain

its global economy standing: one in every four consumers worldwide will be African by 2050, while eight of the 15 fastest growing economies are in Africa.

There is a fresh competition for influence in Africa. Beyond China and its ever-strengthening and well-documented presence, Germany is proactive in encouraging investment by its large manufacturers — such as Siemens and Volkswagen

— in countries like Rwanda

and Ghana. France is evolving

its relationship with

Africa to one that

invests in adding local

value, for example

through Alstom's

train manufacturing

venture in South Africa

and Renault's new plans

for a plant in Ghana. Nations

like India, Turkey, Russia, Brazil,

the Netherlands and Israel are scaling

up investment, trade and economic

cooperation.

Many African governments have

set investment as their top development

priority. Current levels will

still leave Africa with a 'jobs gap'

of 50 million by 2040.

BBC

UK signs African trade agreements before Brexit

LONDON - The UK government says it has signed 11 trade agreements with African countries, just over a week before it officially leaves the European Union.

It was expected to unveil a new strategy for development in Africa yesterday, which will focus more on infrastructure and trade.

At least a dozen African leaders are in London for a summit aimed at boosting the UK's private sector investment on the continent.

This is a major shift in the UK's relationship with Africa.

It is about using aid money to support investment. The Department for International Development says

it is now focusing on digital technologies, green energy and women entrepreneurs.

UK businesses will also play a big role. They have already signed deals worth more than £6bn (\$7.8bn), with more expected during the summit. With many of the fastest growing economies and a rapidly expanding population, Africa is seen as an attractive market for long-term investors.

Africa has a rapidly growing population with one in four of the world's population expected to come from the continent by the middle of the century.

BBC

Comoros votes in parliamentary poll boycotted by opposition

MORONI - Voters in Comoros are casting their ballots in the first round of a parliamentary election boycotted by opposition parties.

Most voting stations in the Indian Ocean archipelago's capital, Moroni, opened later than scheduled on Sunday because of bad weather, AFP news agency reported. Opposition parties said they would not contest the 24 seats in the Comoros national assembly after failing to obtain guarantees of a "transparent, free and democratic" election. President Azali Assoumani secured a second consecutive term in March 2019, but critics alleged vote rigging and witnesses said ballot boxes were stuffed, the latest scandal in a country blighted by



ONE MAN, ONE VOTE: President Azali Assoumani (L) urged the opposition parties to drop the boycott threat in the run-up to the vote.

instability and coups. The president, who has denied the allegations, had urged the opposition to drop the boycott threat in the run-up to the vote,

saying in November that "my most ardent wish is that they come to participate in these elections because we have a lot to do". *News24*

BRIEFS

Three die after Lagos pipeline fire

NIGERIA - At least three people were killed on Sunday night when an oil pipeline caught fire in the Nigerian commercial capital, Lagos.

Nearby houses and cars were also burnt when the flames took hold in the Abule-Egba district of the city. Fires on Nigeria's oil pipelines are often caused by theft and sabotage.

BBC

Kenya seizes Ugandan milk

KENYA - The escalating trade dispute between Kenya and Uganda over milk exports, is just one of many facing all EAC partner states and underlines critical gaps in the regional integration project that could potentially harm the economies. Dr Gideon Badagawa, the executive director of the Uganda Private Sector Foundation warns that unless resolved early, these trade tiffs could affect the region's investment profile. At a glance, Uganda's trade with Rwanda is down to a trickle after a year-long of frosty relations; Tanzania has locked out Ugandan timber, sugar and maize. *Allafrica*

Tanzania faces second mining dispute

DAR ES SALAAM — A mining company linked to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland has become the second investor to declare a dispute with the Tanzania government over a retention mining licence that was repossessed by the government for fresh bidding. This comes in less than four days after another miner declared a row with the government over a disputed mining licence. In the latest development, Indiana Resources Limited (ASX: IDA), announced Sunday that it had served a notice to the Tanzanian President, Attorney General and the Minerals ministry in relation to its Ntaka Hill Nickel Project Retention Licence. *Allafrica*

Churches, military cited among school land grabbers

KENYA - Interesting and strange cases were bound to arise when a team began going round the country investigating the registration status of land occupied by public schools. From rows over boundaries of the nursery, primary and secondary school sections of a school in Embu to another in the city whose field has been encroached on by a golf club, the team has documented narratives that summarise the consequences of a policy oversight that left many school lands undocumented since independence. *Allafrica*

ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

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SwaziBoy Entertainment family.

Popzin's new love song dropping before Valentine's Day

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SWAMA award winning singer and songwriter Popzin is working on a new song titled 'Lala Lana' which is due for release in February before Valentine's Day.

Fresh from collecting awards, this is the first project for the singer this year.

Confirming the news yesterday was Popzin's Manager Kenneth Tsabedze.

The love song we are working on will be released in the month of love," said Tsabedze.

The singer promised nothing but

the best for his fans.

"All I can say to my fans at this point is that they better be ready for this song.

It is going to be a hit song," said the singer.

Popzin took visual platforms by storm when he released a video of his song titled 'Umyango' where he featured Smallz The Comedian.

Born in a family of singers, Luyanda Mkhonta well known as Popzin has always loved singing and knew that he would one day take it on as a career.

At the age of three, he would sing in front of a crowd without fear.

House Music Festival is here

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

...promises to be bigger and better

MAKING its comeback, the second edition of House Music Festival promises to be bigger and better.

This was confirmed by SwaziBoy Entertainment PRO Ur Gal Zee yesterday. "We are back this year. It is going to be different from last year. The festival is slated for 7 March at Esibayeni Lodge in Matsapha," she said.

She also said pre-sale tickets would be available soon. "We urge the public to purchase these tickets as soon as they are released. Our line-up this year consists of both local and international acts," she added. Hosted by Esibayeni Lodge, SwaziBoy Entertainment and So Fresh,

the festival saw its debut last year where house music fanatics all over the country gathered for the first event of its kind. Last year, the event was graced by Andy X, DJ Terrace, Claude, Dvine Brothers and Miggs. Fun lovers also witnessed some of the best house music artists from the country, including Nomalungelo, MistoSoul, Fnatsy, Macdeep, X-Stacy, Ipeleng, Ziyawa Kazitha, Tonic, Katz, Jazzinsoul and many more. The types of house music which will be celebrated will range from deep to commercial and other trending genres.

The house music industry in the country seems to be on the rise as not only has it seen the biggest artists win interna-

tionally but locally as well.

Last year, the house music category received the most votes in the MTN SWAMA Awards.

The festival also seeks to educate about the roots of house music, hence so the involvement of both local and South African house music deejays.

"People should come expecting great music. It is obvious that house music has a huge fan base so we intend catering for all house music fans and revellers in general. Gear up and be ready to have fun," said Ur Gal Zee.

Ami Faku's album launch postponed

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SOUTH African hit maker Ami Faku's album launch set for local shores has been postponed to February 23.

This was confirmed by MegaSound co-founder Samkelo Zulu, popularly known as Zulu D. The venue, according to Zulu, remains the same. The South African soul artist will be launching her newly released album *Imali* at Mega Sound Lounge.

"Of course, it cannot be a coincidence that February is synonymous with love and Faku's soft and sweet voice is about to serenade Emaswati in this period.

"With tracks such as *Ubulhe Bakho* and *Ungowami* getting a lot of people emotional, her live performance should get every reveller

into a journey they have never imagined," Zulu said.

Imali album



Ami Faku.

was launched last year in September when it was at number one at Apple Music on pre-orders days, ahead of official release. Ami Faku released her much-anticipated album moments after she had collected Gold with her single *Into Ngawe* featuring Sun EL Musician.

She has taken over Afro soul in South Africa and

beyond as her performances have not disappointed.

The launch shall be a relaxed session on the outdoors of Mega Lounge in Mbabane next to Engen Garage.

The venue, operated by the MegaSound stable, has consistently grown itself as a rewarding option to the entertainment norm in the capital.

MegaSound promises attendees that they shall continue to introduce exciting innovations much as possible.

"We will never tire in ensuring Emaswati get the best in time or even ahead of time so that in these times of an interconnected world, we play our part in ensuring the language is the same.

We request all Emaswati to allow us to lead them into the future, mainly because as a stable, we shall forever endeavour to stay timeless.

Tickets to the event cost E100 for general and E250 for VIP.

The VIP access will come with a signed CD copy of *Imali*.

The event shall start at noon on the day and end at midnight. It is expected that local entertainers shall be added to the list of performers in due time.



A2Z.

A2Z's 'Wena' receives massive support

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

NEW duo A2Z's single 'Wena' is winning hearts of entertainers and Emaswati in general.

The single was released last week Tuesday and has taken the country by storm.

According to the duo's Manager Larry Mhlanga, the song has been played over 1 000 times on online platforms and the influencers and established artists have showed support.

Illa Penboy commented on how this new group would transform the industry.

Bonkhe Shabangu, a fashionista and social media marketer, mentioned that the group was bringing fashion and style to the music industry and applauded A2Z on their project. Nomalungelo Dladla dubbed the duo 'young bubs' and wished them best of luck.

Floewe, who was one of the guest judges during The Spotlight completion where she had a chance to give advice to the duo, said she couldn't wait to hear Melusi's voice again. Fisiwe Vilane, a well-known brand strategist, gave thumbs up to the group's single and brand presentation.

"A2Z has a lot in store for the industry and we thank The Spotlight for the opportunity they gave us by introducing the competition. We are so excited about our journey. 2020 is a year of fresh and plenty for the new vibrant A2Z," said the duo.

They said they would be unpacking their plans soon working with producers and executive team from Hala Group which is a record label they are signed under. "We have been busy with radio, TV and print interviews for the whole week as it has been a good journey," they said.

BECKY CASTING KEEPS ITS PROMISE

... Over 13 Emaswati on SA soaps and movies

BY SETSABLE NKAMBULE

FOLLOWING the promise of Becky Casting that it would provide Eswatini models jobs in acting, the entity has kept its promise. This is because over 13 Emaswati have won roles in different South African TV soaps.

She has been able to help models, namely Nolwazi 'Snowee' Simelane, Thando Mzamo, Wandile Zishwili, Sandile Mkhulisi, Mhlonishwa Shiba, Nosipho Dlamini, Phiwi Mbhamali, Nomahlubi Dlamini, Sambulo Ngcamphalala, Buyi Simelane, Mkhosi Masuku, Ntombifuthi Simelane and Wandile Dlamini, to mention a few, in securing a role in SA screens.

Becky Casting Director Bekezele Dube said given the opportunity, she would continue helping Emaswati.

She decided to lend a helping hand because of the talent she came across in Eswatini.

She said as someone who works with talent and models, she felt it

wise to show more companies based in Eswatini that these models were talented.

"I love working with Eswatini and will forever be grateful for Stanley Dlamini and Ntombifuthi Simelane who gave me this opportunity. I always feel good about doing my job.

There is nothing satisfying like helping talented people.

It is like a duty to me, hence I do it with all my heart. I have great plans for 2020 as many production companies I work with are aware that I work with Eswatini talented individuals," she said.

Furthermore, Dube mentioned that she was available to more Emaswati who were interested.

She said that interested candidates can contact the Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture offices or through her email Info@beckycastingagency.co.za and social media platforms.



STANDS BY HER PROMISE Becky Casting Director Bekezele Dube.

7 speakers for Real Men's Conference

BY SETSABLE NKAMBULE

A list of speakers for the Real Men's Conference has been released.

Event organiser Mloni Mpanza stated that there were seven main speakers who will be addressing the attendees. Slated for 14 February at a venue yet to be announced, individuals in the line-up are comedian Ndosh, psychiatric nurse and mental health advocate Dumsani Njobo Mamba, poet Majah Nkonyane and Dr Mbongeni Msibi, to name a few.

He stated that the speakers were chosen because they were relevant to the theme's conference. "Ndosh has a BA Psychology degree, he has infused his humour and theoretic knowledge into a unit where he teaches about the most sensitive issues in a light-hearted manner. We need him not only to keep the event fun with his sense of humour but to also share his knowledge," he said.

He stated that Mamba will be discussing health issues which include HIV / AIDS, STIs and mental health issues.

Mpanza further said Mamba was the right candidate as he has facilitated trainings, debrief sessions and wellness workshops across the country on mental health for different age groups and people of different professions.

Mpanza went on to explain that through this event, they seek to educate Eswatini men on what the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act entails and how it touches on men. "We also want to speak about ways in which we can harmonise relationships between men and women who are often fighting over many things, which we hope will then strike the balance of roles in the society.

"Furthermore, we want to touch on how men need to tackle societal issues that involve them and women, as well as put it out there that gender-based violence has and will never be a solution, but rather prefer to promote dialogue, amongst the many issues," he said.

All set for Bongiwe's show at Jazz Gallery

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THE Jazz Gallery will open on January 31 with a show headlined by Bongiwe Dlamini.

Jazz Gallery Director Nelisa Lawton said the chill spot would this year host more electrifying shows.

She said they were ready to kick-start the year with Bongiwe.

"We will

place emphasis on collaborations between visiting and local artists whenever possible.

We are in talks with some jazz clubs to host our local artists so hopefully this will bear fruit by mid-year.

We have already started planning our Youth Jazz Sessions in celebration of International Jazz Day on 30 April," she said.

Dlamini is a singer, songwriter and poet. Music has been her first medium of expression.

Her career as a musician spans over 24 years. She has worked with many musicians from various parts of the world, including (SA) Ray Phiri of Stimela, Joe Nina, (MZ) Chico Antonio, Azagaia, Cremildo Caifaz, Pedro of 340ml, Milton Gulli and Pak Djamena.

"I have learned to speak the truth even with my heart racing.

Because to be silent is death. To be able to make music is a gift and a privilege for which I thank God.

The kingdom has very gifted creatives and to be able to share the experience of creating magic with some of them is an honour. I look forward to many more shows this year of clarity of vision," she said.

She has performed at various festivals in Southern Africa such as Moshito in Johannesburg, Standard Bank National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, Azgo Festival and Kinani Dance Festival in Mozambique a number of times and The Bushfire Festival in Eswatini on numerous occasions.

The Jazz Gallery is known for bringing the best and also gives upcoming artists a platform to showcase their talent.



ALL SET: Bongiwe Dlamini.

'Ngimbonile' to be bigger than 'Gelekece'

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

NDUDUZO Matse has predicted that his new single, 'Ngimbonile,' which was released on Friday, will be bigger than his hit song 'Gelekece'.

Matse said he had not anticipated the track to be such a big hit already.

"The song's popularity is really a surprise. I did not anticipate such huge response. It is making waves in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe," said Matse.

The artist recently performed at his church and Jesus Calls Worship Centre where he also rendered the track.

"I salute the power of social media. This song has reached many places and people in a short space of time and it is sending across the message," Matse added.

"When I wrote this song in mind I had people who have been through a lot and needed reassurance.

"This song speaks to people seeking redemption, and God's saving grace so instead of giving they just seek help from God and pray about," said Matse.

'Ngimbonile,' which was captured live during the Mother of All Gospel shows, is now available on all digital platforms for downloading and streaming.

Gospel lovers can access the song from iTunes, Amazon and Deezer,

among other digital stores. Matse has toured KZN and South African churches where he performed the new single.

His fans across the border have also made videos from the song.

"I'm very thankful to everyone who has made the song trend and now I'm

asking for streams and downloads," closed Matse.



BIGGER: Nduduzo Matse.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

RAMI CHUENE CONFIRMS 'THE QUEEN' EXIT

PRETORIA - Actress Rami Chuene has broken her silence on the future of her character in *The Queen*, after a weekend report about an alleged feud between her and the Fergusons.

According to Sunday World, Rami's character is set to be killed off after alleged behind-the-scenes drama with the Ferguson family.

The publication said the relationship between Rami and the Fergusons deteriorated after the actress allegedly sided with seasoned performer Vatiswa Ndara after her open letter to Sports, Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa last year.

Vatiswa's letter highlighted alleged exploitation in the industry and used examples from the Fergusons' production company.

Sources told Sunday World that Rami's support for Vatiswa did not sit well with the show's executive producers, who felt she was also gunning for them. When contacted, the Fergusons lawyer, Brendan de Kooker, from De Kooker Attorneys, told TshisaLIVE he could not comment on the reports. "I do not have any instructions on this matter."

Further attempts by TshisaLIVE to get comment from the Fergusons and their management were unsuccessful at the time of publishing this story. Rami took to social media to confirm that her time on the show was coming to an end, but wouldn't disclose details of her exit.

"T-Gom's stint on #TheQueenMzansi has come to an end. Unfortunately, I won't be getting into details as

advised by my legal team. I still have to finish shooting and I'm hoping to execute as excellently, exceptionally and professionally as I always have. Thank you for the love, well wishes and blessings! You have been the best part of this ride. Now, let's finish strong. Ke le rata goed!"

she wrote on Instagram.

Sowetan Live



Minnie Dlamini-Jones ticks off 10 years of milestones

SANDTON - Minnie Dlamini-Jones's close A-list friends, Norma Gigaba, Unathi Nkayi and Thando Thabethe, gathered at the weekend to celebrate her 10 years in the entertainment scene.

It was a bittersweet moment for the 29-year-old bombshell as it was the first soiree she was hosting since the death of her younger brother Khosini in September.

Held at a luxury Sandton mansion on a rainy Saturday afternoon, Dlamini-Jones said the wet weather was symbolic that Khosini was with them in spirit.

"When it started raining everyone was in a panic, but I wasn't because I knew it meant my brother was with me," she told Sowetan. "Rain is so significant to the Dlamini family and we know that we are having a good event when it's raining. If you look at everyone, they are having a good time."

"Even in sadness, when we are completely destroyed, we know how to have

a good time and we do it together.

"That's what's so important about today; it symbolises the kind of family I grew up in. Today couldn't be more perfect, it's almost as perfect as my wedding day."

Her husband, Quinton, was by her side at every turn. The event kicked off what's still to come as Dlamini-Jones is getting ready to turn 30 in July. She told Sowetan she was planning to have seven events to celebrate her milestone birthday.

"Seven is my lucky number, it's a heavenly number. So, I was born on the seven of the seventh month at seven o'clock. I can't give too much away, but I'm planning seven events," Dlamini-Jones said.

From launching her own beauty brand, MD Skincare, to hosting a number of TV shows and trying her hand at acting, Dlamini-Jones said her greatest highlight was still winning the Live Amp presenter search in 2010.

Sowetan Live



Buhle Samuels on being bullied

SOWETO - Being a victim of bullying leaves deep emotional scars and, with back to school fever in the air, actress Buhle Samuels has reflected on the hardest days of her school life.

She told TshisaLIVE she was bullied at school because she did not speak Zulu.

"How it started was that people thought

I was a black American because I spoke English, but I wasn't. I just didn't know how to speak Zulu because of the school I attended. I struggled with vernacular."

The former Muvhango actress initially had no idea what to do, or who to confide in, until she realised she couldn't let the bullying continue into high school.

"Those were the hardest days of my schooling life. I decided to stand up for myself the next time they tried, which was in high school. I was very strong and wouldn't allow any bullying near me."



"One day during my first year at high school I stood firm and told the tormentors where to get off. Ever since that day I never allowed such behaviour."

She said she wished she could have received help earlier, and encouraged young people to ask for help sooner rather than later.

"We have to start by educating anti-bullying from an early learning level. Some of the children are influenced by different backgrounds, like

domestic violence back at their homes, and this can result in a bully." Buhle has also been a victim of body shaming, especially on social media, but said being cyber-bullied was like water off a duck's back after her experience at school. "I just smile and move on whenever I feel adult bullying in my space. It is a popular norm on social media, but I am a survivor of such and I know how to handle it." *Times Live*

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



FURIOUS: Mandla.



Fezile and Blade are on Judas and Beauty's trail. Jabu and Ntwenhle have to manage a short-fused Mandla's while still trying to keep their composure and carry on with business. Nolwandle finds herself in trouble with Sibongile.



Mayekiso is still spearheading Lincoln's rescue mission, despite Claudette and Roman's reservations. Sechaba tries to get Phindi to rest and recover but is met with resistance. The self-appointed king and queen of the Zamdela empire are caught off-guard.



Mulalo's feeling of betrayal pushes him to confront Azwindi. Tenda blatantly blackmails Vho-Masinindi for future endeavours. Rendani's plan seems to be in motion and its effective.



Gog'Flo hits on a crazy but wonderful idea. Mpho decides enough is enough, something has to be done! Pele has no idea about the threat on the other side of the door...



Kea's plans of sabotage for Siyanda slowly start to backfire. Shaqueesha continues to lose touch with reality, causing trouble in the Maake household.



Nkunzi gets proactive to solve his marital problems, Khehla gets a strange visit, and Mondli is confused when he gets an apology from an unlikely source.



New tests deliver shocking new results for someone very close to Quinton. Yvonne tries to readjust to life after her emotional experience. Javas gets a solid lead from a surprising source.

MEME OF THE DAY

Gents, what made you call her to visit and never call again for the second visit?

Follow Us @ No Chill in Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn Dec.ember 22 – January 19

Today you should be feeling very energetic, Capricorn, both physically and mentally, and you're likely to feel rather anxious for some physical activity. Go for a workout if you have time or for a short walk if you don't. A lot of your time is likely to be spent working on challenging tasks that keep your mind active. You should be pretty keyed up by the evening.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Important projects, either job related or personal, might need to be completed today in order to meet a deadline or fulfill a promise. This could require a lot of mental and physical effort on your part, Cancer, which could prove somewhat stressful. Others might lend a hand, however. It's very important for you to remember to pace yourself. If you work when you're exhausted, you might not like the results.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

A lot of physical and mental energy could be channelled today into artistic projects of some kind, Aquarius. Your intuition is running rather high, so you might know instinctively what friends, lovers, and children are feeling before they tell you. You could also pick up a lot of their anxieties as well. You'll need to relax a little.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Some boring paperwork regarding money, which you may have been putting off, might need to be executed today. Bills may need to be paid, deposits put in the bank, and new accounts opened. You could spend some time formulating new plans for the future. This probably will take up a lot of your time, Pisces, but there will still be enough for you to go shopping and make a few necessary purchases.



Aries March 21 – April 1

Your level of physical and mental energy should be very high today, Aries, and so you could feel restless throughout the morning. As a result, you might spend your afternoon and evening out and about, shopping, paying visits, or attending classes or lectures.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Your level of imagination and inspiration should be operating at a very high level today, Taurus, so if you've been planning to start a new artistic project, this is the day to do it. You're also likely to be feeling quite intuitive, so don't be surprised if you find yourself tuning acutely in to the thoughts, feelings, needs, and desires of others, even strangers.



Gemini

A group with which you're affiliated could ask you to take care of a few tasks. This might involve making phone calls, running errands, or both. Your energy and enthusiasm are high, Gemini, so this is a good day to prove how valuable your work is and how efficient you are.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Your home today could be like Grand Central Station, with lots of people coming and going and a lot of activity taking place within the house itself. The phone could be also ringing off the hook, Scorpio. You might wonder if your sanity will remain intact, but you'll make it through without going nuts. The problem is that there could be so much stimulation that you'll be too geared up to sleep. Take a walk before going to bed.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

This is probably going to shape up to be a busy and rather chaotic day. You might find yourself spending a lot of time out and about, Sagittarius. You may need to run a lot of errands and see a number of people. A friend might accompany you.



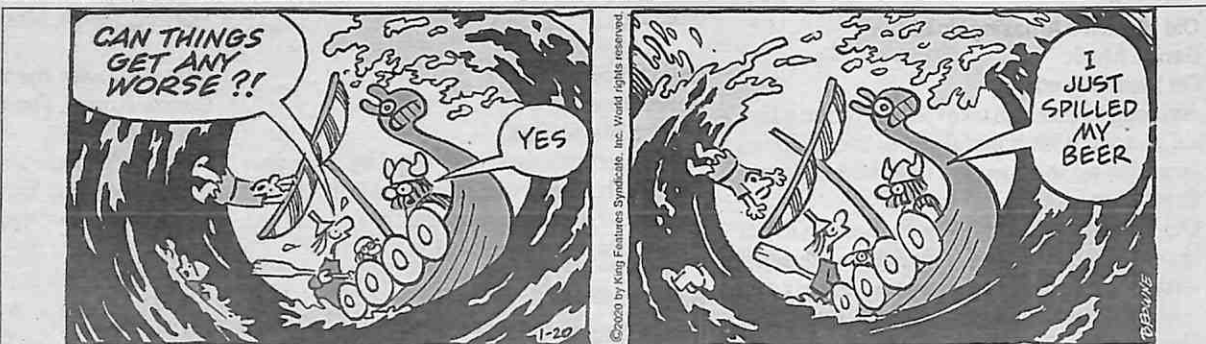
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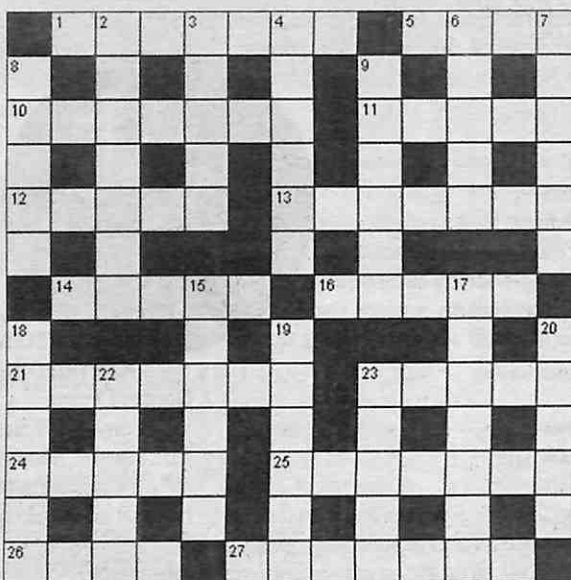
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CRYPTIC 27



DOWN

2. SOUNDS LIKE WET WEATHER RULING (7)
3. PICTURE FOUND IN LIMA GENUINE (5)
4. STREET LOOKS LIKE A MEETING PLACE (6)
6. LOVES TO FIND THE ANSWER FOR A CHANGE (5)
7. ARID REGION DETERS CONFUSION (6)
8. HOPE RADIO PROVIDES MUSICAL DRAMA (5)
9. ADHERES TO TREE BRANCHES (6)
15. FAIRY PERFORMANCE IS A HIT (6)
17. GENERAL ALTERATION TO MAKE BIGGER (7)
18. CHANGES APT ADS (6)
19. NUMERATE REPTILES (6)
20. AUSTERE PART OF A SHIP (5)
22. WATERWAY DISCOVERED DURING PELICAN ALERT (5)
23. MOST IMPORTANT GREEK LETTER (5)

ACROSS

1. APPEARANCE OF WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A COMPETITOR (7)
5. EMPLOYED IN SERIOUS EDUCATION (4)
10. SOUNDS LIKE A SECRET MILITARY RANK (7)
11. STORIES FOUND IN VITAL ESSAYS (5)
12. LIFT MORE MONEY? (5)
13. UNCLE ARTHUR SHOWS IT'S ILL-DEFINED (7)
14. A PROFIT ONCE MORE (5)
16. REMAINS OF FIRE IN BRASH ESCAPADE (5)
21. ODD PACE OF SCRAMBLING CREATURE WITH TEN LEGS (7)
23. APPORTION WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT DEAL (5)
24. SUDDEN FEAR IN SPA NICHE (5)
25. ERRATIC RULER, PRE ROM (7)
26. THE ONLY PART OF A SHOE (4)
27. SEE PACE OF REFORMED FUGITIVE (7)



GRANDMOTHER AND DOCTOR

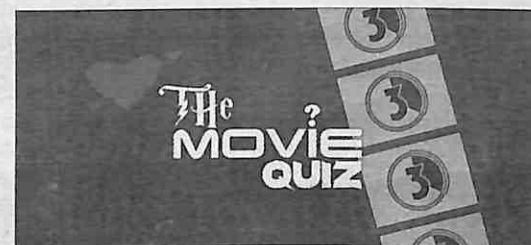
An old lady comes to her doctor and says, "Doctor, you know how you told me I should avoid going up and down stairs as much as possible?" "Yes," nods the doctor, "we agreed on that after the latest X-rays."

"Well I don't know if it was such a great recommendation. All the climbing up and down the rain gutter is really exhausting!"

DID YOU KNOW

1. Nearly all species to have ever existed on Earth are extinct.
2. Baby blue whales grow 200 pounds per day.
3. Actor Bill Murray uses a 1-800 number instead of an agent or manager.
4. It's a myth that people are either "left-brained" or "right-brained."

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

1. How many Pixar animated films have been released?
- Answer: B. 21

TODAY'S MOVIE QUIZ

1. Which British actor plays Peter Parker / Spider-Man in 'Spider-Man: Far From Home'?
- Answer: S. A. Tom Holland
B. Joaquin Phoenix



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NEWS



WHAT'S ON DSTV!

LOCAL (SOUTHERN)

Spoiler

Genre: Comedy

On Zambezi Magic

Spoiler is a dark comedy of a spoiled brat who punishes anyone who gets in his way, each spoiler escapade is stuffed with relentless wit and a little horror.

Mpali

Genre: Drama

On Zambezi Magic

Mpali is a story that revolves around Nguzu (a Polygamist) with seven wives. Nguzu's home appears to be peaceful until he marries Nancy, his seventh wife. All hell breaks loose as the other wives start feeling intimidated and neglected.

Old Mutual's Amazing Voices

Genre: Music

On Mzansi Wethu

Amazing Voices will take viewers on the musical journey with hopefuls from four African countries set to showcase their talents across three genres.

Old Mutual's Amazing Voices, a pan-African singing competition, will premiere on the small screen with contestants from nine African cities - Accra, Kumasi, Mombasa, Nairobi, Bulawayo, Harare, Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg, - squaring off against each other for the grand prize of \$100 000 (R1.5 million).

Zuba

Genre: Drama

On Zambezi Magic

The story of Zuba continues, a story about love, trust and betrayal. The story revolves around an innocent, rural teenage girl who has to leave her family and education behind to do a maid's job with a complex, wealthy urban family where she falls for the young son of the house.

Dr Laser

Genre: Reality

On Africa Magic Showcase

Dr Laser is a reality show that seeks to help people with real body image issues get out of their shell and face their insecurities head on, while also achieving their dream bodies.

Interswitch Spak National Science Competition

Genre: Science, Game Show

On Africa Magic Family

Interswitch SPAK National Science Competition is a High School Science Television contest show that started in Nigeria. It debuted in 2017 as SPAK. The 360° engagement platform is created by Oladapo Ojo and developed by JustMedia Productions for Interswitch Group.

Halita (4 Episodes)

Genre: Drama

On Africa Magic Urban

Welcome to the contrasting worlds of Halita, a poor village girl and the Zamani's wealthy family as both realities are about to meet.

Star Scholar Naija

Genre: Reality, Educational

On Africa Magic Family

Star Scholar Naija is a children's reality TV show where 16 teenagers (ages 13 to 16 years) are Nested for 14 days. While in the NEST, they are nurtured and mentored academically in the areas of values, personal development and nation



building.

Churchill Show

Genre: Comedy

Maisha Magic East

A Kenyan comedy show hosted by comedian Daniel 'Churchill' Ndambuki. Watch the biggest movement of entertainment in the funniest and the wittiest stand-up comedy.

Huba

Genre: Drama, Thriller

on Maisha Magic Bongo

This is a series revolving around love, money, greed and witchcraft. When two different worlds meet; one controlled by money and the other overshadowed by greed, love becomes their only hope for survival. But when hate draws a thin line in between them, their destiny is uncertain.

Maempress

Genre: Drama

On Maisha Magic East

Five women each with their own struggles are held together by their strong friendship. Through them, various issues affecting women and society at large are addressed.

False Dreams

Genre: Drama

On Pearl Magic

False dreams follows a group friends who are filled with lofty goals and ambitions, romantic dreams as they all struggle to stay optimistic through major life changes.

MOVIES ON DSTV

The Wrong Tutor

Genre: Drama

On Lifetime

When star high school athlete Eric needs help with his school work, Emily convinces Eric's mother Carol, that she is perfect tutor for her son but she has other reasons to that stem beyond helping him with his homework. Starring Ivy Matheson and Li Eubanks.

The Wrong Teacher

Genre: Thriller

On Lifetime

Successful teacher and author Charlotte Hansen has a passionate, one-night stand with a younger man, Chris. She later finds out that he is 18 years old and a student at her high school. Now, Chris will stop at nothing to have her for himself.

Starring Jessica Morris and Philip McElroy.

Interview with the Vampire

Genre: Horror, Drama and Romance

On TNT

Interview with the Vampire is a 1994 American gothic romantic horror film directed by Neil Jordan, based on Anne Rice's 1976 novel of the same name. The film focuses on Lestat (Cruise) and Louis (Pitt), beginning with Louis's transformation into a vampire by Lestat in 1791. Starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt.

Blade

Genre: Action, Thriller and Fantasy

On TNT

In the film, Blade is a Dhampir, a human with vampire strengths but not their weaknesses, who protects humans from vampires. Blade was a dark superhero film for its time. Starring Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson and N'Bushe Wright.



TELENOVELAS

On The Other Side Of The Wall

Genre: Drama

Weekdays on Telemundo

The corrupt Senator orders Alejandra's death. When Charly learns about Rodrigo's suffering, he says he would have preferred not to live.

Lady Luck

Genre: Drama

Daily on Zee World

Pavitra is now the property owner of the Prajapati household and businesses, she is shaken when she sees the new guest that just arrived. The family is lost without Bhoomi.

Almost Yours

Genre: Drama

Weekdays on Telemundo

Antonio suggests that Julieta sets up her own brand. Meanwhile, Beto hires Eduardo and Viviana to work at the cafeteria.

Deception

Genre: Drama

Daily on Zee World

Neelima and Supriya think if Naren could get married he will be his old self again, but his father only wants his son to take over the family business and grow the empire. Rahul goes back home and informs the whole family that

Naren is mentally ill and needs treatment, but Pooja impresses Harish and Supriya when she brings him home.

KIDS

Snow White's New Adventure

Genre: Animation

On M-Net

A young girl stumbles upon Snow White and the seven dwarves while searching for her long-lost father. With her newfound friends, she embarks on a spell-binding adventure to find her father.

Disney 11

Genre: Sport

On Disney XD

A gifted teen leaves home to attend a prestigious football academy where he discovers truths about his family's history and leads his team to beat fierce rivals.

The Loud House

Genre: Animation

On Nickelodeon

The Loud House is an American animated television series created by Chris Savino for Nickelodeon. The series revolves around the chaotic everyday life of a boy named Lincoln Loud, who is the middle child and only son in a large family of 11 children.

Zig and Sharko

Genre: Animation

On Boomerang

Zig & Sharko is about a hyena named Zig who lives on a volcano island with his crab pal, Bernie, and plots against a beautiful mermaid, Marina, whom he wants to eat.

INTERNATIONAL

Why Woman Kill

Genre: Dark Comedy

On M-Net

Why Women Kill is an American dark comedy-drama web television series created by Marc Cherry for CBS All Access. Set in multiple time periods, the series depicts the events leading to a death that occurs after the respective husbands of three married women commit adultery.

New Amsterdam

Genre: Medical Drama

On M-Net

New Amsterdam follows Dr. Max Goodwin as he becomes the medical director of one of the United States' oldest public hospitals, aiming to reform the neglected facility by tearing up its bureaucracy in order to provide exceptional care to patients.

Howards End

Genre: Novel

On M-Net

The social and class divisions in early 20th century England through the intersection of three families - the wealthy Wilcoxes, the gentle and idealistic Schlegels and the lower-middle class Basts.

God Friended Me

Genre: Fantasy, Comedy

On iMagic

The podcast gets pulled, Simon Hayes is not behind the account, Priya destroys a critical account. Henry Chase, the creator of the code returns, Arthur and Trish are engaged, Rakesh is the head of R&D, Miles has to face that he might never know who is behind the account when another person who got a God friend request enters his life.

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Serena 'concerned' over Australian Open pollution

MELBOURNE - Serena Williams voiced concern over pollution from bushfire smoke at the Australian Open yesterday, saying that lung problems in the past could make her more vulnerable.

The 38-year-old American, who is pursuing a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, said it was a waiting game to see how conditions develop over the next fortnight.

The poor air that disrupted qualifying eased by yesterday - when Williams made a winning start against Anastasia Potapova - and instead gave way to spells of heavy rain.

"I definitely was concerned, and am," said Williams, who suffered a lung blood clot during labour while giving birth to daughter Olympia in 2017 - the second time she has needed emergency treatment for the problem.

"That (haze) is still a concern for, I think, pretty much everyone."

Many players have hit out at organisers for ploughing ahead last week with qualifying matches, despite pollution levels hitting some of the worst on the planet in Melbourne.

Asked if she feared she might be more sensitive to the pollution because of her past problems, Williams replied: "It definitely crossed my mind."

"I'm, like, 'Oh no, I'm already playing a little down than most people.'"

AFP



Federer breezes to Australian Open second round

SYDNEY - Roger Federer showed no signs of rust from his lack of match practice ahead of the Australian Open as the third seed launched his campaign for a record 21st Grand Slam title by hammering American Steve Johnson 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in the first round yesterday.

Playing his first competitive match since losing to Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in the ATP Finals in November, the 38-year-old broke his opponent's serve early in each of the three sets and closed out the match when Johnson hit a return long.

Despite blustery conditions, Federer served superbly from the start and hit winners at will against Johnson, who is ranked 75th in the world, and he was as ruthless under the closed roof at the Rod Laver Arena after play was interrupted by rain.

Daily Mail

GAUFF STUNS VENUS IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN ROUND 1

MELBOURNE - Fifteen-year-old American Coco Gauff said she's on "a mission to be the greatest" yesterday after stunning veteran Venus Williams once again in the first round of a Grand Slam.

The fast-rising Gauff, ranked 67 in the world, defeated the seven-time Grand Slam

siblings were her idols and she wants to emulate their trail-blazing success.

Warning that she can still improve "a lot," Gauff said: "My mission is to be the greatest. That's my

goal, to win as many Grand Slams as possible."

Asked if she believes she can win her first Major over the next fortnight in Melbourne, Gauff replied: "If I go into a tournament thinking I'll lose, then I'm going to lose..."

"I believe I can beat anyone, but I think that's almost every player's mentality."

"The ones who are the great ones, they don't really fear anyone."

"You respect your opponent, but you can't go into the match fearing some-

Playing under a roof as rain lashed the first Grand Slam of the year, Venus conceded the first-set tie break when she hit a routine backhand overhead into the net.

Gauff, remarkably unfazed by playing someone more than twice her age, held her nerve in the second set to claim Venus' scalp once more.

Victory over Venus at Wimbledon and her run to the fourth round there - where she lost to eventual champion Simona Halep - propelled Gauff into the sporting limelight.

She went on to win her first WTA title in October in Linz, Austria.

Venus, a former number one but now 55 in the world, is tipping Gauff for the top.

Gauff spent some of the off-season with Serena, who sailed through her Melbourne opener.

"She clearly wants it, works very hard, is extremely mature for her age," said Venus.

AFP



STUNS: American tennis star Coco Gauff.

TSITSIPAS 'ALMOST PERFECT' FOR ROUTE TO ROUND 2

MELBOURNE - Stefanos Tsitsipas yesterday said he was a more mature and confident player than the one that made the Australian Open semi-finals last year after opening his 2020 campaign by crushing Salvatore Caruso in straight sets.

Expectations are high for the 21-year-old, who stunned Roger Federer in 2019 en route to the final four, announcing himself as a force to be reckoned with.

He went on to win titles in Marseille and Estoril before making a big breakthrough by claiming the season-ending ATP Finals in London

- the youngest to do so since Lleyton Hewitt in 2001.

"I definitely feel like I'm more experienced now. Last year I did feel more as a kid who was trying to get confidence by doing certain things on the court," he said after his 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 demolition of the Italian. "Now I feel like I'm more mature and more conserved in my thinking. I also think what I feel now compared to before, I'm just very sure with myself. I don't really doubt myself that much."

Tsitsipas came into the opening Grand Slam of the year on the back of a mixed build up - losing to Denis

Shapovalov and Nick Kyrgios at the ATP Cup, but beating Alexander Zverev.

But world No. 95 Caruso posed few problems for the Greek, who enjoyed rowdy support in a city that has a large community from his homeland. "I think from their side they were a little bit more respectful to the opponents. That's all," he said of the fans' chanting. "Nothing else. I mean, they can do what they're doing but probably with more respect."

The 1.93m (6ft 4in) right-hander broke the Italian's opening service game to quickly take charge, sprinting through the first set in just 22

minutes and conceding just nine points. Bidding to reach the second round for the first time, Caruso perked up in the second set, showing more backbone to win two games. But the writing was on the wall and Tsitsipas raced to victory in convincing fashion, yelling "let's go" as he served out the match.

"I tried to stay calm and be aggressive, I was very focused and in the zone," said the sixth seed. "I was very happy with the first set. It was almost perfect. I can't remember the last time I went 6-0. It was good quality."

AFP

Be nice to each other - Wozniacki tells players

MELBOURNE - Retiring former world No.1 Caroline Wozniacki yesterday urged the younger generation of players to 'be nice to each other,' saying locker-room friendships can last through life.

The Danish star, who is walking away from tennis after the Australian Open aged 29, lived to fight another day at Melbourne Park after crushing American Kristie Ahn 6-1, 6-3 in the first round.

"There's a lot of emotions, but I tried to keep them in check, and I thought I did that very well today," said Wozniacki, whose only Grand

Slam triumph came in Melbourne in 2018.

"I think I'm just really trying to enjoy every moment."

Wozniacki announced her plan to retire in December to focus on other things, including starting a family with husband and former NBA star David Lee.

She said she will leave the game with lifelong friendships, not least best buddy Serena Williams, and encouraged the new women on the block to keep the locker room civil.

"I think in general my generation we had great friendships even from the juniors and we were a big group

coming up and playing on the tour at the same time," she said.

"I think we have friendships that will carry on past the tennis."

"I don't know how it was before me. All I know is that Serena obviously played way before me and so did Venus, and they were both super nice to me and very open and have always been there for me."

"So I have had a great experience with them."

Then I hope that the younger generation will also be nice to each other, because it's just a sport and we all try our best out here."

AFP





PSG confirm Cavani wants to leave

PARIS - Edinson Cavani has told PSG that he wants to leave the club after Spanish side Atletico Madrid made an approach to sign the striker.

PSG Sporting Director Leonardo confirmed the news after they defeated Lorient 1-0 in the French Cup on Sunday.

"It's true that today he asked to leave," Leonardo said. "It's also true that there has been an approach from Atletico Madrid." Cavani has found opportunities at PSG few and far between this season following the arrival of Mauro Icardi from Inter Milan.

He has played 13 times in all competitions, scoring on three

occasions.

Cavani was left out of the team that faced Lorient, with Leonardo saying: "We have to listen to him because we have a lot of respect for the player."

But PSG boss Thomas Tuchel would like Cavani to stay.

"I have said a lot about this, I am not going to repeat myself always on the same subject,"

Tuchel said. "If we want to achieve our objectives - winning as many trophies as possible - it's best with 'Edi', yes."

AFP

PSG Sporting Director Leonardo.

Lukaku buys massive bed for his new home

MILAN - At well over 6ft tall in his football socks, powerhouse striker Romelu Lukaku is a big guy, but even he looks tiny in his brand new bed.

The Inter Milan star now has somewhere huge to get his head down - after all, storming to second in the Serie A scoring charts with 14 goals is tiring work.

Lukaku has treated himself to the 'Rolls Royce of beds' and his Inter teammates have been quick to see the funny side, joking that it is large enough to sleep 15 people.

The 26-year-old shared two photographs on Instagram of him lying under the huge covers as he thanked the bespoke luxury bed company Maree for the delivery, saying: "New apartment, new bed."

His Inter team-mates took the opportunity to poke fun at their top scorer, with defender Andrea Ranocchia commenting: "Is it for 15 people?"

While former Everton goalkeeper Joel Robles, who played with Lukaku during the striker's four years at Goodison, also joked: "Bed for seven?"

Others commented on the post that his bed is bigger than their entire house.

Maree build the world's biggest mattresses and say their beds 'are as extraordinary as the ones who dream on them'. It was reported last week that Lukaku had splashed out on two neighbouring flats so his mother and baby son could live next door to him.

He bought the luxury apartments in City Life, a new district near the San Siro, according to Belgian newspaper Het Nieuwsblad.

In December 2018, his then girlfriend Sarah Mens gave birth to son Romeo



but they are since believed to have split up and Lukaku's mother Adolphine helps take care of the one-year-old so he can concentrate on his football.

And the arrangement appears to be paying dividends on the pitch as the striker has made a flying start to life in Italy after mixed fortunes at Manchester United.

He has scored 14 goals in Serie A, the same total as Cristiano Ronaldo, who both trail Lazio's in-form Ciro Immobile who has already notched up 20 league goals.

Lukaku's form has helped propel Inter to second in the table, two points behind Juventus, as new boss Antonio Conte looks to prise the title from the Old Lady for the first time since 2011.

Daily Mail

BIG GUY: Romelu Lukaku.

Romero crashes his Lamborghini

MANCHESTER - Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero has escaped unharmed after crashing his car in Carrington yesterday.

United's No 2 goalkeeper was pictured standing beside his smashed up Lamborghini, worth £170 000, on the A6144. The crash happened on the Carrington Spur Road through Ashton, near to the Reds' training ground.

Footage also emerged across social media of Romero's car in ruins on the side of the road but with the United man stood safely to one side of the wreckage.

The Lamborghini can be seen underneath a roadside barrier with footage taken from passersby also showing debris strewn across the road.

It had been a cold and icy night across Manchester with tempera-

tures hovering above freezing, with drivers needing to have been particularly careful on the roads.

Romero, an Argentina international, is believed to have bought the car back in 2017 shortly after United defeated Southampton to win the League Cup at Wembley.

The 32-year-old has been a United player since 2015 and has played nine times for the club in all competitions so far this season. In total, he has played 53 times for United and kept an impressive tally of 34 clean sheets.

Romero's current contract at Manchester United runs through until 2021 and has an option to be extended for another year.

He is believed to earn around £70 000-a-week on that deal and is widely considered to be one of the best back-up goalkeepers in England.

Daily Mail



Inter Milan line up Modric bid

MADRID - Inter Milan have been a busy club in the January transfer window and, according to reports in Spain yesterday, there could be more players arriving at the San Siro.

Spanish publication Sport says the Italian side are lining up a move for Luka Modric, with Antonio Conte insisting that they test Real Madrid's resolve to keep the Croatian.

Modric, 34, is out of contract at Madrid in June 2021.

Inter have already signed Ashley Young from Manchester United and are hopeful of landing Olivier Giroud from Chelsea and Christian Eriksen from Tottenham.

Conte's side are currently second in Serie A, four points behind leaders Juventus.

They drew 1-1 away to Lecce on Sunday.

Daily Mail

CSA sends Ngidi, Shamsi to conditioning camp

JOHANNESBURG - Cricket South Africa (CSA) has identified four franchise players who have been placed in a high performance fitness and conditioning camp at the organization's Centre of Excellence in Pretoria.

They will therefore not be available for selection for their franchises this week.

The players - Lungi Ngidi (Titans), Sisanda Magala (Warriors), Jon-Jon Smuts (Warriors) and Tabraiz Shamsi (Titans) - are in consideration for future international limited overs series and have been enrolled into the training program in the hopes of assisting them in reaching optimum fitness for what promises to be a demanding cricket season.

Involved

The camp is presided over by former Proteas Strength and Conditioning coach - now Sport Scientist - Adrian le Roux.

He has been involved in professional sport since 1995 and has worked with other cricket teams such as the India national team from 2001 to 2003 and Indian Premier League (IPL) team, the Kolkata Knight Riders from 2007 until present.

Sport24



Layvin Kurzawa set to join Arsenal on free transfer

LONDON - PSG defender Layvin Kurzawa will join Arsenal on a free transfer this summer when his contract expires, reports in France claim.

The French left-back is down the pecking order at the Parc des Princes, with Juan Bernat the first choice under

Thomas Tuchel, and the Gunners could be ready to offer him an escape route.

The 27-year-old is said to be in 'advanced negotiations' with the Emirates hierarchy, so much so that the two parties have already agreed a five-year contract, according to France Football.

Kurzawa's current deal with the French champions expires at the end of the season, which means he is allowed to talk to other clubs this month ahead of a possible summer move.

The report claims Kurzawa turned down approaches from Inter Milan in

favour of moving to north London.

It added that while talks are progressing well, he is yet to agree on a signing-on fee, but that he should become an Arsenal player if everything continues to go smoothly.

Arsenal signed Kieran Tierney last summer hoping to bolster their options at left-back, but he has missed the majority of the season through injury. Nacho Monreal has since departed

for Real Sociedad, leaving Arsenal with just one natural left-sided full-back - but with former Celtic man Tierney missing most of the campaign, Bukayo Saka has been forced to play there out of position.

The Gunners are crying out for cover as soon as possible, but may choose to wait it out until the summer in order to get the cheapest deal possible.

Daily Mail

DARE TO DREAM

...Klopp tells Liverpool after leaving Man United in shade

LONDON - Liverpool fans should be dreaming of a first Premier League title for 30 years, admitted Jurgen Klopp even if the German is taking nothing for granted after opening up a 16-point lead at the top of the table.

Goals early and late from Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah earned a 2-0 victory over Manchester United at Anfield on Sunday and a 13th straight league win since the sides last met at Old Trafford in October.

After Salah galloped clear to score from goalkeeper Alisson Becker's assist deep into stoppage time, the Liverpool fans broke into a chorus of "we are going to win the league" for the first time this season.

Klopp dismissed any notion that will only ramp up the pressure on his players, but is already focusing on his next challenge away to Wolves on Thursday. "They are allowed to dream, allowed to sing, as long as they do their job as well in the moment when we play," said Klopp, who praised the Anfield atmosphere for "carrying" his side as they tired in the closing stages. "I have no idea whether we will be caught or not, I don't care."

"First and foremost it's the Premier League. We play Wolves on Thursday, it's our next exceptional challenge. I don't have enough space in my brain to contemplate anything else." Liverpool also have a game in hand to come on closest

challengers Manchester City and the gulf in class between the European champions and United was exposed by the 30-point gap between them in the table, if not the scoreline on the day. United are the only team to take Premier League points off Klopp's men this season, but it rarely looked like lightning would strike twice once the hosts went in front on 14 minutes.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's game plan was undone by a simple set-piece as Van Dijk rose highest to power home Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner.

"It didn't go to plan," said the Norwegian, whose side remain fifth, five points off the top four. "There were some disappointing periods because you don't like to concede goals from set plays."

"We looked strong in the last half an hour, but we didn't have that quality in the final pass or shot."

Liverpool had the ball in the net twice more before half-time, but VAR and the offside flag came to United's rescue to keep the score down.

Firstly, Roberto Firmino's brilliant strike was ruled out as Van Dijk was penalised for an aerial challenge with David de Gea after a VAR review. *Team Talk*

Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp.



Man United could withdraw from Fernandes negotiations

MANCHESTER - Manchester United are close to walking away from the negotiations for Sporting Lisbon's Bruno Fernandes after a sudden doubling of their asking price.

Talks are understood to have reached an impasse after Sporting refused to budge from their £68 million (£80m) valuation, which is a huge increase on the £39 million (£45m) fee United and Tottenham were quoted for the mid-

fielder in the summer.

United have now walked away from the table and no further discussions are planned for this week-end between the two clubs.

Sky Sports News are reporting

that Red Devils officials, usually led by executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward in such matters, feel their latest bid of £43 million-plus £17 million in potential add-ons is about right for the in-form Sporting star. Reports that Fernandes, who has grabbed 13 goals in 21 games in all club competitions this season, could be at Anfield to watch United in action against Liverpool on Sunday were clearly premature.

And the likelihood now is that the deal could go right to the wire on transfer deadline day, so far apart are the two clubs over their valuations.

Negotiations are expected to resume next week, with United keen to sign Fernandes, having identified him as their primary target in the January transfer window.

AFP

'Rose still a part of my plans'

LONDON - Tottenham Manager Jose Mourinho says that Danny Rose is still a part of his plans despite being left out of the team for the last two games.

Rose sat out the FA Cup win over Middlesbrough and the 0-0 draw at Watford on Saturday, with youngster Japhet Tanganga playing at left-back instead.

The 29-year-old recently said he would run his contract down at Spurs, which expires next summer, which could give a reason for Mourinho to look at other options.

But the Portuguese revealed Rose was missing at Watford due to a back injury.

He said: "Yeah, (he's) part of my plans. Last match at home (Middlesbrough), a very offensive team, I wanted also to develop young players and give another chance to (Ryan) Sessegnon to play 90 minutes. "It's the kind of game that Rose doesn't need for his progression, he is already the player he is."

"And today he had

a little injury in his back two days ago, and yesterday we made the decision to bring only fit players. We knew it was going to be physical. At the same time, we knew that (Ismaila) Sarr is a runner and to control a runner - not better than another runner. "So, the decision was also to bring Sessegnon on the bench in case we needed another winger. So, a bit of everything." Watford boss Nigel

Pearson admits he sees no need to do any more January business - and it is no surprise given their recent form.

The Hornets took their 14th point from the last six Premier League games in the 0-0 draw with Tottenham on Saturday, a run which has seen them move clear of the relegation zone. They have already brought Ignacio Pussetto in, but Pearson is not expecting to do much else.

Team Talk Media

Neville urges Man United to sack Woodward

MANCHESTER - Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville believes the Red Devils should sack current Executive Vice Chairman Ed Woodward.

This comes after Neville had commentating duties for Sky Sports News and had to witness his beloved childhood club get humiliated 2-0 in a Premier League clash at the hands of their fiercest rivals, Liverpool, at Anfield on Sunday. In terms of performance, United were nowhere near the level that is expected of the 20-times league champions. Neville says that he struggles to understand how Woodward remains to stay in a job despite United's failings in player recruitment. In Woodward's seven-year reign at the club since Sir Alex Ferguson and David Gill's (former executive vice-chairman) departure in 2013, United has managed to spend £850 million on players. "I can't change the ownership of United, no one can. I'm struggling to understand why the owners have persisted in trusting that management team to oversee the building of a Premier League title-winning team since Sir Alex left," he told the Gary Neville Podcast. *AFP*

Liverpool still not interested in title talk - Robertson

LIVERPOOL - Andy Robertson says Liverpool will not think about winning the Premier League title until it is mathematically certain, saying the players remain determined to stick to their game-by-game mentality.

A 2-0 victory over Manchester United on Sunday extended their lead over second-placed Manchester City at the top of the table to 16 points with a match in hand.

They require just 10 more victories, having already registered 21 in 22 fixtures, to guarantee a first championship in 30 years and they look uncatchable. Fans at Anfield on Sunday sang "We're going to win the league" but Robertson said the players were not complacent. "We would obviously love to say yes - but no," said

the Scotland defender. "You are playing against your rivals who you've had great battles with over the years and the fans probably want to rub it in a bit but we're not getting carried away. Until the champions sign is above our heads we don't believe anything. Yes, the lead is 16 points but we know how tough it gets."

Liverpool travel to face Wolves on Thursday in the Premier League, with games coming up against West Ham and Southampton. "We will let other people say that (they will not drop enough points to lose the title) but I don't think anyone in that dressing room is believing that just yet and I think you can see that with every performance we are putting in," said Robertson. *AFP*



Katsande's Chiefs terms revealed

JOHAN-NESBURG - Willard Katsande's agent has revealed the expectations his client has as the time for new Kaizer Chiefs contract negotiations approaches.

Katsande is in the last season of his contract at Naturena and has made it clear that he wants to stay with the Glamour Boys for three more seasons.

His representative Michael Ngobeni, who enjoys a good working relationship with Chiefs Manager Bobby Motaung, says he and the 34-year-old former Zimbabwe captain are not losing sleep

over the player's future.

Asked if negotiations between the club and the player have started yet, Ngobeni admitted they were still waiting.

"Not as yet, he just wants to focus on the league-winning side of it," Ngobeni tells KickOff.com. "My client will take whatever offer Chiefs put on the table."

"These two [Chiefs and Katsande] have a good, healthy working relationship you know, all is positive."

Chiefs recently signed Kenyan holding midfielder Anthony Akumu, and Ngobeni says Katsande won't mind competition if he happens to still be

with the club next season.

"[Laughs] This is a legend. At all costs it's good for the club and soccer fanatics in general," he adds. "Whatever they offer us we really appreciate."

"When they call us we are ready. Kaizer Chiefs is one of the clubs that doesn't give hushes at all when it comes to negotiations... that club, we don't lose a sleep at all."

Katsande, who has been with Chiefs since 2011, recently signed with M-Sport Management, which is the same agency that represents his Amakhosi and Warriors teammate Khama Billiat.



Who is deadliest?

CAPE TOWN - Star forward Gbadinho Mhango was once again on the scoring sheets for Orlando Pirates as the Buccaneers beat Highlands Park 3-1 on Saturday.

The Malawian netted his fifth goal in three games as the Sea Robbers continue their rich form under Josef Zinnbauer.

Leading Absa Premiership scorers

12 - Mhango (Orlando Pirates)

10 - Ntuli (AmaZulu), Nurkovic (Kaizer Chiefs)

9 - Mutizwa (Golden Arrows), Shalulile (Highlands Park)

8 - Erasmus (Cape Town City), Grobler (SuperSport Utd)

7 - Castro (Chiefs), Isaacs (Stellenbosch), Zwane (Mamelodi Sundowns)

Sport24

'I must soldier on to help Leopards'

JOHANNESBURG - Black Leopards defender Edwin Gyimah revealed he is determined to play through his current injury problem to help his team get out of the relegation zone.

Gyimah claimed the Man-of-the-Match award on Saturday for the vital role he played in the 1-1 draw against Absa Premiership leaders Kaizer Chiefs.

"It was a good game, the supporters came in their numbers, first of all, we have to thank the supporters, thank the almighty God, the management and the boss of the team for giving me this opportunity," he told SuperSport TV.

"I'm so happy, it's been a long time having this achievement so I'm so grateful. [The team] It is at the wrong end [of the table], we're trying our best, we're playing so well, it's up to us to defend well because we're conceding a lot, we need to be more focused at the back."

"Because our strikers are doing well, they are getting the chances, so as defenders we need to make sure if we get a clean sheet and even if the strikers don't score, we'll have a point."

The Ghanaian is currently struggling with a knock but expressed his willingness to push through the pain to help Lidoda Duvha climb the standings. He added: "I need to fight because now I don't have any excuse because the boys depend on me, the coach depends on me, the supporters depend on me, my colleagues depend on me, so I have to heal quickly."

"I don't have the excuse to sit down, I just have to play it all out because where we are is a dangerous position, so we need to soldier on."

TeamTalk Media



DETERMINED: Black Leopards defender Edwin Gyimah.

'IT WAS FIRST TIME I LOSE AT ORLANDO'

JOHANNESBURG - Pitso Mosimane is happy with the way Mamelodi Sundowns fared against Bidvest Wits, Orlando Pirates and SuperSport United despite only collecting four points from those three matches.

Sundowns returned to winning ways as they beat SuperSport 2-1 in the Tshwane derby at the Lucas Moripe Stadium on Sunday.

Themba Zwane and Thapelo Morena scored the goals for The Brazilians while Dean Furman netted the goal for Matsatsantsa.

The victory comes a few days after Sundowns dropped five crucial points against Wits and Pirates.

"These are big teams that we have been playing. It's okay to draw, lose and win," said Mosimane.

"I mean to win against SuperSport is not easy. If it's easy, who says it's easy? To go and lose to

Pirates, it was my first since I have been coach at Sundowns to lose at Orlando Stadium. But there's always a first time, something has to happen. I am not angry about that loss because we did well. Every ball that hit the post came out and never went in. We have to accept the loss there. But these are big teams. There is no team in the PSL that plays Pirates, Wits and SuperSport and says you can go and win. No, it's not like that. We respect SuperSport United and it was a derby. It was good for people and you can hear the noise. It was bragging rights and I am happy we got the bragging rights back."

Sundowns are expected to leave the country today for their next C A G Champions League match against Pedro de Luanda in Angola this weekend.



SATISFIED: Mamelodi Sundowns head coach Pitso Mosimane.

Pirates dealt huge defensive blow

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates have been dealt a huge blow regarding two of the side's key players who formed part of the team's recent resurgence.

Following their impressive 3-1 win over Highlands Park at the weekend, the Buccaneers will be without influential defender and vice-captain Ntsikelelo Nyauza for the next match against AmaZulu in Orlando on Saturday.

The 29-year-old picked up a yellow card against the Lions of the North, which was his fourth of the season, ruling him out for the next match as he will be serving a one-match suspension.

Nyauza has been influential in central defence for Bucs, playing alongside veteran defender and team captain Happy Jele.

Nyauza started in all matches under Josef Zinnbauer, since the German coach's arrival in December, and has been instrumental in helping the Buccaneers to four wins and a draw in their last five fixtures.

Furthermore, Bucs will also be without Abel Mabaso, who has also been a key figure in Zinnbauer's side, having started in all the matches under the new coach.

The former Mamelodi Sundowns player will also be serving a one-match suspension. *Soccer Laduma*

Pirates close gap on Chiefs in African club rankings

JOHANNESBURG - Following their good form in the Absa Premiership, Orlando Pirates have moved into the top 20 bracket in the African club rankings.

According to the latest rankings published by FootballDatabase.com, the Buccaneers have gained 83 points and are now placed 19th in Africa.

Pirates, however, are still ranked below their rivals Kaizer Chiefs, who are ranked 17th in Africa, but Bucs are closing the gap on Amakhosi.

Mamelodi Sundowns are still the highest-ranked South African side. The Brazilians are placed

eighth in the African rankings.

Bidvest Wits (21) are the only other South African team to feature in the top 50 list.

Tunisia's Esperance lead the standings, followed by Egyptian giants Al Ahly. Democratic Republic of Congo's TP Mazembe and Al-Merreikh of Sudan are third and fourth respectively.

Etoile du Sahel (5), Wydad Casablanca (6), Al Hilal (7), Zamalek (9) and Vita Club (10)

complete the top 10 clubs in Africa. *Citizen*



PROTEAS FALL TO EMBARRASSING DEFEAT IN PE

PORT ELIZABERTH - England completed a comprehensive win by an innings and 53 runs on the fifth day of the third Test against South Africa at St George's Park yesterday, taking an unbeatable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

England were held up by a last wicket stand of 99 between Keshav Maharaj (71) and Dane Paterson (39 not out) and it needed a direct-hit run-out by Sam Curran from mid-on to clinch the result shortly before lunch. South Africa were bowled out for 237.

The partnership between Maharaj and Paterson was easily South Africa's best of the match and showed up an otherwise poor batting performance by the hosts.

South Africa added 135 runs in losing their last four wickets, which seemed unlikely when Vernon Philander chipped a catch to midwicket off Stuart Broad three balls into the day.

Mark Wood and Dom Bess also took wickets but England captain Joe Root could not add to his four wickets taken on Sunday, conceding 56 runs in 10



overs yesterday to finish with four for 87.

Maharaj hit Root for three fours and two sixes in an over which ended with four byes, costing 28 in total.

Despite the late face-saving flourish for the hosts, it was a result which was a triumph for England's youth policy, while the way South Africa were outplayed was a devastating blow for captain Faf du Plessis and new coach Mark

Boucher.

Even before yesterday's last rites there was speculation about Du Plessis' future. He has expressed his desire to lead South Africa in the T20 World Cup in Australia in October and November, by which time he will be 36.

It seems possible that the fourth Test in Johannesburg from Friday could be his last home series in charge.

AFP

Musona to Sundowns deal not dead, buried

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns may still get the chance to sign Zimbabwean star Knowledge Musona at the end of the season.

Musona was linked with a move to Sundowns during the current transfer period after he struggled for game time at Belgian club Anderlecht. The 29-year-old, however, chose to remain in Belgium and signed a loan deal with KAS Eupen. His representative Mike Makaab has not ruled out the possibility of Musona signing for Sundowns in the next transfer win-

dow. "It is highly unlikely that Musona will stay in Belgium next season. He is going on loan until the end of the season and then we will make a decision at the end of the campaign," Makaab was quoted as saying by IOL. "As it stands we are not sure about his (Musona's) next destination but as I said it is highly unlikely that he will be in Belgium come next season," Makaab said. "Obviously, they [Sundowns] have expressed their love for Musona but I can confirm that there's no formal offer on the table," concluded Makaab. *Citizen*

CSA sends Ngidi, Shamsi to conditioning camp

JOHANNESBURG - Cricket South Africa (CSA) has identified four franchise players who have been placed in a high performance fitness and conditioning camp at the organisation's Centre of Excellence in Pretoria.

They will, therefore, not be available for selection for their franchises this week. The play-

ers - Lungi Ngidi (Titans), Sisanda Magala (Warriors), Jon-Jon Smuts (Warriors) and Tabraiz Shamsi (Titans) - are in consideration for future international limited overs series and have been enrolled into the training program in the hopes of assisting them in reaching optimum fitness for what promises to be a demanding cricket season. *Sport24*



CONFIRMED: Former Mamelodi Sundowns coach Miguel Gamondi.

Ex-Downs boss lands Wydad job

JOHANNESBURG - Former Mamelodi Sundowns coach Miguel Gamondi has been confirmed as the technical director of Botola champions Wydad Casablanca.

Gamondi arrived in South Africa in 2005 as the assistant to Angel Capa but went on to win the league title as joint-manager alongside Neil Tovey. The Argentine eventually moved on to the now-defunct Platinum Stars and famously led them to the last-16 of the 2008 CAF Confederation Cup. And over the past decade, he's enjoyed stints in Algeria, Libya and Morocco with CR Belouizdad, Ittihad Kalba, USM Alger and Hassania respectively. Last week it was reported that Gamondi

was lined-up as the new head coach to replace Serbian coach Zoran Manojlovic.

However, after being unveiled in his new role at the Moroccan giants, Manojlovic was fired and since been replaced by Frenchman Sebastian Desabre as part of the immediate overhaul.

The former Pyramids FC coach returns for a second spell in charge, with Wydad second in the league and four points off Group C leaders Sundowns in the CAF Champions League.

Desabre signed a two-year deal with a mandate of retaining the league title and winning the African Champions League after the club were dumped out the Arab Championship by rivals Raja Casablanca. *Kick-Off*

SAFA cars repossessed after CCMA ruling

JOHANNESBURG - A South African Football Association (SAFA) branch in Mgunundlovu reportedly saw some of its assets repossessed and sold to pay the salaries of employees which were overdue for 12 months.

Isoleswe reports that following a court order after a CCMA hearing regarding the none payment of salaries to

employees, two Mercedes Benz Sprinters worth R70 000 each were sold to cover the outstanding salaries.

SAFA's Head of Communications, Dominic Chimhavi told Isoleswe he knew nothing about the vehicle being sold to cover the outstanding salaries to employees.

"I don't know how matters from the

regional offices affect SAFA head office because the region needs to deal with the matter," Chimhavi was quoted as saying by Isoleswe.

"I don't have all the information regarding this matter and I will investigate further to find out what is going on with this issue."

Citizen

DA GAMA APPEALS TO FANS FOR SUPPORT

JOHANNESBURG - Highlands Park coach Owen Da Gama has asked the supporters of the Lions of the North to step up and support the struggling side.

Da Gama's side has lost the three games in succession with reports suggesting that the former Bafana Bafana coach's time at the club is coming to an end.

"You've got supporters and you've got fans," said Da Gama.

"I think we need to distinguish that. I believe there are supporters that will support the entire team when things are not going well. And that's what you expect from the supporters.

"With regard to fans, they can say whatever they want to say. They've got a right to say whatever they want to say. I mean I was fired at least seven times

this week. Or I resigned seven times this week," he added. Da Gama is confident that Highlands will turn things around and produce results soon.

"Some people just sort of assume things and so on, but in all fairness we're really going through a bad patch. But I can tell you,

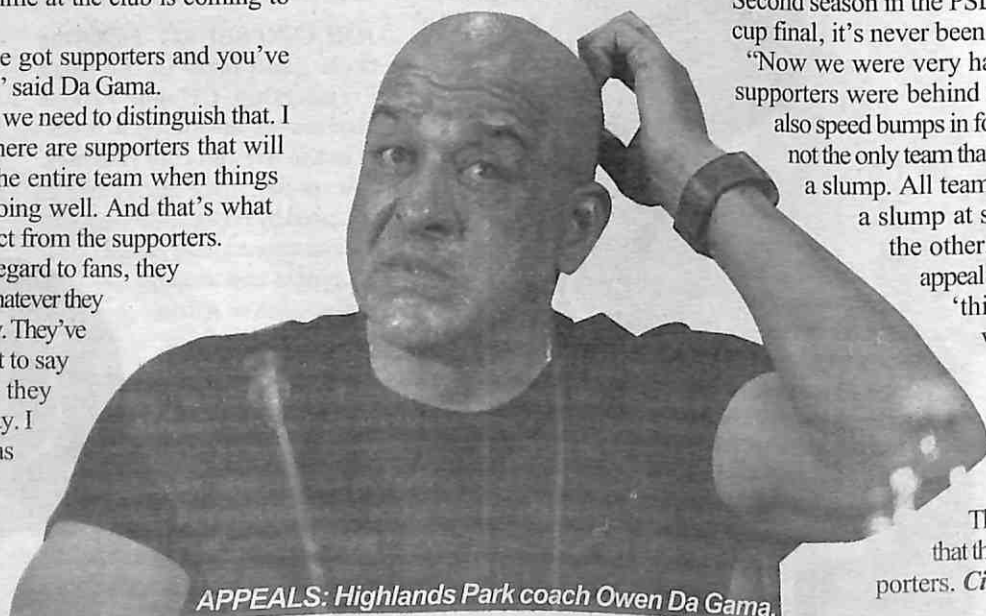
we'll turn around and somebody is going to pay for this. We will turn around.

"And to the fans, all that we can ask for them, I mean we were in the cup final (MTN 8), from the NFD and we broke six records. "First season in the PSL we went to the top eight, it's another record and it's never been done. Second season in the PSL straight to a cup final, it's never been done.

"Now we were very happy that the supporters were behind us, but there also speed bumps in football. We're not the only team that goes through a slump. All teams go through a slump at some time or the other. "So we just appeal to them to say

'this is the time when the players and the technical team really need their support'.

They must show that they're true supporters. *Citizen*



APPEALS: Highlands Park coach Owen Da Gama.

Weekend Sports Results

COMPILED BY JONGILE KUBA

Ingwenyama Cup Quarter Finals

Mbabane Highlanders	1	Madlenya	0
Green Mamba	1	Young Buffaloes	0
Moneni Pirates	1	Seven Dreams	1
(Moneni Won 3-1 On Penalties)			
Tambankulu Callies	2	Manzini Wanderers	0

Shiselweni Southern Super League Log

Vusweni Killers	1	All Nations	0
Nyatsini	1	Mashekesheni	3
Nsingizini Spurs	3	Jb Tigers	1
Shooting Stars	8	Piano	4
Vusweni Killers	2	Nyatsini	2

Nhlangano Promotion League

Mvela	1	Nedso Arsenal	0
Intermilan	1	City Stars	1
Sprinters	1	Makhwelela	0
Mahlalini	2	Nedso Arsenal	1

Swazi Trac -Lubombo Super League

Rail United	2	City Warriors	1
Young Aces	0	Malaheni United	0
Gucuka Cosmos	1	Distillers	1

RSSC Siyakha 1800 North - East

Arsenal	3	Zwelabantu	1
Professionals	3	Silver Stars	1
Juventus	0	Jb	2
Bacambi	3	Summerise	0
Rhinos	2	Free At Last	3

RSSC Siyakha 1800 North - West

Tonga Young Stars	0	Skyline	2
Revelations	1	Equator	5
Tabankulu Fc	1	Tsambokhulu Rovers	6
Mhlume Highlanders	2	Njakeni United	4
Professionals	0	Brave Lions	4

Western Zone

Black Swallows	2	Nkunzemnyama	2
Tawern	1	Mamisa United	0
Heroes	2	Stone Breakers	0
Red Lion	0	Manchester	0
Thuluzobona	1	Liverpool	5
Sinceni Fc	5	Typers	2
Ngwenyaboya	5	Barcelona	0
Junior Stars	1	Hagar	3
Sithobela	3	Peacemakers	0
Mbuzana	4	Noeka	2
Big Boys	2	Ntsambo	1

Brand Active Mbabane Juniors KO

U19			
Hurricane	3	Mphalati	0
Zulwini Aces	6	Aces Utd	0
Veni Cosmos	3	Sidwshini Utd	0
M. Fighters	0	Red Stars	3
Freestyle	5	M. Classic	4
Sivutsa	0	Mantsholo	3
Umbelebele	3	Imbumba	2

U-17

Dark City	5	Malanti	4
Wailers	3	Movers	0
Double Action	0	Lusoti	3
Hurricane	7	Habbana	3

U-15

Hurricane	3	Junior Stars	0
Real Tec	3	Mantsholo	0

Wailers	3	Stone	0
Swallows	3	Bloemfontein	0
Amawele	3	Ssu	0
Malangwane	4	Habbana	0

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League - E70 000

Promotion			
Sandla	5	Fc Vaal	2
Pot O Gold	5	Double Action	5
Mvakwelitje	0	Wizards	1
Multi Classic	0	Village Stars	0
White City	2	Pg Dribbling	2
Mbabane Celtics	2	Freestyle	1
Amawele	5	Young Stars	1
Interstars	0	Real Tec	1

B. Division

Real Stars	1	Hurricane	5
Mantsholo Fc	4	Young Fighters	8
Mangwaneni	2	D. Darkies	3
Red Stars	12	N. Rangers	0
Mantsholo Utd	6	Mphalati	2
Junction Stars	3	R. Dynamos	6
Veni Cosmos	4	Movers	1
Lusoti	1	Mbabane Utd	4

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League - E50 000

Nkomazi	6	B Mangwaneni	0
Darkies Utd	5	White Killers	0
Rise & Shine	3	Peak Forest	0
Phophonyane	3	Mhlatane	2
Citizens	1	Thuluzobona	2

Futis Nkhaba League - E30 000

Ngwenya Utd	3	Real Rovers	0
Crocodiles	5	Bafana	1
Nkoyoyo Utd	2	Nkoyoyo Jnr	1
Super Stars	3	Sivutsa	0
Majotini Utd	2	Mangweni	1
Atletico	1	M. Very Good	1
Barcelona	4	Lubhedze	3
Manyisa Utd	1	Kasi Xi	1
Dribbling Stars	1	Majotini Rebels	3
Fast Movers	1	White Rhinos	2
Mhlosheni Celtics	4	H. Arsenal	2

Mp Nelson Mamba Timphisini League - E25 000

Promotion			
Young Stars	3	Ak 47	0
Young Tigers	1	Ngonini	1
Soccer Rose	1	Ellegence	1
Matsamo	3	Besutwini	0
Mbasheni	0	Njakeni	2
Kudwaleni	3	Vusweni	3
Star Wanderers	0	Mv. Sundowns	0
Golden Arrows	3	H. Pirates	2

B. Division

Nhla. All United	3	Mv. All United	0
Young Bombers	0	Njakeni Utd	1
Blue Birds	3	Red Lion	0
Rockville	6	Superstrikes	3

Bakhanyiselemabulala&Gongz Maphalaleni Football League - E60 000

Western Stream			
Khulangwane	2	Hotspurs	4
Barcelona	0	Professionals	3
Umkhokha	2	Thuluzobona	1
Liselesele	1	Manchester	2
Killers	1	Blue Birds	2
Stone Breakers	3	Young Stars	5

Rangers	1	Xi Experience	0
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Sompisi Ntfontjeni Football League - E40 000

Nkonjaneni	1	Seven Up	0
Mabatane	1	Sdwasini	2
Express	1	Suncity	1
Trounge	7	Young Tigers	3
Arsenal	5	Hellenic	0
Chelsea	0	H. Pirates	2
Teenagers	3	Zibonele	2
Royal Madrid	0	Foster Utd	0
Fc Casino	3	Ntintinyane	2
Barcelona	2	Gunwane	1

Shebza Ntabezimpisi Football League - E50 000

Promotion			
Arsenal	3	Arrows	2
Russian Bombers	6	D. Darkies	0
City Cosmos	1	Mayiwane	1
Skomboz	3	Swallows	4
Manchester	0	Special Killers	2
Hungry Lion	1	City Stars	0
Buhleni Aces	1	Mazulwini	1
Superstars	3	Y. Professional	1

South Star Mdzimba Football League - E65 000

Promotion			
Kasiko	1	Cosmos	1
Bush Bucks	1	All Stars	4
Rhumbas	0	Swallows	0
Driekoppies	1	Top Centre	2
Rhinos	2	Green Sea	3
Barcelona	6	City Stars	0
Killers	1	Monaco	1
Sundowns	4	Bombers	2
Amacabane	3	Rangers	2
Achievers	3	Timbungulu	2
Rebels	1	Arsenal	0
Chiefs	1	Sibuyeni	3

Pots Sigangeni Football League - E30 000

Promotion			
Sigangeni	2	Real United	3
Mhlane Utd	2	Villa Sport	1
Black Aces	0	U. Eagles	0
Sibovini	5	Mighty Chiefs	2
Total Xi	3	Real Touch	2
Ntsetse Flyers	3	M. Celtics	0
L. Nationals	1	Kangaroo	2

Oupa Mhlangatane Football League - E50 000

Promotion			
Hotfighters	2	Arsenal	3
Manchester	3	N. Liverpool	2
Chelsea	0	M. Professional	2
Zinyane	1	Lonhlanane	1
Mpofu Aces	12	Weirma	2
Fast Movers	2	Democracy	1

Tee & Jay Lobamba Football League - E90 000

Promotion			
L. Dynamos	1	L. Wanderers	3
Fast Reaction	0	Servest	0
City Stars	3	L. Cosmos	3
Ezulwini Aces	3	Liwakawaka	3
E. United	1	E. Rangers	1
Vutha	1	Power Stars	1

B. Division

Ezulwini	2	E. Vultures	2
Silomo	3	Master United	1

Dabulamanzi Manzini Super League

L Brothers	1	Louis Xiv	1
Mhlaleni United	1	Nsuka United	2
Villa Stars	3	L Brothers	1

Manzini Promotion League

Home Sparrows	0	Two Sticks	0
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Kpmg Manzini First Division League

Shali Y. Aces	4	New Generation	7
Sunrise	1	God's Property	3
Young Tigers	4	Brema United	1
Healing Boys	1	Chaost Ltd	0

OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League

Ludzeludze Kicks	0	Mahashulane	1
Boyane United	3	Nsenga Shagari Xi	2
Giant Clockwork	3	Mhlaleni Superstars	1
Junior Eagles	1	Matsapha Town	1
Fc Logoba	4	Ngonini United	1
Swazi Wire	4	Bafana Bafana	4
Mahashulane	3	Ludzeludze Celtics	1
Ngonini United	4	Boyane United	0
Matsapha Town	0	Giant Clockwork	2
Ludzidzi	1	Ludzeludze Kicks	1
Fc Logoba	6	Mhlaleni Superstars	2

S & S Malkerns Promotion League

Phondo	0	Mahlanya	6
Swazi Can	3	Don Don	0
Golden Arrows	0	Red Swallows	3

Kukhanyeni Inkhundla Promotion League

Nyakeni Cosmos	2	Diakadla	2
Nyakeni Heroes	2	Nyakeni United	3
Mdayane	2	Mphola Celtics	2
Lion Heart	1	Nyakeni Ravens	2
Young Killers	3	Mbhijwana Rovers	1
Kukhanyeni	6	Estate Clasic	0
1995 Mbuzana	1	Bhekinkhosi	1
Brave Lions	1	Umshina Wedortmund	2



HEADER: Jerome Ntshalintshali and Lizwe Zwane in a battle for a high ball.

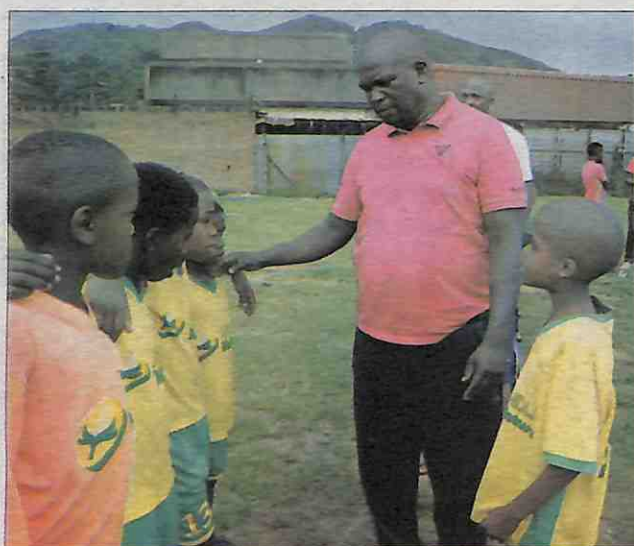
BRAND ACTIVE U-10 FUTSAL ONE DAY TOURNAMENT



HAIL THE CHAMPIONS: Mbabane Swallows FC U-10 team celebrate with their trophy. This was during the Brand Active U-10 Futsal One Day Tournament on Saturday at Supply Centre Sports Ground. They won the game by 1-0 to Supersport United. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



FULL HOUSE: Football fanatics who had come to witness young talent.



HAND SHAKE: Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) Vice Secretary Ntokozo Tsela being introduced to Supersport United players by the team's captain.



BRONZE MEDALS: Mantsholo FC players being presented with their bronze medals by Mbabane Juniors Vice Chairman Samkeliso Nkambule after winning in the losers final by 2-1 to Ezulwini Aces.



HARD LUCK: Mantsholo FC U-10 players pose with their medals.



BEST FIVE: Mbabane Swallows FC U-10 team pose for a group photo.



THIS WAY: Supersport United FC coach Samkeliso Simelane issuing instructions to his team.



TAKE HIM ON: Ezulwini Aces player negotiating his way past Ribo Bhembe.



ELIMINATED: Kymani's Ribo Bhembe going past Ezulwini Aces player during their semi-finals match.



HARD AT WORK: Mbabane Swallows juniors Bongkhe Simelane coach communicating to his young stars.



ITS A MENS GAME: Ribo Bhembe falls to the ground after he was tackled by Ezulwini Aces defender.



INGWENYAMA CUP 2019/20



MORE FROM INGWENYAMA QUARTERFINALS



FACE LIFT: Seven Dreams' Bandzile Mdluli rough plays Moneni Pirates' Sifiso Mdluli during the Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinals at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



LUMA NYOKA: Green Mamba President Phindile Dlamini celebrates.



JOYFUL: Tambankulu Callies boss Ngudze Mamba celebrates after the referee blew the final whistle.



SEA ROBBERS: Moneni Pirates players celebrate with the supporters.



IT ENDS LIKE THIS: Manzini Wanderers head coach Nyanga Hlophe with his assistant Mthunzi Ginindza after the defeat.



JOIN THE BULL'S KRAAL: Green Mamba fan Pitso Dlamini having fun with Silevu of Mbabane Highlanders.



HAMBA NAMAPHOYISA: Police officers stop fans from fighting during the Young Buffaloes and Green Mamba clash.



GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: Pirates' Lizwe Zwane came face-to-face with Seven Dreams goalkeeper Simiso Mabuza but he failed to score.



MORE MONEY: The supporters contribute some cash for the players.



BUGANU SEASON: Some of the Wanderers supporters watching the game while enjoying their favourite drink.



DEJECTED: Dejected Manzini Wanderers supporters.



SAILING AWAY: A Pirates fan in a jovial mood.



● Bruno Fernandes, 25, has told Sporting Lisbon he is desperate to join Manchester United and more talks are scheduled this week after they stalled over the valuation of the Portugal midfielder. *(Sky Sports)*

● Paris St-Germain and France left-back Layvin Kurzawa, 27, will join Arsenal on a free transfer when his contract ends in June and has agreed a five-year deal with the Gunners. *(France Football - in French)*



● Arsenal will try to sign Bayern Munich and Germany defender Jerome Boateng, 31, on loan this month before making a £50m bid for French RB Leipzig centre-back Dayot Upamecano, 21, in the summer. *(Star)*

● Inter Milan want to sign Tottenham and Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen, 27, in time for their Serie A tie against Cagliari on 26 January. *(Mail)*

● Inter Chief Executive Beppe Marotta says the club are interested in signing Chelsea wing-back Victor Moses, 29, who is currently on loan at Fenerbahce, and Blues striker Olivier Giroud, 33, as well as Eriksen. *(Sky Sports)*

● Giroud is also a target for Aston Villa as they try to find cover for injured Brazil striker Wesley. *(Le10 Sport, via Mail)*



● Antonio Conte has accused Jose Mourinho of twisting his words after the Spurs boss criticised his Inter counterpart for talking about Eriksen. *(Mirror)*

● Inter also remain keen on signing Croatia midfielder Luka Modric, 34, from Real Madrid. *(Sport - in Spanish)*

● Atletico Madrid have offered Paris St-Germain 10m euros (£8.5m) for Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani, 32. *(L'Equipe - in French)*

● Tottenham could pursue a move for Leicester City and Algeria striker Islam Slimani, 31, who is currently on loan at Monaco. *(Telegraph)*



● Leicester and Aston Villa are targeting French striker Serhou Guirassy, 23, from Ligue 1 side Amiens in January. *(Mail)*

● Manchester City and Manchester United have been linked with Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez but the 22-year-old Argentina international says he is happy at the Italian club. *(Sun)*

OVER 70 ATTEND FIRST ZITHANDE BOOTCAMP

BY JONGILE XUBA

ATHLETICS – THE first 'Operation Mkhamba Phuma Kimi' boot camp hosted by Zithande Athletics Club was well attended with over 70 participants showing up.

The three-hour training session was held at Manzini Club on Saturday and coach Nsizwa Thwala said the first camp of the year started on a high note.

"We kicked off the New Year very well with many new faces showing up for the boot camp. This tells me that people want positive change to their lifestyle which makes me happy as that is the goal of hosting these camps," he said. Thwala said the exercises he prepared were friendly yet effective workouts to care for beginners whilst also being effective to those who are advanced.

The coach further encouraged mem-



BIG GROUP: Participants of the 'Operation Mkhamba Phuma Kimi' boot camp hosted by Zithande Athletics Club in a group picture after the first training session of the year at Manzini Club on Saturday. *(Courtesy pic)*

bers to attend the boot camp in order to keep fit. "What worries me is there are less overweight people

attending when these are the activities meant for them to start a health and fitness journey. Our mission is

to influence a positive change through fitness so we urge them to join whenever they get the chance," he said.

SWIM CLUBS URGED TO REGISTER FOR OPEN WATER CHALLENGE

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SWIMMING – THE Eswatini Swimming Association (ESA) has urged clubs to register for the upcoming Open Water Challenge sponsored by KPMG to be held this weekend at Luphohlo Dam.

This was revealed by ESA President Berger Nxumalo, who said the annual competition would take centre stage on Saturday. "We will be having our Open Water Challenge

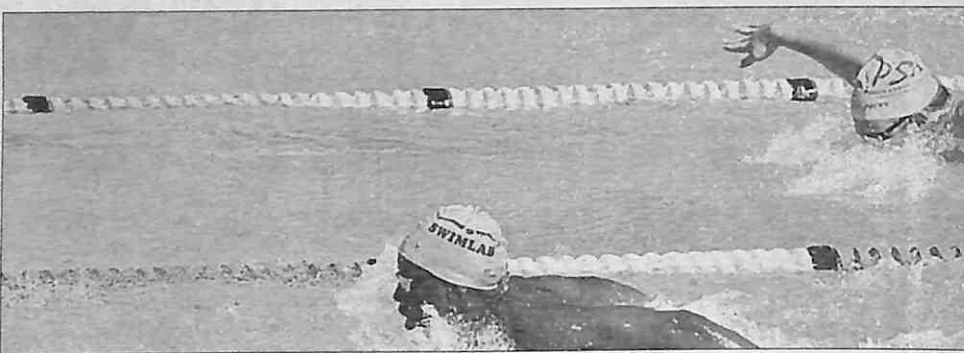
swim competition this weekend and we would like to see all the clubs there. The competition is open to any swimmer who would like to join and registration is E150," he said.

Interested swimmers can pre-register at Adventure Sport shops in Manzini or Mbabane as well as register on the day of the competition.

The open will start at 8am and participants are encouraged to get there early for registration as the first 120 entrants will get free T-shirts. The president fur-

ther thanked their sponsors for the continuous support to the sport over the past years.

"We would like to thank KPMG for coming on board as they have been with us for over 15 years. We value and appreciate the continuous support from the company as their contribution has played an immense role in improving the sport," he said. This year's race would see the introduction of the 3km race which will be open for swimmers between the age 13-30.



Flag, Eddie win Double Trophy Challenge

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

POOL-THE pair of Flag Nxumalo and Eddie Mkhonta combined well to win the Double Trophy floating Challenge.

This is after beating Siyabonga Dlamini and Nathi' Bhubesi' Sihlongonyane 9-6 on Sunday at the Mbabane Express Car Wash.

Nxumalo and Mkhonta walked

away with E2 000 for winning the invitational pool tournament. The match started on a high tempo when the duo led 6-1. After the break, 'Bhubesi' and Siyabonga came back strong and reduced the deficit to 6-4.

However, Nxumalo and Mkhonta showed their character and eventually won the match 9-6. Interviewed after the match, Nxumalo said their approach was good and experience helped them a lot.

"We came to the match with a positive mindset though our opponents came back stronger in the second half. Experience helped us to eventually win the match," he said.

The duo is fresh from beating Jairus Mhlanga and Makhosini Mthupha.

Mbabane Express Car Wash coordinator Sicelo Mndzebele congratulated the winners and thanked pool lovers for coming in their numbers.

DADA WINS CAPTAIN'S GOLF COMPETITION

BY JONGILE XUBA

GOLF – EERFAAN Dada won the Captain's Golf Tournament played at Manzini Golf Course on Saturday.

There was a field of 30 golfers and the Manzini Club Secretary Dada topped them all with 45 points. Runner-up was Sifiso Nhlengethwa with 43 points on the count-back as Manzini Club captain John Mngomezulu came third with 43 points as well. Wakie Lawrence finished in fourth on 41 points with Nkululeko Dube coming in fifth, also on 41 points. Novelty prizes were also awarded on the day as Dada won Nearest to pin 1/10 and Richard Dlamini won Nearest to pin 9/18. John Fakudze once again won the longest drive prize.

Captain's Golf Tournament results

1. Eerfaan Dada	45 points
2. Sifiso Nhlengethwa	43 points
3. John Mngomezulu	43 points
4. Wakie Lawrence	41 points
5. Nkululeko Dube	41 points
6. Moses Dlamini	40 points
7. Simon Motsa	39 points
8. Robert Mgcinah	39 points
9. Ivan Groening	38 points
10. Wandile Nhlengethwa	37 points
11. Richard Dlamini	37 points
12. William Kelly	37 points
13. Walter Dlamini	37 points
14. Augusta Quintela	37 points
15. Sifiso Zubuko	36 points

Novelties

Nearest to pin 1/10	Eerfaan Dada
Nearest to pin 9/18	Richard Dlamini
Longest drive:	John Fakudze

'I want to finish Ingwenyama Cup assignment'

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER- MONENI Pirates head coach Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini says he would love to see through the 2019 /20 Ingwenyama Cup before assuming his new position as Sihlangu assistant coach.

Interviewed after the 3-1 victory on penalties against Seven Dream on Sunday, the outgoing national Under-17 mentor promised to

work well with the new head coach of the nation's pride Dominic Kunene. Dlamini said Kunene was a good coach whom they have worked with for years.

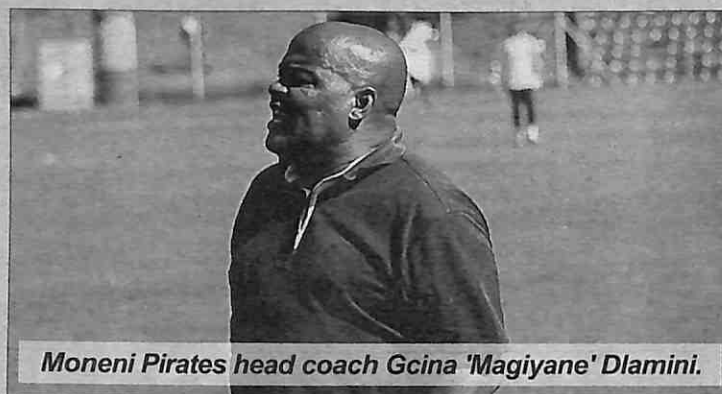
"We will handle the pressure but everything lies with him," he said.

Asked about the feeling of being roped into the Sihlangu technical bench, Dlamini said he cannot dwell much on that but promised to work with Eswatini Football Association (EFA) in delivering results for the

country.

The former Vovovo coach joined the 'Sea Robbers' at the beginning of the current campaign before he was announced as part of the new look Sihlangu technical bench also comprising of Anthony Mdluli (goalkeeper coach) and Mbuso Gina (physical trainer).

Dlamini's Moneni Pirates are now through to the semi-finals of the prestigious knockout competition together with Mbabane



Moneni Pirates head coach Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini.

Highlanders, Green Mamba and Tambankulu Callies.



RICH: Tambankulu Callies players celebrating their victory over Manzini Wanderers during the Ingwenyama Cup quarter-finals at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

CALLIES E230 000 RICHER AFTER NGWENYAMA GOOD RUN

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - TAMBANKULU Callies are guaranteed E230 000 in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup competition after they advanced to the semi-finals of the prestigious knockout competition.

The First Division outfit managed beat Manzini Wanderers 2-0 in the quarter-finals at Somhlolo National stadium on Sunday to book their place with Mbabane Highlanders, Green Mamba and Moneni

Pirates. According to Article 16 of the 2019/2020 Ingwenyama Cup Rules and Regulations prize breakdown, the Lubombo based outfit are entitled to E200 000 if they fail to progress past the semis. On top of that, they will also receive this year's best finisher prize for First Division teams worth E30 000.

Callies Chairman Sithembiso Ngudze Mamba said as much as they were happy with what they had achieved in this year's competition, there was still a long way for them to go as a club.

"Firstly, I would like to thank all our fans who have been supporting us during our historic cup run so far. We are happy with the progress thus far but we still want to do more in order to promote Lubombo football. This means we have to play every game to win and we will face each hurdle as it comes," he said.

The chairman further promised the fans that there was still more to come from 'Bo-Bhejane' as they chase promotion to the Premier League and reach the Ingwenyama Cup finals.

Molopo unmoved in Ingwenyama Cup top goal scorers' chart

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER- MALANTI Chiefs bulky striker Charles Molopo is still unmoved in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup top goal scorers' charts despite the fact that his team was booted out in the last 16 of the prestigious knockout competition.

A top goal scorer will walk away with E10 000.

The South Africa born import has five goals under his belt which he scored against Rangers in the last 32. Mbabane Swallows midfielder Sizolwethu Shabalala and Manzini Sea Birds player Muzi Tsabedze are on the second spot.

The duo has netted three goals apiece. Meanwhile, Young Buffaloes

THE INGWENYAMA CUP 2019 TOP GOAL SCORERS' CHARTS

1. Charles Molopo (Malanti Chiefs) 5 goals
2. Sizolwethu Shabalala (Mbabane Swallows) 3 goals
3. Muzi Tsabedze (Manzini Sea Birds) 3 goals
4. Mncedisi Dlamini (Mbabane Swallows) 2 goals
5. Solomon Oladele (Green Mamba) 2 goals
6. Wandile Nhleko (Manzini Sea Birds) 2 goals

striker Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze is the defending champion of the Ingwenyama Cup Golden Boot after he scored five goals last year and eventually helped his side to win the tournament after beating Mbabane Highlanders 4-1 during the finals.

'Touch' impressed with standard of local football

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - PREMIER League of Eswatini Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula is impressed with the standard of football.

Magagula said this following the Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinals where Tambankulu Callies advanced to the semi-finals after beating Manzini Wanderers at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

"There is a lot of improvement among teams in the competition, especially the First Division clubs following the good performance shown by Callies. No one gave them a chance against Wanderers and they have really outdone themselves. The competition is very tough as all the previous Ingwenyama Cup games teams were on top notch and that means football is greatly improving in the country," he said.

"We are now looking forward to the semi-finals where all the four teams

will fight to reach the finals. We further commend the good behaviour displayed by supporters since the competition started and we urge them to continue the spirit of fair play until the end," he said.

Four teams in last year's runner-up Mbabane Highlanders, Green Mamba, Moneni Pirates and giant slayers Tambankulu Callies are now through to the semi-finals of the prestigious knockout competition which has a E1.4 million first prize money.

Swallows win Brand Active Junior Tournament

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows are Brand Active Mbabane Juniors one day tournament after they beat Supersport United 1 - 0 in the final played at Msunduzi Sports Ground on Saturday.

The annual pre-season junior tournament had 12 teams from Mbabane that participated in what was the second week of the competition. This past weekend had the Under-10 teams whilst the first instalment was the Under-13 category. Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) Development Officer Sibonangaye Dlamini confirmed the results and further thanked the parents for attending the tournament.

"Once again we had a great instalment of the Brand Active Juniors pre-season competition. We thank the parents for the support they have shown to the competition by letting their children participate. It always motivates our young players when they see them there so



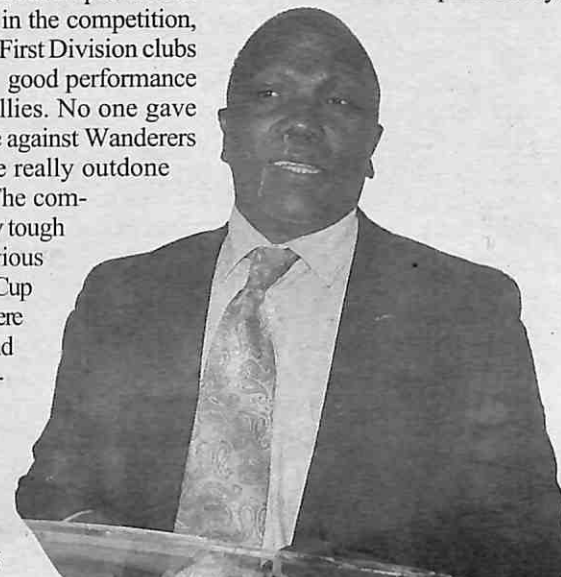
HAIL THE CHAMPIONS: Mbabane Swallows FC U-10 team celebrate with their trophy. This was during the Brand Active U-10 Futsal One Day tournament held on Saturday at Supply Centre Sports Ground. They won the game 1-0. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)

they must keep it up," he said.

Dlamini added that the competition would continue this weekend with three more age groups to play before they start the league competitions.

"We will have the Under-15, 17 and

19 semi-finals next and we expect a great batch of games this coming weekend. Once we are done with the knockout competition, we look forward to the start of the junior league next month," he said.



IMPRESSED: Premier League of Eswatini Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula.

FIXTURES

TONIGHT

21:30	Aston Villa	vs	Watford
21:30	Bournemouth	vs	Brighton
21:30	Crystal Palace	vs	Southampton
21:30	Sheffield United	vs	Manchester City
21:30	Everton	vs	Newcastle United
22:15	Chelsea	vs	Arsenal

TOMORROW

21:30	Tottenham	vs	Norwich City
21:30	Leicester City	vs	West Ham United
22:15	Man United	vs	Burnley

THURSDAY

22:00	Wolverhampton	vs	Liverpool
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Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Tuesday January 21, 2020



'BLACK SWALLOWS ELDER THREATENED ME'

● Estranged director says elder Hippy Hlophe promised to kill him

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - PIGG'S Peak Black Swallows Director Charles Matsebula has alleged that one of the team's elders Hippy Hlophe threatened him during the recent administrative squabbles in the team.

Matsebula made his allegations through an affidavit submitted to the High Court yesterday.

In his application, Matsebula requested the court to stop the team's elders from unlawfully interfering in the running of the club and forcibly trying to take over after they threatened him with violence.

He is also seeking the return of items that were removed from the club house.

Matsebula, who is represented by Zakhele Dlamini from Dlamini Kunene Associates, said the other respondents were yet to file their papers as the matter would be heard before

Judge Nkululeko Hlophe tomorrow morning.

Blocked

As reported by this publication last week, the teams director and some players were blocked from leaving the then club house in Pigg's Peak by an angry group of supporters made up of the elders, after they were kicked out of the club house by their landlord last Thursday.

Matsebula averred that as they left their former club house, one of the team's supporters Hlophe with committee elder Muzi Phiri, hijacked the truck carrying the team's items. According to Matsebula, Hlophe was the one leading the violence and chaos.

"He grabbed the driver's phone who had been sent to fetch then team's furniture and stopped from reporting the incident to me. He then threatened me with murder and shouted all sorts of insults during the hijack of the truck and further promised that wherever they will see or meet me they will deal with me very

harshly," he said.

Matsebula further stated that the elders have repeatedly told him to surrender the club back to them after they claimed to have secured a new sponsor.

"One of the elders Coaster Gimindza is among those who asked me to surrender the team back to the elders as they have secured a sponsor who will not give its money whilst I am in charge," he said.

The director added that the recent debacle was hurting his team as they needed to prepare for this weekend's round of MTN Premier League and were not able to do so.

The authenticity of the affidavit is yet to be proven in court.



Wanderers officials assaulted me - Ngudze

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - TAMBANKULU Callies Chairman Sithembiso Ngudze Mamba claims to have been assaulted by Manzini Wanderers officials before their Ingwenyama Cup quarter finals victory over the hub giants at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

According to eye-witnesses, Mamba was allegedly attacked upon his arrival at the stadium while driving his VW Touran seven-seater.

The skirmish is said to have unfolded behind the dressing rooms in full view of the public.

However, the quick intervention of the police riot squad OSSU saved the situation.

Mamba also confirmed the incident.

He further alleged that certain Wanderers officials even brandished knives.

"It all started when they blocked the team's bus and my car upon our arrival. They threatened me, saying I was hiding an 'inyanga'. I was saved by police officers from the Operational Support Services Unit (OSSU)," he said.

The former Red Lions chairman further mentioned that he is still traumatised and contemplates to open a case with the Lobamba Police Station.

"Seriously, we were not expecting such kind of behaviour from a big team of Wanderers' calibre. This is football which is a sport that is meant to create friendship and I am still traumatised by the incident. I'm also planning to open a case with the police," he said.

Wanderers Chief Executive Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini said he would investigate the matter when contacted yesterday.

"I am yet to find out from the members of the Management Committee about the said matter since I arrived late at the stadium," he said.

In the mist of Sihlangu's newly-appointed technical bench

Blow for four local teams

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - IT'S a blow for four local clubs as they have to part ways with their coaches who have been roped into the new look Sihlangu technical bench announced on Saturday afternoon.

The affected sides are Young Buffaloes, Manzini Sea Birds, Moneni Pirates and Green Mamba.

The army side will have to begin life without their reputable gaffer Dominic Kunene who has been entrusted with the head coach position by the Eswatini Football Association.

Buffaloes won't be the only affected side as Moneni Pirates will suffer the same fate by losing their tactician Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini after he was announced as an assistant to Kunene.

Other affected clubs are Manzini Sea Birds and Green Mamba who will cut ties with Anthony Mdluli (goalkeeper coach) and Mbuso Gina (physical trainer).

The quartet has been offered one year contracts to lead the nation's pride by the EFA.

Eswatini Football Association Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe confirmed that the coaches would be on full-time basis, hence they should not be attached to any teams.

"As per the EFA policy, senior national team coaches must be on full-time basis. At the moment we are on transition, engaging their

respective teams," he said.

Young Buffaloes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile Gwebu said they were yet to get correspondence from the mother body regarding the appointment of their coach.

"At the moment we haven't been engaged about the appointment of the coach. We are still not sure whether we will release him or not," he said.

Services

Sea Birds Manager London Dlamini also said they were not engaged regarding the services of their coach.

"No one has engaged us but it would be a blow if our coach will eventually leave us," he said.

Pirates Communications Officer Mlungisi Simelane said they were yet to get correspondence from the mother body about the services of their coach.

"We haven't received correspondence from the EFA.

We only read about the issue in the press but if push comes to shove, we have to get another coach for 'Magiyane's replacement," he said.

Kunene's first assignment will be against Congo Brazzaville in the 2021 AFCON Cup qualifiers on March 23 before the return leg on March 31 at the Mavuso Sports Centre.

