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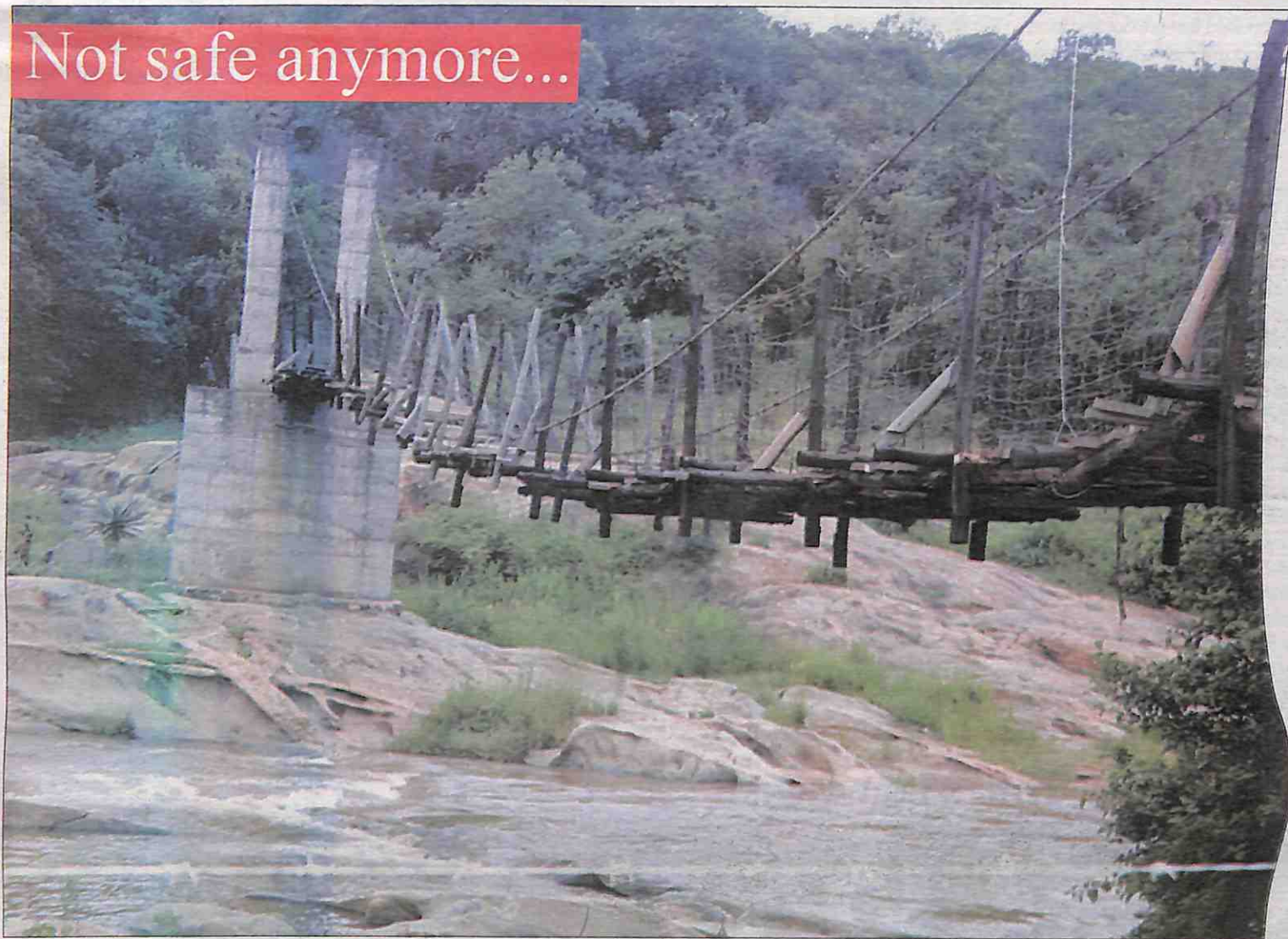
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Not safe anymore...



DEATH TRAP: Pupils risk falling into the river while rushing to school because of the precarious state of the footbridge, thus parents have demanded that Phemba Primary School be relocated to Dvokolwako across the Mbuluzi River. (Pic: Zwelihle Sukati)

**TEACHERS,
SNAKES
ROOMMATES
AT QUARTERS**

PAGES 6-7

**MOVIE
STYLE
GUN-TOTTING
OVER DAGGA
AT LUVE**

PAGES 5,11



PULL-OUT

WE'RE NOT BANNED FROM CHINA - PM

STORY ON
PAGE 3

● Visa application procedures to travel to China have been altered for Eswatini. Causes for these sudden changes yet to be disclosed

PM

SUPER SPECIALS!!

REINFORCE	REINFORCE	REINFORCE
Y12 x 6m	R10 x 6m	R8 x 6m
E69.⁰⁰	E49.⁰⁰	E32.⁰⁰

REINFORCE	REINFORCE
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E32.⁰⁰	E49.⁰⁰

E289.⁰⁰
WELD MESH
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E399.⁰⁰
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BUSINESS ESWATINI URGES GOVT TO BE PROACTIVE ON CHINA ISSUE

By Bodwa Mbingo

While the Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini may have allayed fears and released as an insignificant change the issue of acquiring visas for Emaswati to Mainland China, Business Eswatini has urged government to be proactive on the matter.

The organisation wants the matter solved once and for all as trade, be it cross-border or international, is the lifeblood of the Eswatini nation.

Business Eswatini Chief Executive Officer (CEO) E Nathie Dlamini yesterday urged government to carefully study the situation and understand it correctly so as to ease any misunderstanding on the matter.

This comes in the aftermath of rising anxiety emanating from recent reports that Mainland China has banned local businesspeople and all citizens from visiting that country. But the prime minister has rebuffed such information saying Emaswati are not banned from visiting or trading with the People's Republic of China as earlier reported.

He explained that application procedures for visas to travel to China have been altered for Emaswati and that the only visa centre where Emaswati should apply for a visa to visit China

is at the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria not at the embassy in Sandton or elsewhere in South Africa.

The Times of Eswatini reported on Wednesday that China had denied Eswatini businesspeople visas to travel to the Asian country to stock up on merchandise.

It was reported that previously, local businesspeople have had no challenges going to purchase merchandise in China, but there were fears that things had now changed.

Shocked

Business Eswatini highlighted that they were shocked at the manner in which the issue has come up as it appeared as if it was coming from social media, making it hard for them to understand it. He said because of this they have been downplaying it.

"However, there later appeared some element of truth on the matter and it surprises us what has changed all of a sudden to make the situation difficult for local businesspeople. We're currently in the dark and still coming to terms with the situation. When something like this happens, one has to carefully study to comprehend it and then come up with a strategy to tackle it.

At the moment we are not sure of what to make of the situation except that it is an obstacle to the local busi-

nesspeople. After diagnosing it, we will act and if the situation is above us we will report it to our superiors," commented Dlamini.

The CEO further expressed hope that government would do all in its power to work on the issue accordingly and speedily.

It should be noted that China is the country's second largest trading partner after South Africa, as confirmed by Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo recently.

Khumalo, on the other hand, also saw the need to engage stakeholders in the business sector so that they could also make their submissions on the matter to find a solution. He said if the country did not do anything about the situation, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as big businesses could suffer huge losses owing to the magnitude of the trade relations with China.

According to the latest notification by the Chinese government, starting from January 10, 2020, visa application of Eswatini citizens to Mainland China will be processed by the Chinese Embassy in South Africa. At the same time, the Chinese visa application service centre and other Chinese diplomatic missions will not accept the applications any more.

SRA boss blasts SACU Secretariat

By Bodwa Mbingo

Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) has blasted the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Secretariat for not being bold enough in tackling issues of regional integration bordering on trade legislation amongst its members.

SRA Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela yesterday declared that as an organisation they were growingly being frustrated by the slow processes that unfold within this customs union. This was during the overview exercise of the SACU Preferred Trader Programme at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini yesterday.

He noted that SACU was not up to speed in ensuring that member countries give up their sovereignty in part to allow free trade across borders. He observed that as things stand, SACU is not behaving as the oldest customs union in the continent as processes continue to take long to be implemented.

A bold Masilela also noted that the region's counterparts in East Africa were now far ahead of the SACU pool because of how countries interact amongst each other. He said since in East Africa there was now a single legislation that guides imports and exports amongst those countries, SACU needs to be bold to also make this happen in the region.

"We have, for a long time, been piloting a system where we would only declare once across the border. We delivered the technical aspect of this which was the configuring of the system to accommodate us and our neighbours South Africa.

When we were ready to launch this we were told that we were legally not able to implement it. We took care of the legalities and after some time when we thought we were home and dry, the lawyers came up again and said we now needed bilateral agreements. My observation is that the SACU Secretariat is not bold enough to tackle such situations," noted Masilela.

He said SACU was not willing to drag all its member states along in the updating of legislation so as to tackle issues of regional integration.

The purpose of yesterday's process was to raise awareness on the SACU Preferred Trader Programme to partner and support the member states in raising awareness on the National Preferred Trader Programmes.

It was also to share with stakeholders some aspects of future AEO programme in SACU.

Regional Preferred Trader Programme is a bid to improve facilitation for compliant traders using common accreditation standards between customs administrations in SACU.

Newly-weds ordered to vacate ex-wife's homestead

By Bodwa Mbingo

A newly-wed couple of Mahhashini past Mankayane in the Manzini region has been ordered to vacate a homestead they call their matrimonial home.

This is after a conclusion that it belonged to the man's former wife before she passed away four years ago.

David Maphevu Dlamini and his wife Vumile, nee Nkonyane, were this week told by the Mankayane National Court that they should not continue to occupy the homestead as this is against the Eswatini customs and traditions. It is common knowledge that according to Eswatini customs and traditions, a man after the death of his wife is not allowed to bring in another wife into the matrimonial home he shared with his deceased wife.

The couple learnt this the hard way



VACATE: (Left to Right) David Maphevu Dlamini and his wife Vumile, nee Nkonyane, during their wedding ceremony. (Courtesy pics)

as the National Court President Luke Mavimbela and his assistant Samson Ncongwane took their time schooling them about the country's culture and customs and how taboo their act to reside at the homestead in question is.

This comes after the couple defied

all odds and proceeded with their white wedding a fortnight ago despite a court order that had been delivered to them by police officers during their wedding ceremony. The court order sought to address a complaint by Bonginkhosi Dlamini, the groom's son, that his father had chased him and his other



siblings from the homestead they called their home after their mother died. Dlamini Junior had requested the intervention of the court to also stop his father from possibly selling part of the family cattle and further possibly paying lobola to his new in-laws using the same cattle.

During the court's initial sitting, Bonginkhosi complained that, by tradition and custom, his father was not

allowed to take another wife and proceed to live with her at the homestead he used to share with their late mother.

In handing down judgment, the court told the couple to swiftly vacate the homestead and try to look for another area they can call their home and raise their children. On the other hand, the late wife's children have been given the green light to return home.

Eswatini Observer

How To Find Us

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER
Thuli Nxumalo
Tel: 2404 8671, 2404 8699
Cell: 7806 3485
Email: smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION
Mhlonishwa Dlamini
Cell: 7946 0394
Email: circulation@observer.org.sz

Eswatini Observer
P.O Box A385
Swazi Plaza
Mbabane, Lilunga House

2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600
2404 9797, 2404 0706

Email: info@observer.org.sz
Website: www.observer.org.sz

MANAGING EDITOR
Mbongeni Mbingo
Email: Mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564

EDITORIAL CONTACTS
SATURDAY OBSERVER EDITOR
Ackel Zwane
Cell: 7614 3350, 7946 0310
Email: weekendeditor@observer.org.sz

HEAD OF INVESTIGATIONS
Cell:

SPORTS EDITOR
Sibusiso Masilela
Cell: 7840 8841, 7946 0404
Email: sports@observer.org.sz

SENIOR SUB-EDITOR
Paradee Mamba
Cell: 7603 5639, 7946 0328
Email: subeditor@observer.org.sz

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NHLANGANO OFFICES
Tobacco Company Complex, Cnr King George Masengule Street, Opposite SEDCO premises
Starky Mkhonza Tel: 2207 5159
Cell: 76 21 5081, 7921 5081 Email: Starky@realnet.co.sz

PIGG'S PEAK OFFICES
Kai Kai Building, opposite Shoprite, Office No.3
Strove Dlamini Tel: 78063590, Tel: 2437 1083
Cell: 7670 0678, 7946 0377
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MANZINI OFFICES
Mathaya Convenient Centre, Office No. 25
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'EMASWATI NOT BANNED FROM CHINA'

Stories by Sizwe Dlamini

In the aftermath of growing apprehension emanating from recent reports that Mainland China has banned local businesspeople and all citizens from visiting that country, Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini has refuted such. He said Emaswati are not banned from visiting or trading with the People's Republic of China as earlier reported.

Dlamini was speaking at the closing of the 2020 Cabinet retreat at the Pigg's Peak Hotel yesterday.

Dlamini said there was a lot of misinformation in the media about Eswatini and the People's Republic of China, hence he needed to repeat his previous statements on behalf of government.



NOT BANNED: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini addressing the gathering at the Pigg's Peak Hotel yesterday (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

"May I seize this opportunity to address the current misinformation

about visa applications for Emaswati wishing to visit the People's Republic

of China. Government had issued a statement about the aforementioned issue through the ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation last week but that statement seems to have been ignored, hence I will repeat the statement. Application procedures for visas to travel to China have been altered for Emaswati. Causes for this alteration are yet to be disclosed.

Visa

As a result, the only visa centre where Emaswati should apply for a visa to visit China is at the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria not at the embassy in Sandton or elsewhere in the Republic of South Africa (RSA)," he said.

Dlamini added that the People's Republic of China reserved the right to execute its public mandate the way it sees fit without fear or favour or

prejudice. "I discourage all speculative positions that have been adopted and floated as the reasons that have caused this change in procedure to visa applications. Let us all remember that every sovereign nation reserves the right to execute its public mandate the way it sees fit without fear or favour or prejudice. The government remains committed to serve the citizens of Eswatini and maintain an active interest in the aforementioned matter," he added.

POINTS TO NOTE

- Foreign citizens must obtain a visa before entry into China, with the exception of visa-free entry based on relevant agreements or regulations.

- Foreign citizens that fall into categories of Article 22 of the Exit and Entry Law of the People's Republic of China are qualified to apply for port visas from visa-issuing authorities entrusted by the ministry of public security at a port of entry approved to issue port visas by the State Council.

- Eswatini is not featured in the list of Agreements on Mutual Visa exemption between the People's Republic of China and foreign countries.



ALL EARS: Minister's with their principal secretaries listening attentively.



5 000 jobs, free government laptops for Emaswati

Prime Minister Dlamini also said 5 000 jobs were coming and government would start rolling out the 'one laptop per child project'.

Dlamini said government was ready to present 20 rural schools with laptops for pupils in 2020.

"Information communication technology (ICT) is a key focus area for government as it provides a viable vehicle to drive economic transformation.

In 2019 we rolled-out internet connectivity to 116 urban and rural secondary and high schools. Through the ministry of ICT, we also delivered connectivity to 14 Tinkhundla centres and 40 health facilities.

In 2020, government will start rolling out the 'one laptop per child project'.

A total of 20 rural schools

have already been identified and will receive 45 laptops each from government," he said.

Dlamini added that dairy farming was expected to create 5 000 jobs.

Boosting

"Government is also intentionally boosting milk production for self-sufficiency and export purposes to boost business growth and job creation. The construction of a milk processing plant has been completed and an operator engaged. This has also triggered other local milk producing companies to expand their facilities. Dairy production is expected to create 5 000 jobs at full implementation. Also, a scorecard will be introduced in April 2020 to measure the performance of ministers and principal secretaries.

Unemployment decreases as GDP projected to improve by 100%

While speaking at the 2020 Cabinet retreat, the prime minister said the Eswatini Gross Domestic Product had grown by 100 per cent and unemployment in the kingdom would decrease slightly.

He said the unemployment rate in Eswatini stood at 23 per cent and it was projected to reduce slightly to 22.10 per cent in 2020.

"We have improved relations with major trade partners such as South Africa, India, Taiwan and signed a cooperation agreement with Singapore. All of this has allowed the kingdom's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in 2020 to increase by 100 per cent to 2.6 per cent. This is an improvement as in 2019 the GDP stood at 1.3 per cent," he said.

taries. The scorecards will give the prime minister and deputy prime min-

Dlamini added that 2020 would be the year of the small and medium business enterprises (SMEs).

"The year 2020, is themed the year of SMEs. Focus is on SME development, especially creating business access to finance and markets, and empowering the youth and women with entrepreneurial skills. Government will intently build strong relations with the private sector, providing the enabling environment to ensure its sustained growth to enhance job creation and innovation. For 2020 we will be launching a new state and business model known as State Business Relations (SBR) to ensure regular, open, structured, timely and detailed information exchange between the state and business. We expect the business sector to commit to this model for it to be

ister an oversight of what ministries are reporting to Parliament," he added.

effective. There shouldn't be a difference between the private and public sector because we are all working towards a similar goal of improving the lives of Emaswati, and we believe the SBR will remove clutter and any vacuum between state and business," he added.

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SACU PREFERRED TRADER PROGRAMME OVERVIEW MEETING @ ROYAL VILLAS



OUR VIEW: Business Eswatini CEO E. Nathie Dlamini delivering his organisation's perspective during the SACU Preferred Trader Programme Overview meeting at Royal Villas yesterday.



FOCUSED: MTN Eswatini acting CEO Sibusiso Nhleko was also part of the meeting.



OVERVIEW: SRA's Precious Chauya making her presentation on regulatory compliance collaboration and trade facilitation.



TOP TABLE: SACU Secretariat's Marcel Ratsiu, SRA Director Customs Operational Policy Precious Chauya, EIPA Executive Manager Trade Promotion Bongani Ntshangase and SRA Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela in a light moment as they listen to speeches.



LISTEN UP: A section of the meeting's attendants listening attentively to the day's presentations.



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IF I MAY ASK: Eswatini Sugar Association's Xolani Ngcamphalala posing a question.

CABINET RETREAT 2020 AT PIGG'S PEAK HOTEL



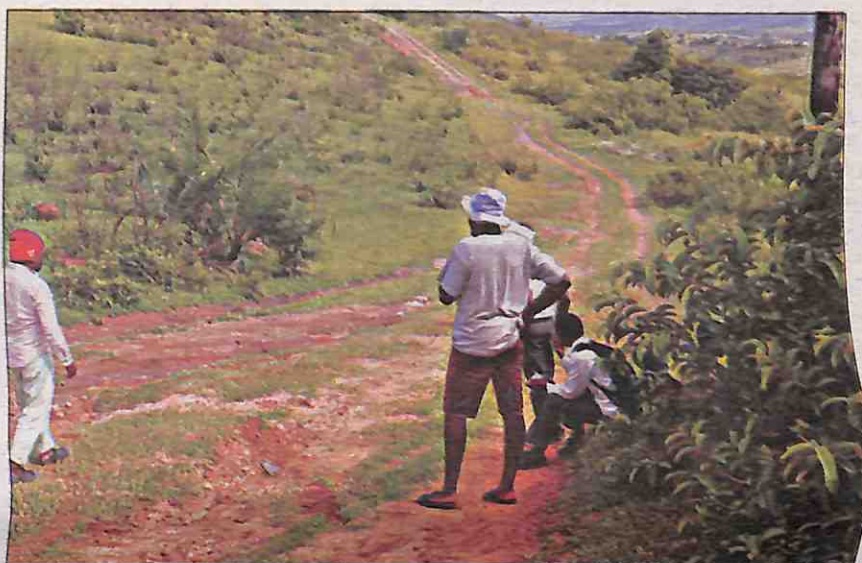
LONG ROAD AHEAD: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini cushioned by members of his Cabinet and principal secretaries after charting the way forward for the current year at the Pigg's Peak Hotel yesterday.

GUN-TOTTING AT LUVE DAGGA WARS

Reporters were taken through a rare treat of gunslinging outside Luvu on Wednesday when the man on the right was kidnapped and shoved

into the boot of his car by a mob that had promised to sell him dagga. The buyer survived after the Saturday Observer reporters' car arrived at the scene and they

bolted away. The group below accompanied the buyer on the left and the road leads to the bushes where the transaction was to be sealed. (Pics: Zwelihle Sukati)



VACANCY: FARM SUPERVISOR

ACAT Lilima Swaziland, a local Christian NGO based in Mbabane and involved in rural development is looking for a suitable person for the **FARM SUPERVISOR** position which must be filled as soon as possible. The position requires a well experienced person with farm operations, production as well as management of farm workers for proper planning, production and marketing of all farm produce under minimum supervision. The position reports to the Operations Manager

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- Supervision of all farm staff to ensure maximum performance
- Participate in Farm Budget preparation and their control

Qualifications: A Diploma in Agriculture or equivalent with proven experience at a supervisory level in a farm position is a must for this position.

Please email full application and CV to: The National Director, ACAT Lilima Swaziland

Email: secretary@acat.org.sz; and cc.emdlamini@acat.org.sz

If you do not hear from us a week after the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Closing date: 30th January, 2020

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I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM POLICE - ESCAPEE

Stories by Delisa Thwala

Thabiso Hlophe left no word unsaid in court when he insisted that he escaped from custody because the arresting officer did not handcuff him. "I did not run away because I wanted to but I was tempted. The officers were simply not paying attention to me. We went around town with no handcuffs and also without any close supervision," said Hlophe.

He argued that had the police paid attention to him and did not go gallivanting in town he would have not been tempted to make a run for it.

Hlophe was said to have run away from the custody of police at Mbabane magistrates guard house sometime in July 2019 to be apprehended on September 16, 2019.

Relating the details to the court was Constable Mhlaba Fakudze who was the officer in charge of the criminal. "We were by the guard house. There were three

of the convicts and they were not handcuffed because we were from the courtroom and awaiting a car to take them to Mbabane police station," testified Fakudze.

When he was finally apprehended Hlophe was said to have fought the officers and resisted arrest. What surprised the court was that during his first appearance he pleaded not guilty to the count and told the court that he did not run away.

During his last appearance he changed tune and said he indeed escaped but he did so because he was not handcuffed or that the officers maintained vigilance on him.

"I'm pleading guilty to the count of escaping. I do understand that I'm confusing the court but now I'm saying I did indeed," said Hlophe.

The magistrate then warned him against confusing the court and advised him to stick to his story and not go around beating about with information. He was sentenced to a year in jail or E4000 fine.

'I SELL DAGGA YOUR WORSHIP'

It was utter shock and laughter when it was time for the accused to be cross examined when the magistrate asked what he did for a living and he bluntly responded that he sold dagga.

"Your worship I sell drugs for a living, it is what I do and how I'm able to rent and make means of getting by," confessed Hlophe.

This irked the magistrate and he had to stop and ask the accused if he meant what he was saying and if he knew the implications.

"Hlophe we are lawyers here and adults we will not be made to look stupid by you.

Do you understand the implication of what you just said to us right now, that is a different case on its own," said the magistrate.

Teachers, snakes roommates

Stories by Zwelihle Sukati

Oops, there is a snake on my stoop!

Well, that has seemingly become usual for teachers of Phemba Primary School across Mbuluzi River on the other side of the Dvokolwako hamlet, who find themselves sharing their rooms with snakes due to the appalling condition of the school and teachers' quarters.

Phemba Primary is a mission school. But the last straw was when a huge python was found having slithered into the isolated teachers' quarters which is nestled in between overgrown grass and vegetation.

There is the nearby Mbuluzi River and a thick forest to and from the small dusty town of Luve.

The school itself resembles an abandoned village with dilapidated structures. It has broken windows, and doors. Teachers live in one room houses at the quarters which are in a terrible condition. Most of the teachers are females. Some doors have holes, big enough



HUGE: The python that was killed after it was found at the teachers' quarters.

for rodents and big snakes to enter. Other rooms have broken glass windows which expose occupants to bad

weather. Speaking to some of the teachers at the school the educators bitterly complained about the state of affairs at

Teachers hands not so clean – school grantee

Teachers of Phemba Primary School stand accused of equally contributing to the bad condition that the institution has found itself in.

Giving comment on behalf of the school, Musa Shongwe, the school's grantee, said it was the teachers' poor per-

formance that led to parents pulling out their children from the school in the first place.

"You can't have a class of 19 pupils and fail to produce a single merit pass or a first class.

That on its own goes to show that even the teach-

ers do not apply themselves in their work," Shongwe said, adding it was a first after so many years for the school to have a merit in last year's examination.

Why

"That is why they don't raise some of these things when I meet them because

they know very well that I will ask them about their contribution to the school."

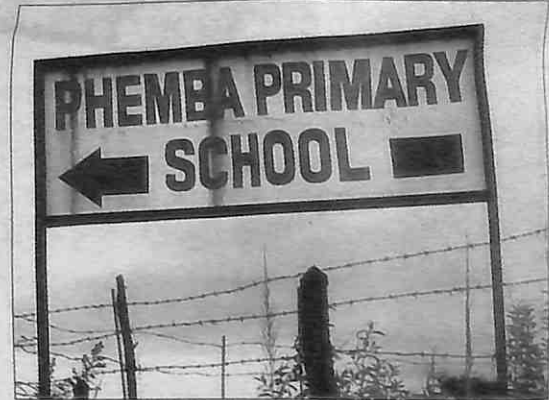
He said if parents see such poor performance they will withdraw their children from the school and that means even lesser funding since the school is dependent on government with the free primary education programme.



Some of the residents speaking about the condition of the school and the dangerous bridge.



SIHHOBHO: A door to one of the teachers' houses at Phemba Primary School.



YOU WILL NEVER BE LOST: A sign at the school's entrance.



P. O. Box 6 Lavumisa 5410 Swaziland
Tel: (+268) 2304 6014 Fax: (+268) 2304 6204
Cell: (+268) 7602 4523 / 7602 3953
Email: ltb@swazi.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

Notice is hereby issued that the Council has passed the Budget Estimates for the year 2020/2021 in terms of Section 91(2) of the Urban Government Act No.8 of 1969. The estimates are now opened for Public Inspection free of charge during normal working hours (08; 00hrs to 16; 45hrs) from the 22nd to 30th January 2020 at the Town Board Offices

Manzi Mthupha
Town Clerk

at dilapidated quarters

the school and their living conditions.

"This is a crisis!" lamented one of the teachers, speaking on condition of anonymity as no one is mandated to speak to the media.

One teacher claimed she got the shock of her life when she discovered a snake in her one room.

Attempts to kill the snake, which was described as a black mamba, were futile as it escaped through a hole at the bottom of the door.

They also complained about their safety at the school as it was situated in a remote and isolated area. When they have to go to the nearby shops they have to use a footbridge, which they described as dangerous.

"Salahlwa tsine kulesikolwa," complained one of the teachers, meaning they were forsaken at school. They said because of the bad condition of the school and its surroundings parents were pulling their children out in numbers.

Their fear has been increased after one of the staffers was allegedly attacked by thugs on the way to the school from crossing the bridge some time ago. The thugs are said to have appeared from the nearby forest as he crossed the bridge.

"They demanded money but I was lucky to escape and outpaced them as it was already getting dark," said the male staffer.

The school's grantee, Musa Shongwe, concurred with the teachers on the deteriorating school and other challenges facing the institution. Shongwe, however, said he had not been made aware about the python found at teachers' residence.

He said a lack of funding, amongst other things, was a cause for this. It was agreed with parents that the school be relocated as it was isolated from the rest of the community in the area.

"As a school, we did our part and all traditional protocol in following the kukhonta custom was adhered to and we got the land. However, we have been reluctant to pay the agreed upon sum of E250 for the construction of the school," the school's grantee said in an interview with this publication.

He, however, denied claims that the school committee was never formally introduced to the teachers adding that he has regular meetings with the teachers but no one comes out to raise the issues they are complaining about.

School grantee says sex, more sex at teachers' quarters

As a mission institution teachers of Phembe Primary School are not allowed to have visitors of the opposite sex at the teacher quarters.

However, Shongwe, opened a can of worms in an interview with this publication. Shongwe said some of the female change men throughout the week.

"They lock men in their houses for the whole week and when do you expect them to find the time to prepare and apply themselves in their work," he wondered.

"Some change men throughout the week and

this is a serious cause for concern. How then can they contribute positively to the school's performance for parents to enrol and keep their children at the school?" he wondered.

Shongwe also said the school's poor performance, which leads to its deteriorating conditions, was due to the calibre of teachers it attracts. "We don't have quality teachers coming to the school and maybe once it has been relocated we can be in a position to retain and attract quality teachers," Shongwe also said the previous head teacher was too soft on the teachers, which created a culture of laxity in their duties.



SLAUGHTERHOUSE: The teachers' quarters where educators complain about its deteriorating condition.

Govt to blame for giving parents authority over schools

It was a let-down by government when it decided to give communities authority over schools, according to Shongwe.

He said by government doing so, little did she know that the very same parents would fail to contribute to the schools smooth running.

"For example, we found a place in the heart of the community where there will be no river to cross but alas, less than 20 parents paid the agreed upon E250 for its construction," Shongwe pointed out.

Ago

He said it was not so long ago when schools were run by mis-

sionaries and sourcing funding was easy. "Government's contribution to the school as far less and even if 200 pupils enrolled it counts for nothing.

That is why the school will have shattered and unrepaired windows, broken doors and overgrown vegetation because of poor maintenance."

Pupils fall into river from footbridge on way to school

Shocking as it may sound a Grade II pupil fell from several metres from the footbridge to the river, while crossing the river to the school.

In fact, two young pupils have in the recent past almost lost their lives as a result of missing their footing as the way-bridge has big gaps from worn out and missing planks along its walkway.

One pupil was lucky enough to have been trapped by his upper body from falling into the river below.

Case

This was not the case for the other pupil who missed a step and fell to the rocks in the river.

"He was found unconscious by those who were following him and they raised an alarm. Old as we are, as teachers, we are scared of that bridge and have been promised countless times that it was going to be fixed but nothing has happened," some of the teachers complained about the safety of pupils on their way to and from school, as well as their own.

As the bridge is still in a very bad condition and schools were about to open some parents



CROSS OVER: The footbridge where at least two pupils fell off, one who was lucky not to have fallen to the river.

who are tired of the excuses decided to patch it up themselves and filled the gaps along walkway.

Shongwe, said he also had to personally fix the bridge himself some time ago because of its dangerous condition.

"We also don't like the bridge

as a school. Two children have fallen off it and we agreed with parents to have the school relocated to the other side of the river," Shongwe concurred.

Residents feel their children have to pay the price for getting an education with risking their lives on a daily basis.



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.

'I BEAT HER UP FOR HIDING MY ARVs'

By Delisa Thwala

An agitated woman got more than she bargained for when she hid antiretroviral drugs from her lover. This was heard when Siphso Mdluli pleaded

guilty at the magistrates court and admitted to beating up his baby momma for taking his pills and hiding them from him.

"Your Worship I'm guilty of the charge. I did hit Zanele Dlamini because she purposefully took my pills and hid them yet she knew very

well I take the lifesaving drugs every day," confessed Mdluli.

The accused is said to have hit his lover with two slaps, fists all over her face and head while she was at her place of abode in Hilltop, Zone 4. Upon arrival at Zanele's homestead, he is said to have pushed open the door and locked it from the inside, that is when he started hitting Zanele with open slaps on her face. When narrating the incident to the court, Zanele said she did not know the bone of contention but all she did was to stand still while her baby daddy hit her.

"When he came in the house, he found me speaking to a mechanic. The moment he shoved himself in everyone scampered, he then locked the door, thereafter he started hitting me. After some time, I do not know what happened but I felt something on my hand and that is when I forcefully pushed him and went for the door," explained a close to tears Zanele.

"She knew what else she did, she also went to my residential home to start a squabble with my other lover, who is also the mother of my kids," revealed Mdluli.

In her defence, Zanele said they always got into arguments with Mdluli and he always hit her based on information he got from outsiders,

which he then used as leverage to hit her.

But this time around, she decided enough was enough and reported him to the police.

"I suffered a blistered mouth and my left eye was damaged. I could not see properly. I had to go to the hospital after opening the case with the police at Mbabane Police Station," closed Zanele.

After hearing both sides of the story, the magistrate then postponed the case to February 17, where a number of witnesses will be brought in to verify some of the testimonies brought in by both parties. Prior to the case taking off, Mdluli disclosed that he was not feeling well, however the magistrate would not accept his plea based on his word of mouth. The magistrate responded by telling the accused that the court cannot halt hearing the matter because of a person who claims to be sick.

"Clarify to the court what kind of sickness you are suffering from, we take sickness very seriously but also we cannot stop the session just because you are feeling a light headache, some sicknesses are excusable," clarified the magistrate.

Mdluli then told the court that he had a slight stomach ache due to depression but preferred to follow the court's pronouncements.



They don't like us - Epileptics

By Khetsiwe Khumalo

As we draw closer to the International Epilepsy Day, which is commemorated worldwide, one has to ask themselves if the disorder is given sufficient attention by the ministry of health.

This was in actual fact sentiments of those with epilepsy in the country. The sources who wished not to be said the ministry gave priority to other diseases such that within the ministry there were advocates of certain communicable diseases against others such as epilepsy. They, therefore, feel abandoned and neglected.

The affected persons said this after noting that other illnesses are even able to get funding from international organisations because the ministry goes out of their way to write letters requesting for financial assistance.

The solutions to these problems, according to the affected persons, are too complex to be solved by the Eswatini Epilepsy Organisation (EEO) alone. They further disclosed that the subvention of E1 million that goes to the organisation is not enough because the number of people with epilepsy increases every other day and that their medication is expensive.

They said information about the disease, including the myths and superstitions surrounding it; the social and cultural stigma that attach to the disease, and inadequate performance of health system in the country reduced the chances of reducing the numbers of people with epilepsy.

Comparing themselves to other affected persons living with certain illnesses, they said they noted that given the attention, some of those suffering from similar diseases managed to reduce



the number of pills they take in a day.

People with epilepsy thanked organisations that have helped donate to their cause and further asked companies to lend a helping hand in supporting epileptic patients since drugs were expensive.

They further asked the ministry of health to also prioritise their organisation.

The Eswatini Epilepsy Organisation (EEO) Director, Mbusomuni Mahlalela could not comment and directed queries to the ministry.

"We will be commemorating the International Epilepsy Day next month. As done in previous years, we will be hosting yet another Yellow Epilepsy Charity Half Marathon, which will start as early as 6am at the King Mswati III International Airport on the 16th of February," said Mahlalela.

Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi stated that the epilepsy organisation is subvented with E1 million each year.

"Subventions have not been increased for any recipients due to financial constraints," said Nkosi.





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DOC20741



ESWATINI GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

PRESS STATEMENT

Clarification on Misleading Report

The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Trade wishes to respond to an article published in the Times of Eswatini on Friday the 24th January 2020 under the headline 'We should engage Chinese Govt' China Shuts Door to All Emaswati. The Ministry wishes to make the following clarifications:

1. A reporter from the Times called and asked me about Government's position with regards to assisting business people that are affected by the new visa procedures from Mainland China.
2. My response was that Government will engage business people with the view of understanding how such a move affects them and we will look into solutions together.
3. It should be noted that Government's position on the matter had already been communicated through a Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as such, we are bound by that collective position.
4. No decision has been taken to engage Mainland China. Such a decision can only be taken after extensive consultations.
5. As a Minister responsible for business development and growth in the Kingdom of Eswatini, my only interest is the business position of the Kingdom which should in no way, however, be in contrast with the political position of the Kingdom.
6. I wish to, therefore, reiterate that my Ministry remains committed to providing support to all businesses operating in the Kingdom, be it Micro Small and Medium Enterprises or Large Enterprises, in order for them to thrive.

Released by:
Senator Mangoba B. Khumalo
Hon. Minister for Commerce, Industry and Trade
24th January 2020

DOC.20749

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APOSTOLIC'S PASTOR RUSSELL IN CHURCH FIGHT

Stories by Sicelo Maziya

Apostolic Faith Mission Church in Nhlambeni, currently led by Pastor Russell Dlamini of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), is facing challenges as founding members are divided over the leadership. Pastor Russell, however, rubbishes any allegations of a rift.

Whilst some members have accepted the new leadership of Pastor Russell, some still believe they must be led by the most senior founding leader Pastor Simelane. At the centre of the breakup is a pre-school whereby Pastor Simelane packed what he believed belonged to him and left. The pre-school is an extension of the church business.

The aggrieved members allege that Pastor Simelane has continued to suffer as a faction of the members orchestrate that he be sidelined in all matters involving the pre-school. This has earned Pastor Simelane some sympathisers.

Some of the senior members allege that the new faction of youngsters is out to destroy the founding father by taking over everything he has worked hard for over the years. They claim the pre-school has divided the church.

"If they can destroy the integrity of the founding father then that is bad for the church as an institution. Just because he has not been fighting them they are now destroying everything that he started. They have taken the church from him, now they want the pre-school which generated income for the church," alleged the source.

A letter dated August 8, 2019, from the new faction to the senior pastor demands to be handed operations and general management of the local pre-school.

"The Church Board of the Nhlambeni AFM would like to humbly advise Pastor Simelane that the board met to consider the operations and management of the pre-school operated under the name



READY: Playfield ready for the preschool and Sunday school.

of the local assembly within church premises," reads the letter.

The letter continued to make demands, "after numerous deliberations on the pre-school operations and management it was decided that from 01 January 2020, the church board resumes full operations and management of the pre-school. The National Executive Committee has been advised and is aware of the decision taken by the church board," continued the letter.

The letter, whilst making such demands, continues to plead with the pastor, "the church board humbly requests for an appropriate date and time when the pastor, S. Simelane, would be available at the local preschool to meet with the church board and discuss the handover process". Church Secretary Samuel Tsela, had this to say: "I think issues of the church are better answered by the church pastor."

When Tsela was probed if the pastor was the one who ordered him to write the letter to the founding father of the church, he changed tune, saying "the letter was written by the whole leadership, not me but we were in a meeting and it was resolved that we compile it." When he was further probed if the founding pastor was present at the meeting, he said the pastor was excused. He could not confirm whether Pastor Simelane was still

part of the church he founded. It has been reported that the senior pastor has now established a home in Madonsa.

Tsela further denied that there was any leadership squabble in their church, claiming he was not privy to information to the effect how Pastor Simelane left. He also could not explain how the new leadership came to claim operations and management of the pre-school when the founder had not handed it over to anyone.

"We were following the policies on assets of the church, which allow us to take over the pre-school since Pastor Simelane is no longer an active member. There are challenges that were a cause for concern regarding the pre-school where property was being vandalised and no one was repairing or maintaining the structure," added Tsela.

He went on to disclose that the funds for the pre-school were not accounted for and no one was aware how much was being made from the pre-school.

Asked why the pre-school had to contribute to running of the church when it was a private entity of the founding pastor, Tsela said that was why they wanted to rectify the issue and take over the operations and management of the pre-school.

"I think you better talk to the chairperson," pleaded Tsela. The chairperson was called but never responded to calls, sending text he would call later. After a while when he was called he never responded to the calls from the Saturday Observer.

Pastor Simelane confirmed knowledge of the letter and its contents, asking how it was leaked to reporters. He said he was not in the business of talking ill or behind the back of other people.

"Feel free to contact the church and I guess they are in a better position to answer on the issue. I have nothing to say unless I know the origin of the letter. I can only confirm knowledge of the letter but will not say anything on it," said Simelane.

He further shared that he would not like to be drawn on the issues of the church through the media, saying members know where to find him and calling him would be ideal so that they can iron out any issues.

About the pre-school, he said he only visited the church to take his equipment to avoid any petty talks. He said he started the pre-school to assist the community. "In respect of the community I decided to avoid petty talks, I just took my equipment at the school. This is something I did in peace to avoid involving the community leadership in challenges they do not even need as I khonta-ed for the pre-school," said Simelane.

'What wrangle, everything's fine here'

Current Nhlambeni Apostolic Faith Mission leader, Pastor Russell Dlamini sounded astonished about the state of affairs at his church, reiterating that they had no issues that merit media interest.

"There is nothing extra-ordinary on the issue, we are just in negotiations with Pastor Simelane to have the pre-school run under the church for safety of the children, and parents to also know the church is behind the pre-school project," said Pastor Dlamini.

Dlamini further shared that the church planned to expand and have the pre-school in a proper and bigger professional structure that would be child-friendly.

He said the church was currently engaged in structural expansion projects that would also include the pre-school to ensure the safety of the children.

Parents must know that the pre-school is indeed under the church.

Things to know about Apostolic Faith Mission

The Apostolic Faith Mission (AFM) is a classical pentecostal church established in May 1908, influenced by the April 1906 Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles.

It was also born two years before the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference.

Between then and now, the AFM followed a lone mission and evangelism journey outside the World Missionary conferences and that on World Mission and Evangelism.

Racist

Although the AFM expanded from South Africa to six continents, its growth was encumbered by racist and colonial perspectives of mission and evangelism.

Its first wave of missions was led by Indigenous South Africans at the Revival in Doornfontein and those from the neighbouring countries who worked in mines in SA.

The second wave included organised missions by white South Africans, who unfortunately had to pull back from Southern African countries because of intensified struggles for liberation.

The third wave was by local congregations that formed hubs for missions to specific countries (India and Pakistan).

The fourth wave was by Zimbabweans who left their country because of difficult economic conditions.

The isolation of the black churches in South Africa based on the influence of apartheid policies allowed black members to develop their own local ecumenical perspectives, which enabled them to have a broader understanding of mission and evangelism.

This helped the church to move into the ecumenical world.



IN DISPUTE: Repainted Preschool at Nhlambeni at the centre of controversy.



TROUBLED: The Apostolic Faith Mission Church Nhlambeni branch

8 HELD FOR KILLING MAN OVER DAGGA

Stories by Ackel Zwane

...armed soldier on the run

A young man of Mpofu near Buhleni in the Hhohho region died a gruesome death last week Tuesday when a mob of nine residents, including an armed soldier, allegedly pounced on him, battered his head with a pick handle and a volley of bottles before leaving him for death in the sugarcane fields at Sidvashini. One of these, still on the run, is alleged to be an armed soldier based at Buhleni who joined the *impi* with his fully-loaded service firearm.

Sources say it all began when Mapoyipoyi Dumisa Ndzabandzaba, 20, the deceased, approached his half cousins to enquire about the theft of his dagga hidden in the fields. That was late in the afternoon on his return from the hammer mill where he had been sent by his mother. His mother Cham'kile Ndzabandzaba said Mapoyipoyi left shortly thereafter to buy airtime at a kiosk not very far from his home. The mother said she heard noises that her son was being attacked deep in the sugarcane fields, where he was assaulted extensively by the mob comprising his half cousins. It later transpired that some of the attackers actually accused Mapoyipoyi of being the one who also invaded their fields and stole their previous harvest. Cham'kile says the mob resurfaced after 6pm from the sugarcane fields after having completed their mission. A neighbour came to alert Cham'kile that her son was left for dead, in fact he was not moving. It was not until three hours later that the deceased's young brother joined the mother to search for him. By then it was raining heavily and it was difficult to manoeuvre the cane. "When we found him I shook him but he was breathing with extreme difficulty. He had also been in the cold a very long time after the beating. We called police emergency number 999 who later called



GRIEVING: Cham'kile Ndzabandzaba. (r) LATE: Mapoyipoyi Dumisa Ndzabandzaba.

the Buhleni police. We took him to Mkhuzweni Health Centre where he was transferred to Pigg's Peak Government Hospital and later Mbabane Government Hospital, where he finally succumbed to death." Cham'kile, the grieving widow, demands answers, especially after it had been rumoured that the suspects had been granted E5 000 bail each when her son finally died. She now relives the death of her husband back on 2010, who died in a car accident and she was left with this son to keep the fires burning in the household, but now he is gone, killed by relatives over marijuana. Chief Police Public Relations Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident, saying the suspects had now been charged with murder and also with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm in that another of their victims survived. With the dire economic situation in Eswatini most people supplement their

meagre incomes by dealing in marijuana. The unemployed have taken it up as full time employment, bringing home new lifestyles but the drop debate to legalise the herb and its near free movement in South Africa and Lesotho has plummeted the price. After hours of scrambling over rugged mountain terrain, Eswatini's drug squad finally found what they're looking for: a secret field packed with some of the world's strongest dagga. As early as 2012 Dagga News reported that prized for its potency across the world, 'Swazi Gold' is grown in the remote northern mountains of this tiny African kingdom, then smuggled into neighbouring South Africa and on to Europe and North America. Police in impoverished Eswatini say that despite dousing acres of towering plants with deadly insecticides, they are losing the war on dagga to dirt-poor peasants bent on protecting their most lucrative crop.

Arrest warrant out for on the run soldier Matfonsi

On Monday, an arrest warrant was issued by the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's court for the arrest of Mpheme Matfonsi, who is employed by the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force based in Matsapha.

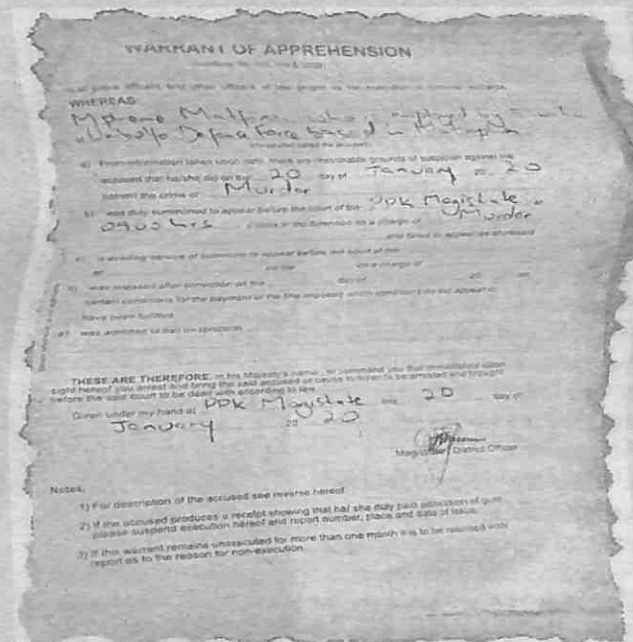
His colleagues say he is a regular at Phocweni Barracks. He is being sought for the charge of murder as he was 'duly summoned to appear before the court of the Pigg's Peak Magistrate at 900am in the forenoon on a charge of murder and failed to appear as aforesaid.' Further down the warrant of apprehension it is stated that "these therefore, in His Majesty's name, to command you that immediately upon sight hereof you arrest and bring the said accused or cause him/her to be arrested and brought before the said court to be dealt with according to law."

On Count 1 accused number 1 to 7 are charged with the offence of murder. In that upon or about the 13th of January, 2020 and at or near Sidvashini area in the Hhohho region, the said accused persons either one or all of them acting jointly and in furtherance of a common purpose

did wrongfully, unlawfully and intentionally kill one Dumsani Ndzabandzaba, who is 20 years, of Sidvashini by assaulting him with fists and kicks and several times all over the body and further assaulted him with a beer bottle once on the head and thereby commit the crime of murder.

On Count 2, accused number 1 to 7 are charged with the offence of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. In that upon or about the 13th January, 2020 and at or near Sidvashini in the Hhohho region, the said accused persons either one or both of them acting jointly in furtherance of a common purpose, did wrongfully, unlawfully and intentionally assault one Sifiso Maphanga with open hands and fists several times all over the body with the intention of causing him grievous bodily harm and thus did contravene the said Act.

The seven are: Nkululeko Ndzabandzaba, Senzo Mkhwanazi, Jacob Ndzabandzaba, Amos Masango, Zakhele Mngometulu, Malungisa Mathonsi and Mahawukela Matsebula all under Chief Dzelwe of Sidvashini.



Movie style gun-totting over dagga at Luve

By Saturday Observer Reporters

It was like watching a Hollywood action-packed movie when reporters from this publication witnessed – first hand – a car hijacking attempt by armed thugs.

The incident played itself out on Tuesday. One young man is lucky to be alive and he has his stars to thank for the arrival of the Saturday Observer team, who were travelling along the Luve – KaKhuphuka gravel road on other assignments. As the team drove along, a few kilometres from the small dusty town of Luve, attention was drawn to a man who was being wrestled into the boot of a Mazda by some men, one of whom was armed with a pistol and pointing the gun at him.

The drama played itself out in broad daylight and it was gathered that cars drive passed that route once in a while. However, another car had just past by



ALMOST: The lucky man who was almost robbed and kidnapped watches as the thugs get away.

and the squabble happened after it but only to find that the Eswatini Observer team was to pass follow soon.

Upon seeing the Saturday Observer

car approaching their distance, they let go of the man and took to their heels. A stone's throw away was their getaway car, which sped off immediately as they

all got inside. The man, with a bloodied hand from what he later explained was a cut from a hunting knife that was carried by one of the criminals, screamed to the team to give chase as they had already robbed them of their cellphones.

He was in the company of a friend when the thugs struck.

Having picked what had been happening, the news team tried to pursue the getaway car to note the licence plate numbers, but it proved a bit too risky as the one of the men dangled a pistol through twindow as a sign to back off.

When the team made a stop to the almost kidnapped man in the hijacking attempt, the survivor said they were led to the secluded hilly side of the location by the thugs, who kept on calling them for what the news team then gathered to be a proposed dagga deal.

"They were driving a car with a Botswana number plate and they claimed to have got my number from someone I knew," said the obviously traumatised young lad, whose identity will be kept confidential to this publication.

Speaking in confidence to the team, they narrated how they thought this was going to be a good dagga deal.

They said the culprits kept directing them to this side of town and just when they did meet for talks, they changed tune. "They were not interested in any dagga deal but our car, cellphones and money. They had already taken the cellphones and their intention was now to bundle us in the boot, drive us to wherever and dump us or kill us there," said one of survivors with a bleeding hand.

He said he was cut by one of the thugs' knife, as he tried to avoid being stabbed while being pushed out of the car before the other drew a gun.

It could not be established on the exact number of criminals as others were in the gateway car. "Had it not been for your approaching car, the worst could have happened to us because the other one was threatening to pull the trigger as I tried to resist."

Police were immediately notified of the incident and the robbery by the armed men.

VENDORS, TAXIMEN PUSH PEDESTRIANS OUT OF WALKWAYS

By Ackel Zwane

Pedestrians have become the latest victims of vendors and taximen in Mbabane who are forcing them out of sidewalks into the busy roads.

Fruit and vegetable vendors line up their wares on the pavement blocking the passageway from pedestrians who are their sources of income as they come to buy before the start of the working day.

Further down along the line of vendors adjacent to the bus rank are a group of taxis whose drivers block the entrance into the bus rank by stopping everyone to advertise that they have transport.

A vendor, said the space is congested and they can hardly package or unpack their wares for display.

This involves unwrapping huge bags of vegetables such as cabbages while on other days vendors bring the cargo of bales of used clothing for sale all sharing the limited space.

"No pedestrian has been hit by a car, people are always on the lookout they know it's in the city and that we sell here. Where do you think we can get the people to buy from us if we were not based here. The bus rank was built for us to make a living, we pay licence fees," said a somewhat hot-under-the-collar vendor.

But a random brief interview of mainly commuters during the rush hour revealed that things could be done better than having to duck fast cars, especially kombis and buses rushing to offload and reload at the bus rank. Others felt the vendors and taximen have begun behaving like kombi conductors who are short of grabbing people passing by to sell their business.

In the bustling city of Maputo in nearby Mozambique, the municipality there is relocating all vendors 'plying their trade on walkways and other inappropriate places' from the central business district (CBD) to stalls and shops in various municipal markets.

At least that city has provided several municipal markets as opposed to Mbabane with only one surrounded by a few kiosks that also double up as repair shops or tailoring cabins.

Although there was no immediate response from the municipal council regarding specific questions on the subject matter, in its Integrated Development Plan 2019-2024 in addressing social inequality in the municipality, in a bid to ensure sustainable development, it promises to take more than the conventional approaches of socio-economic development focusing on household and community dynamics, including legal and justice issues, but will focus on the causal relationship between social inequality and equity.

"To this end, focus will be on improving the socioeconomic status of individuals and families through creating employment opportunities for residents of Mbabane.

"This will be a function of stimulating business activity and growth from within the city before effort is directed at attracting business to Mbabane, and keep them through creating the right



BUSINESS: Vendors have little or no consideration for those using the walkway, they mind their own business. (Pics: Zwelihle Sukati)



NO THOROUGHFARE: Both vendors (L) and taximen block the way by competing for business and do not care that pedestrians are forced out of way.



business environment in the city.

Effort will be directed at supporting local entrepreneurs, especially business startups for the youth, and SMMEs

already in business within the city, providing shelter and improving the Mbabane CBD market for it to match the desired City standards so that entrepreneurs



NO WE'RE TO WALK: A pedestrian is forced to leave the walkway to vegetables while she risks being run over by cars.



STOREROOM: Fruits and vegetables warehoused on the pathway for pedestrians in Mbabane.



would make the money they can make from the market.

Furthermore, the municipality says programmes to be implemented include youth entrepreneurship (in-school and out-of-school), setting up proper shelters for street vendors, upgrading the Mbabane Market, attracting businesses to locate in Mbabane, and actually remain in Mbabane, fostering an enabling policy environment for job creation and poverty alleviation, encourage businesses to operate beyond 5pm, provide incentives for local busi-

ness in council's procurement, and ensure business opportunities for communities.

All of the above will be in addition to the provision of basic services to the communities in order to ensure a broad coverage of all basic and important socio-economic development approach. The city will also consider industries that could be strategic to locate in Mbabane given the city's strategic location in order to facilitate the establishment or attraction of existing businesses in such industries.

GOOD RAINS BAD FOR FAMILY OF DISABLED

Stories by Bodwa Mbingo

The next three months will prove agonising for a family of two adult siblings with disabilities and residing in a dilapidated six-roomed stick and mud house at Mangwaneni location in Pigg's Peak, where poverty thrives.

While the forecasted weather pattern showing that the country will continue to receive good rains until May this year comes as pleasant news to most Eswatini farmers, such spells gloom for this helpless family.

Banele 'Smaras' Khumalo (44), who got injured while at work back in 2002 and as a consequence lost both his hands, lives with his elder sister, Ntombizile Mtsetfwa, who is also disabled, having been born with the disability.

They live with the latter's six grandchildren in the dilapidated house. All they draw on to put food on the table are their government disability grants of E540 each that they get every three months. Ntombizile, despite her disability, has been forced to supplement this with a meagre allowance of E350 she makes for looking after a neighbour's child.

Every time it rains, misery grips this household due to excessively leaking roofs, glaringly damaged walls that show the outside of the house and the fact that their house is slowly, but surely crumbling. For now they just live on wing and prayer hoping to see the next day before they are declared without shelter.

"We literally have to stand up until morning during rainy nights and the situation is worsened by the fact that my brother can no longer use his hands to fix the house. Over the years, we have watched the house crumble bit by bit and we are just helpless," says Ntombizile in

a sad tone.

According to a report released by the Eswatini Meteorological Services, there is a generally increased chance of normal-to-above-normal rains for the last half of the season, from January to March.

However, the department further revealed that, temperatures are expected to relatively remain warm during the day with occasional cold episodes.

The report further states that rainfall was expected to be relatively normal throughout the country, with a chance of above normal in most parts. During February, March and April, there will be a chance of normal to above normal rainfall over most areas within the region. Meanwhile, in March, April and May, normal to above normal rains will continue to be received over most parts of the regions.

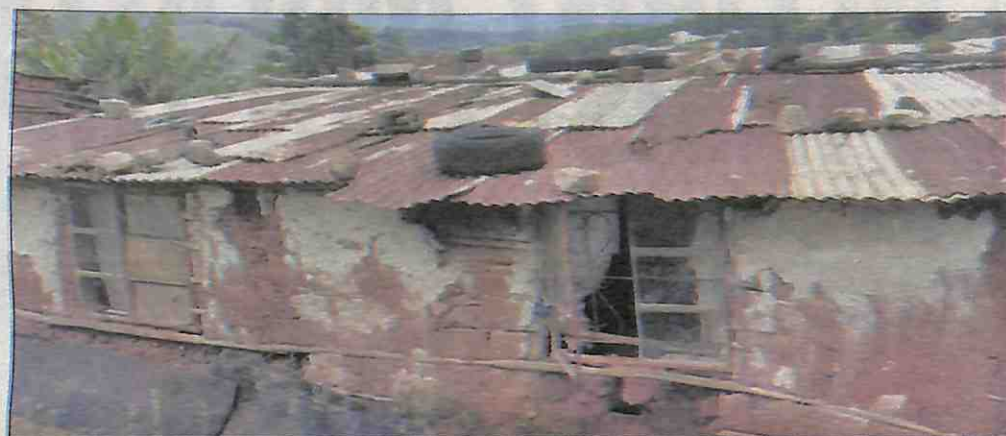
This, therefore, sends shivers down the spine of this needy family.

As if that is not enough, they also stand to lose the plot the house is situated on as the Pigg's Peak Town Council says they are in outstanding rates payment of close to E28 000, confirmed Ntombizile.

Their situation is so dire that they are ready to accept any kind of assistance from the public. The family also urges the area's Member of Parliament (MP) and Minister of Agriculture Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza to assist obtain aid for them.

"As things are, we can even hardly put food on the table, while also sending the children to school. We ask members of the public to be sympathetic to our plight and come to our rescue in any way they can," Ntombizile further pleaded.

The family's situation seems to undermine a



FALLING: This is the outside of the dilapidated house that is occupied by Banele 'Smaras' Khumalo, his elder sister Ntombizile Mtsetfwa and her six grandchildren at Mangwaneni in Pigg's Peak. (Pics: Bodwa Mbingo)

number of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including:

GOAL 1: No Poverty.

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger.

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building, on the principle of 'leaving no one behind', the new Agenda emphasises a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

The SDGs also explicitly include disability and persons with disabilities 11 times. Disability is referenced in multiple parts of the SDGs, specifically in the parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality,

accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and the monitoring of the SDGs.

Although, the word 'disability' is not cited directly in all the goals, the goals are indeed relevant to ensure the inclusion and development of persons with disabilities.

#Envision2030 will work to promote the mainstreaming of disability and the implementation of the SDGs throughout its 15-year lifespan with objectives to:

- Raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs for persons with disabilities;
- Promote an active dialogue among stakeholders on the SDGs with a view to create a better world for persons with disabilities; and
- Establish an ongoing live web resource on each SDG and disability.



HELP: Khumalo, with a disability inside their falling house.

Family sees light at end of tunnel as disability grants increase

Following the good news delivered by the office of the deputy prime minister pertaining to an increase in government disability and elderly grants going forward, this is the only thing that has lifted the needy family's spirits.

On November 13, 2019, Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini announced what could be described as music to the ears of the elderly and people

with disabilities that their grant would increase by E100 as of this month. He said beneficiaries of the elderly grants would be paid E500 per month, starting this month.

Grant

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 with

disabilities.

The disability grants would increase from E180 to E280 per month.

In a press release this week, Deputy Prime Minister's Office Principal Secretary (PS) Makhosini Mndawe announced that the distribution of the grants commenced yesterday, bringing some excitement to the beneficiaries, including the impoverished family based in Pigg's Peak.



National Maize Corporation (Pty) Ltd

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR GOODS, WORKS AND SERVICES - NMC PRQ 2020/2022

The National Maize Corporation (NMC) Pty Ltd invites all eligible and qualified local and international firms including those owned by youth, women and persons with disability to submit applications for prequalification for general categories of supply of goods, works and services. The pre-qualification documents may be inspected and collected from the reception area at NMC Head Office located at 11th Street Matsapha Industrial Sites, Matsapha, during working hours or downloaded from ESPRA website www.sppra.co.sz or NMC website at www.nmc.co.sz.

All applications should be, marked **PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR EACH CATEGORY WITH THE DESCRIPTION AND PREQUALIFICATION NUMBER NMC PRQ XXXXXXXX** and should be submitted on a **soft copy** in a **COMPACT DISC (CD)** on **PDF version**. Applications must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and deposited in the Tender Box situated at NMC at the latest by 4:00pm, SAST, on the 7th February 2020. Late applications and applications received by telegram, facsimile or email will not be considered.

Requests for clarification, must be in writing, addressed, via email, to procurement@nmc.co.sz. NMC will strive to promptly respond in writing via e-mail to any requests for clarification up until close of business on the 5th February 2020.

(+268) 2518 7432

info@nmc.co.sz

www.nmc.co.sz

DEFIANT MBEKELWENI HIGH INSISTS ON TOP-UP FEES

By Delisa Thwala

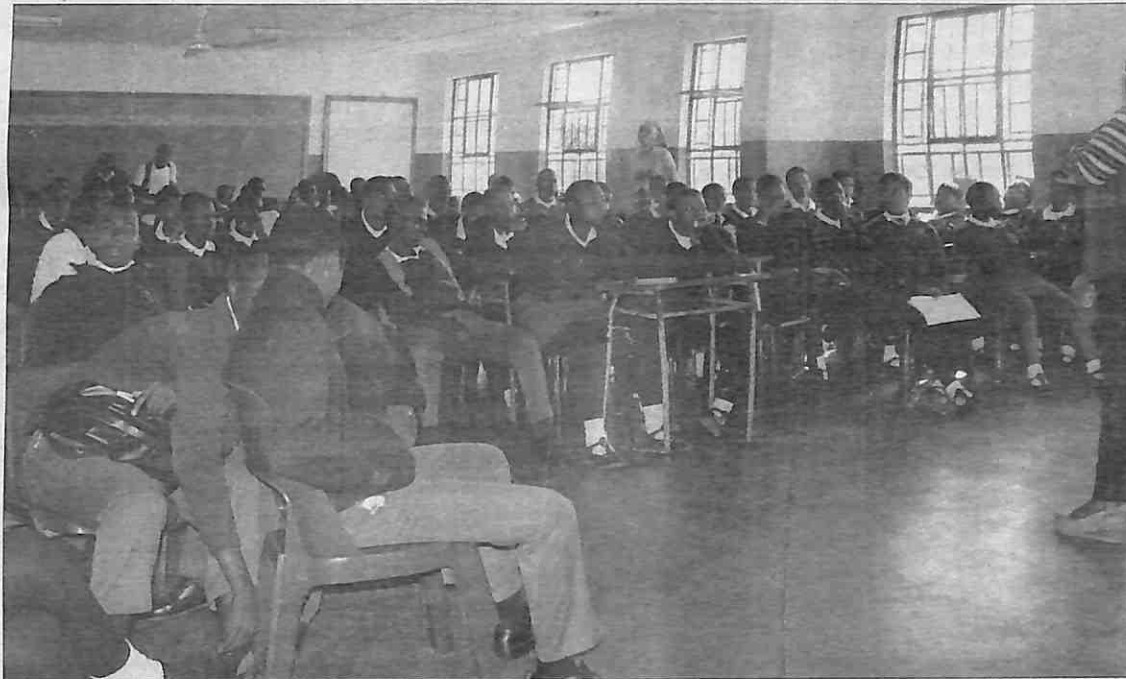
Mbekelweni High School is reportedly insisting on charging parents top-up fees despite a blanket ban by the ministry of education until a school obtains approval. Most pupils are alleged to have reported for lessons but were turned back by authorities because they had not paid the top up fees.

Guardians for male pupils in Form One and Form Three confirmed that the learners were expected to pay E3 490 and E4 385, respectively, as top-up fees.

Both guardians alleged that authorities demanded that they pay but would rather not be put on the spotlight regarding the matter because they felt it was better to just pay than be drawn into the fray relating to top-up fees.

In particular Coli Thwala from the welfare department did not want the issue about school and top-up fees mentioned in the story.

"Yes, the top-up fees are there and they are wanted by the school. We do not want to offend people, mostly the school because we do not want this to put us in bad books. We do



TOP-UP FEES: Mbekelweni High School pupils.

not want the learners kicked out of school because of this story," said Thwala.

Refused

When the school's secretary was called she refused to comment and said she did not know anything. "I

do not know anything, there is nothing to say," she said at the same time refusing with her identity.

The deputy prime minister's office referred all questions to the Director of Social Welfare, Moses Dlamini, who said they were working on the

matter.

"We would love to immediately help these children.

The DPM has asked for all their details so that we make means to help them.

"We will take this matter up with

the ministry of education as soon as possible," said Dlamini.

Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza said the last she heard of a similar issue was a long time ago. "I do not think something like this still exists, we last heard of it in the 2017 circular. I will have to check with the REO's office," said Mabuza. REO is Regional Education Office.

A senior teacher who was randomly asked from another school, Mbuso Tfwala, said schools no longer requested top up fees because such was banned by the ministry of education.

"I teach at Ngcina Primary School and we do not charge top-up fees. Schools can make requests if they want to apply top up fees," said Tfwala.

A member of the school committee who did not want to be named said as a committee, they were aware of the top-up fees issue.

"Yes, this is a real issue with Mbekelweni as parents are made to pay top-up fees.

On Tuesday when schools opened some pupils missed class as they did not have the required fees," confirmed the school committee member. She said they could not even negotiate with the administrator who is new in the position.

"The previous administrator allowed friendly payment terms. A lot of parents tried to negotiate to pay in instalments but with the new administration in charge of the school they cannot do that," concluded the school committee member.

ESWATINI CORRUPTION WORSENS BY DAY

By Bodwa Mbingo

The country's state of corruption has worsened in the latest Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2019 released by Transparency International (TI), an international non-governmental organisation based in Berlin, this week.

According to the report, Eswatini ranks 113 out of 180 countries and scored 34 out of a possible 100. The score of 34 puts the country in the area of corrupt to highly corrupt according to the CPI scale and shared this score with other countries, including the Philippines, Zambia, Nepal, El Salvador and Kazakhstan.

Similar to previous years, the data shows that despite some progress, a majority of countries are still failing to tackle public sector corruption effectively. Across the region, it shows that money is used to win elections, consolidate power and further personal interests. Although the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption has provisions to prevent corruption and encourage transparency in campaign financing, implementation is weak.

This year's CPI reveals that a majority of countries are showing little to no improvement in tackling corruption.

CPI uses a scale of zero to 100 to rank nations, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. In 2018, Eswatini scored 38 and in 2017 it scored 37. The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived

levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business-people.

To end corruption and restore trust in politics, Transparency International recommended to countries, including Eswatini, that it is imperative to prevent opportunities for political corruption and to foster the integrity of political systems.

"This year, our research highlights the relationship between politics, money and corruption. Keeping big money out of politics is essential to ensuring political decision-making serves the public interest and curbing opportunities for corrupt deals. Countries that perform well on the CPI have strong enforcement of campaign finance regulations," reads the report in part.

According to the report, the top countries are New Zealand and Denmark, with scores of 87 each, followed by Finland (86), Singapore (85), Sweden (85) and Switzerland (85).

The bottom countries are Somalia, South Sudan and Syria with scores of 9, 12 and 13, respectively. These countries are closely followed by Yemen (15), Venezuela (16), Sudan (16), Equatorial Guinea (16) and Afghanistan (16).

Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the second-lowest performing region on the CPI, with an average score of 35.

This year's analysis also shows corruption is more pervasive in countries where big money flows freely into electoral campaigns and where governments listen only to the voices of

wealthy or well-connected individuals.

More than two-thirds of countries scored below 50 on this year's CPI, with an average score of just 43.

In the last eight years, only 22 countries significantly improved their CPI scores, including Greece, Guyana and Estonia. In the same period, 21 countries significantly decreased their scores, including Canada, Australia and Nicaragua. In the remaining 137 countries, the levels of corruption show little to no change.

This year, Western Europe and the EU is the highest scoring region with an average of 66/100, while Sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest scoring region with 32 points. Both regions have kept an unchanged average since last year.

Sub-Saharan Africa's performance paints a bleak picture of inaction against corruption. With a score of 66, the Seychelles earns the highest mark in the region, followed by Botswana (61), Cabo Verde (58), Rwanda (53) and Mauritius (52). At the bottom of the index are Somalia (9), South Sudan (12), Sudan (16) and Equatorial Guinea (16).

While the Seychelles struggles with issues of money laundering, which is not measured by the CPI, several anti-corruption laws, including a recent access to information law, and a newly established anti-corruption commission have helped strengthen the country's anti-corruption framework. In addition, despite some restrictions, dialogue between civil society and

government occurs through a national civil society platform.

Significant improvers since 2012, Cote d'Ivoire (35) and Senegal (45) still have much work to do. The political will demonstrated by the leaders of both countries, which saw a number of key legal, policy and institutional reforms implemented in their early days in office, has been on a backslide since 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

MANAGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Governments should reduce the risk of undue influence in policy-making by tightening controls over financial and other interests of government officials. Governments should also address 'revolving doors,' establish cooling-off periods for former officials and ensure rules are properly enforced and sanctioned.

CONTROL POLITICAL FINANCING

In order to prevent excessive money and influence in politics, governments should improve and properly enforce campaign finance regulations. Political parties should also disclose their sources of income, assets and loans, and governments should empower oversight agencies with stronger mandates and appropriate resources.

STRENGTHEN ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

For democracy to be effective against corruption, governments must ensure that elections are free and fair. Preventing

and sanctioning vote-buying and misinformation campaigns are essential to rebuilding trust in government and ensuring that citizens use their vote to punish corrupt politicians.

REGULATE LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Governments should promote open and meaningful access to decision-making and consult a wider range of groups, beyond well-resourced lobbyists and a few private interests. Lobbying activities should be public and easily accessible.

TACKLE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

Governments should create mechanisms to ensure that service delivery and public resource allocation are not driven by personal connections or are biased towards special interest groups at the expense of the overall public good.

EMPOWER CITIZENS

Governments should protect civil liberties and political rights, including freedom of speech, expression and association. Governments should engage civil society and protect citizens, activists, whistleblowers and journalists in monitoring and exposing corruption.

REINFORCE CHECKS AND BALANCES

Governments must promote the separation of powers, strengthen judicial independence and preserve checks and balances.

INDIA DELIVERS FIRST ICC IN AFRICA, NEW ESWATINI PARLY BUILDING NEXT

By Boriwa Mbingo

...First convention centre made by India in Africa launched as Delhi enters China's turf

Things are already looking up following India President Ramnath Kovind's visit to the country in 2018, where he promised that his country would assist Eswatini construct a new spacious Parliament after that country delivered another one of its promises in the continent this week.

India on Tuesday inaugurated the first ever convention made by it in Africa with Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurating the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Western African state of Niger as part of its outreach to the continent.

According to the Economic Times, plans are still in place for that country to also set up the Parliament building in the country along the Lobamba - Lozitha road.

It should be noted that already in April 2018, the President of India Kovind and then Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini unveiled the about E290 million (US\$20 million) Royal Science and Technology Innovation Park in Phocweni. The park was constructed by a leading Noida-based Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) Company - Angelique International Limited (AIL) and was financed by the Government of India under bilateral cooperation in assisting the Eswatini government's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the use of information technology.

It is reported that the MGICC was jointly inaugurated by President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou on 21 January. MGICC is the first centre to be established in Africa by India under grant assistance. The Centre



NEW BUILDING: Parliament building.

honours the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th independence anniversary was observed in 2019.

The establishment of the centre is a landmark for Niger-India friendship, as also a symbol of India's firm commitment towards Africa. The fourth edition of the India-Africa summit will be held in Delhi later this year.

Spacious

The Convention Centre has been designed as a spacious, modern and eco-friendly facility, including a 2 000 capacity Plenary Hall, to witness high-level and wide-ranging participation from African Union (AU) Member States and other high level Conventions. The construction of MGICC was completed in record time despite several logistical and technical challenges.

During his stay in Niamey, Jaishankar also called on Prime Minister of Niger Brigi Rafini and held discussions on

a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues with his counterpart Kalla Ankourao, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of Niger.

India and Niger relations have expanded significantly in the recent years. India has provided Lines of Credit worth US\$96.54 million to Niger for projects in transport, electrification, solar energy and potable drinking water.

Outreach

Several hundreds of officials from Niger have utilised India's capacity building training programmes under ITEC programme. India has also extended US\$15 million grant assistance to Niger in support of organising the African Union (AU) summit held in Niamey on 7-8 July, last year.

India, for the first time as part of its capacity building outreach for the developing world, has embarked on

a unique initiative to build convention centres across 21 African countries, an exercise that was hitherto considered a success story for China.

Beginning with Niger, India is on a mission mode to set up a convention centre enabling Niamey (capital city) to host the African Union Summit in 2019. Unlike the model followed by Africa's other partners, India's initiative is demand driven upon request from its partners in continent, persons familiar with the process indicated with the process.

Besides Niger, convention centres will be set up by India on a priority basis in eight other African nations — Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Togo, Gabon and Liberia upon request of these countries, ET has learnt. This will be followed by such grand centres in 12 other African nations. It has been learnt that the project work is in full swing in Niger.

Neither of these 21 countries have world class convention centres where they can host sub-regional or Pan-African political Summits and mega business meets.

Building convention centres have so far been forte of China in South Asia — Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — and elsewhere which had reaped them economic and political benefits.

India enjoys enormous goodwill in Africa based on its training modules and scholarships for African nationals. Besides Indian business enterprises are expanding footprints in the continent. But this is the first occasion that India is embarking on infrastructure building initiative based on sustained high-level focus given to the continent by the Modi Government. In fact, this is the first such Indian exercise to build convention centres in any part of the globe.

In the past India has created a Presidential Palace in Ghana, Parliament in Ghana besides the Parliament building in Afghanistan while also in the process of setting up the Parliament building in the country.

Delhi's suggestion to name the convention centres under Mahatma Gandhi was accepted notwithstanding the fact he is not a national figure of those countries. However, Mahatma Gandhi enjoys iconic status in Africa and this enabled acceptance of Modi government's suggestion.

These centres will follow local customs, requirements and architectural designs.

While Indian firms will build the convention centres, land for the same will be allotted by the local governments. The ventures are also expected to create local employment through sub-contracts.

Meanwhile, in March 2018, India announced plans of opening a diplomatic mission in the country. The Asian country has plans to open up to 18 missions in the continent and the move seen as a major boost to India-Africa relations, will increase the number of Indian missions in Africa from 29 to 47.

Anti-diabetes campaigners reach out to those lazy bones

By Khetsiwe Khumalo

With efforts to reduce a diabetic generation in the country, the Director of Diabetes Organisation, Dumsile Mavuso, has revealed that they want to engage teenagers in an effort to raise awareness and in getting them to exercise and eat right.

Mavuso said they would engage 40 schools, 10 in each region, in their mission to make teenagers growing up conscious to the deadly but largely preventable disease. She said their biggest mission was to make children refrain from spending all their time watching television, playing with their cell phones and opening the fridge a lot.

"If parents are willing to help us make their children refrain from their usual lazy schedule, they can contact us at the office and we can help get them active by making them exer-

cise after school or during the weekend," said Mavuso.

She further said they would bring back all those games they themselves played growing up which, would keep the teenagers active and healthy.

Mavuso said they had targeted pupils after discovering that the rate of diabetic or obese was rising among the younger age group of children. She added times had changed, what made them immune to the disease during their times was that they were very active growing up and ate healthy foods, unlike the youth now that eat a lot of junk and sit on the couches with either their phones or television remotes.

Mavuso explained that they were doing this to save the youth because once one was diagnosed with diabetes, the possibilities of living by injection was highly possible.

"The plan is to start with the ones who have been diagnosed with diabetes at home. We will, with their

permission, visit their homes and see the way they live and eat, then from there we will go to their schools to make the teachers, pupils and parents aware of further risks," said Mavuso.

Mavuso further said they were also looking to engage parents in having the children be with them during school holidays. She said they would go into depth with teaching diagnosed diabetic teens on how to be independent and survival tactics for when their parents are away or when they get an attack.

Confident

"We won't end in just playing games with them, we will teach them on how to eat healthy and make them understand that this disease does not choose, it can affect us all in our different age groups but we can dodge the disease by all getting active," said Mavuso.

With the help of inspectors assigned in the different regions, colleges and



The diabetes organisation campaign in more details. These are some of the activities the youth will partake in when they join the campaign.

universities will also be reached and Mavuso said she was quite confident that they would reach everyone including churches in their mission to teach and raise awareness of diabetes.

"In all of our efforts we just ask that companies to assist in donating material that can be used to help the youth

get active," requested Mavuso.

Unfortunately Director of Health Services Vusi Magagula was unreachable for comment and when the Principal Secretary, Simon Zwane was reached he kindly asked we reach Dr. Okello, who also did not answer to any of our calls.

MYSTERY FIRE BURNS SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FOOD TO ASHES

Stories by Zwelihle Sukati

Speak of a bad start back to school!

Five school going children kicked off the beginning of this year's school calendar on a sad note when all the family's food was reduced to ashes by a mystery fire that consumed everything. They had no option but to go to school, and bed on an empty stomach.

One of the children is a Grade II primary school going pupil. The children live with their elderly grandparents in the isolated and rural community of KaKhuphuka.

Gogo Mariah Tfwala, 74, struggled to fight back tears as she narrated how the kitchen hut (*lidladla*) caught a mysterious fire from the 'sky' on Monday night. For her it was an attack by the mystical fire of *hubane* that erupts sporadically without being provoked.

The Grade II pupil, according to gogo Tfwala, was abandoned by the parents when she was just a year old and they never show face. One of the grandchild has both parents deceased.

"I don't know whether they are still alive or not because none of the parents come to check on her or to offer support," she said in a shaky voice and teary during an interview.

When this publication paid a visit to the homestead on Tuesday, the grown up girls were already from school and brewing *marula* to rake in some income to mitigate the situation.

The old woman led us to the impoverished family's burnt kitchen hut, which was still smoking from the ashes of what once food and other household utensils.

Were it not for the quick response by neighbours during the night the damage could have been worse as the other hut next to it had also caught the fire.

"We had all retired for the night and had gone to our respective rooms to sleep. All of a sudden my husband noticed a strong light through the window and I quickly concluded that light was probably coming from a car."

She said now that it was the *marula* season customers do come to buy the exotic brew as it is one opportunity in the season to make a few bucks.

"However, as I paid much attention through the window I noticed that the light was glowing even stronger and that it was from kitchen hut roof top," mkhulu Amos Tfwala, the husband further explained.

He said that was when he concluded that the hut was on fire and the two elderly couple stepped out to the night to raise an alarm.

Gogo Tfwala said she had never seen such strange fire in all her life.

"The fire was from the rooftop and consuming the house all the way down, like someone just climbed to the rooftop and lit it there," she pointed out.

The elderly couple said the weather was just normal to suggest the hut could have been struck by lightning. "We only cook once a day, during midmorning hours to say that maybe there was fire that we had not put out when prepared to go to sleep."

By the time neighbours responded to the alarm raised there was nothing that could be saved from inside as the thatched roofing collapsed inside, burning everything.

The only thing that could be saved was the other thatched house next to it which had caught the fire. Next day children had to go to school.

There was absolutely nothing to prepare for the five grandchildren, some of whom have both parents deceased. "These girls (pointing at the children) are all my responsibility. I couldn't help cry when the young primary school going child complained of hunger in the morning and there was nothing I could give them, nothing," gogo Tfwala said, as she wiped tears off her eyes.

She said as the day went by, out of hunger herself, she went through the burnt pots with ashes of what was once mealie-meal and beans. "I had no choice but chew on the ashes of the burnt left over porridge that was in one of the pots, before I could throw it all away." Mkhweni Member of Parliament Michael Masuku says he could only go so far with assistance but continues to scout around, extending his hands to business as well as humanitarian organisations or individuals, especially those of faith to assist.

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SOS: Gogo Mariah Tfwala shows the burnt kitchen hut, which left her family and school-going grandchildren with nothing to eat. (Pics; Zwelihle Sukati)



SEASON: The children were found brewing *marula* to make some income in order to have something to eat during school days.



REMAINS: This is what was left from the pots and all the food that was in the kitchen hut.

FAMILY PLEADS FOR HELP

The Tfwala family pleads for any form of assistance, especially with food of whatever quantity, from those with willing hearts.

In an interview with this publication on the elderly gogo and mkhulu Tfwala said they even had the strength to talk because one neighbour had given them a handful of mealie-meal in dish to prepare soft porridge. Question was what were the children going to eat upon return from school. Another challenge the family has is that even if they can receive food donations from neighbours, who are most equally as needy, how they were going to cook because all pots and plats were burnt beyond reparability. "I am left



HELP: Mkhulu Amos Tfwala with gogo Mariah Tfwala as they narrate their sad ordeal.

with a huge challenge, especially with the children," gogo Tfwala said. When queried further about the fire, she said

even the Fire and emergency personnel were equally puzzled about the fire. "No one has any clue."



HHOHHO REGION FUNDRAISES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

The Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) is always looking for and implementing innovative measures that are aimed at fighting the scourge of crime in the country.

To this end, the Hhohho Crime Prevention Unit last week Thursday launched a golf tournament which is aimed at raising funds for regional crime fighting programmes. The launch was graced by the presence of Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harris Madze Bulunga who applauded the Police Service for the initiative stating that it is for a greater cause considering that crime has negative effects. The gala dinner was preceded by the golf tournament where independent golfers and those from the REPS competed for different prizes. Bulunga revealed that even though it is common knowledge that the mandate of the Police Service is fighting crime, it is also the collective responsibility of Emaswati to strive for a crime free and healthy society. The theme of the tournament was 'Healthy and United Against Crime' which summarises the Police Service's resolve to engage an approach which is aimed at deterring crime and criminal behaviour by partnering with different stakeholders and communities through sports.

Communities

The funds which will be raised through the annual golf tournament will be directed to the engagement and mobilisation of communities to try and contain the resurgence of contemporary crimes such as copper theft and passion killings. They will also be channelled towards conducting workshops on the SODV Act and Accident Prevention Programmes. Bulunga said as a ministry, they are extremely delighted to see the REPS partnering with sports to achieve such a noble goal.

He stated that the partnership between the police and sports will undoubtedly change the country's environment and help in the combating of crime in the different communities in Eswatini. Bulunga said as the ministry mandated to look after youth issues, they are extreme-



GUEST: Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga making his remarks during the fundraising gala dinner.

ly delighted to see the Police Service joining in to help government combat the challenge of unemployment facing young people. He said it is through collective efforts that Eswatini will be able to achieve goals as a country. He noted that for the sustainability of the crime prevention programmes, it is key that the fundraising tournament is held annually.

Future

Bulunga stated that sports people in their different roles, be it club level, association level or even at ministry level have a responsibility for the creation of a better country not just for this generation but for future generations as well. He said he was hopeful that the partnership between the REPS and Golf Union will inspire many others to find ways in which they can do more to create a better Eswatini for all citizens. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Police Service on behalf of the ministry, for the outstanding and consistent support in maintaining order during sporting activities, particularly football. He said the safety of all spectators is paramount in the



REMARKS: National Commissioner's representative Deputy National Commissioner Freeman Mdluli addressing the gathering.

development and growth of any sport. Bulunga thanked REPS and expressed his hope that such a relationship will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Deputy National Commissioner - Freeman Mdluli who was representing the National Commissioner of Police explained the vision behind the tournament. He said the funds will not only be invested in crime prevention, but they will be further extended to the promotion of Police involvement in sports and youth empowerment activities.

He expressed the organisation's gratitude to the sponsors who contributed to the success of the whole event from the tournament to the gala dinner.

Mdluli said REPS was appreciative of the kind gesture as the event was in accordance with the organisation's aspiration of attaining a crime and accident free society. He thanked all the sponsors who contributed with their resources towards supporting the tournament which included independent golfers. The golf tournament which was held in Ezulwini had

about 80 golfers participating and among them was the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo who said the government was impressed with the initiative as it was evident that the REPS was vigorously working towards a crime free society.

“

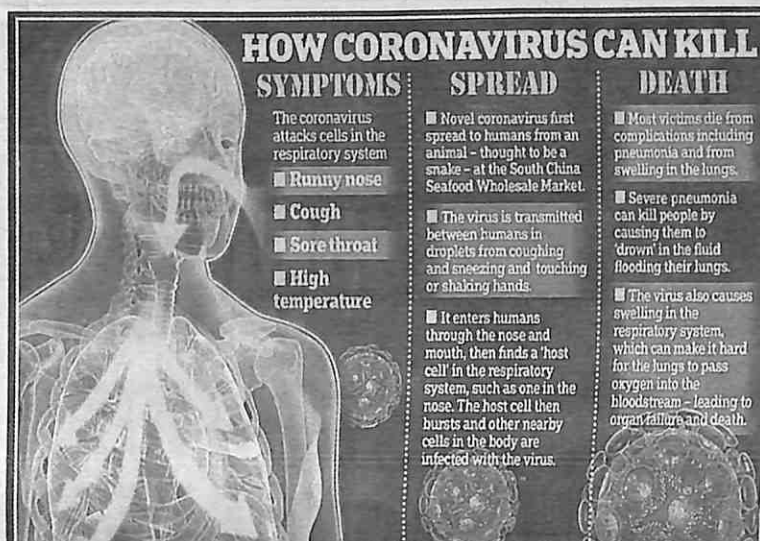
Through collective efforts Eswatini will be able to achieve goals as a country for sustainability of the crime prevention programmes, it is key that the fundraising tournament is held annually.



THANK YOU: A golfer receiving a prize from Minister Harries Bulunga.



ENTERTAINMENT: REPS cultural troop provided entertainment during the event.



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM CORONAVIRUS

PORT ELIZABETH - The ministry of health says that it has measures in place to detect, manage and contain any cases of Novel Coronavirus should it come to South Africa.

Assuring South Africans that there was nothing to fear, the ministry said in a statement on Thursday that no cases had been reported so far.

"Port health professionals routinely conducts temperature screening for all international travellers.

"However, due to the current risk of importation of inadvertent cases of 2019-nCoV from Wuhan City, China, Port Health authorities have enhanced surveillance of all travellers from Asia, especially China.

"Fortunately, OR Tambo International Airport is the only port of entry for all flights from Asia," the ministry said.

It said that the provinces had activated outbreak response teams and were on high alert to detect and manage inadvertent cases that may arrive in the country.



The ministry said that there were no restrictions on travel to China, adding that the World Health Organisation had also not recommended any restriction on travel or trade.

However, the Health Department advised those travelling to Wuhan, China to avoid contact with animals and encouraged good hand hygiene practice, as well as cough etiquette to reduce the risk of infection with respiratory viruses.

Meanwhile the Chinese Government

said yesterday that the new coronavirus has killed 25 people in China and infected more than 800.

China's National Health Commission said 830 cases had been confirmed so far and 25 people had died as of Thursday. Most of the cases are in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where the virus is believed to have originated late last year.

Non-fatal cases have been found in at least seven other countries.

ANA and Reuters



Airports around the world taking precautions

DUBAI - Airports around the world have begun taking precautions to deal with an anticipated influx of Chinese tourists taking Lunar New Year holidays, just as the outbreak of a pneumonia-like virus in China has prompted officials there to take drastic measures to prevent its spread.

Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel, announced on Thursday that, following government guid-

ance, all passengers arriving on direct flights from China will receive thermal screening at the gate upon arrival and be provided with informational brochures.

The screening at the airport, home to Emirates airline, will be conducted at secured, closed gates by teams from the Dubai Health Authority and the Airport Medical Center, Dubai Airports said in a statement provided to The Associated Press.

Daily Mail

Death toll leaps to 26 in China with more than 800 infected

GENEVA - World Health Organisation officials think it's 'too early' to call the coronavirus outbreak an international emergency, they said in Thursday's press conference.

Their long-awaited decision comes as the SARS-like virus continues to spread, killing 26, mostly in Wuhan, one in a second province in China, and sickened over 800 globally is a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

Officials said Thursday that 'now is not the time' based on the limited glob-

al spread of the virus called 2019-nCoV and the isolation of deaths to China.

But they said an emergency could still be declared a PHEIC if the outbreak continues to spread.

It comes on the heels of the Chinese government announcing that it was locking down Wuhan, the city of 11 million people and the epicenter of the outbreak.

"This should not be taken as a sign that we don't think the outbreak is serious, or that we are not taking it seriously," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Nothing could be further from the truth."

Dr Ghebreyesus - referred to mostly as Dr Tedros - said that he stands ready to reconvene the emergency committee - yet again, after the group was unable to reach a decision on Wednesday - to call a PHEIC if necessary. For the time being, professor Diddiet Houssin, the meeting's chair, said that the number of cases abroad is still fairly limited and the efforts being made in China are, for now, sufficient to keep the outbreak relatively contained. Daily Mail

THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT THE DEADLY CORONAVIRUS

WUHAN - It emerged yesterday that the deadly new virus spreading across Asia is far more contagious than previously thought and someone who is infected can spread it with just a simple cough or a sneeze, scientists say.

Eighteen people with the virus are now confirmed to have died and more than 800 have been infected in at least 10 countries. But experts predict the true number of people with the disease could be as many as 10,000 as they warn it may kill as many as two in 100 cases. Here's what we know so far:

What is the Wuhan coronavirus?

A coronavirus is a type of virus which can cause illness in animals and people. It is an RNA virus (RNA is a type of genetic material called ribonucleic acid), which means it breaks into cells inside the host of the virus and uses them to reproduce itself.

This coronavirus from Wuhan is one which has never been seen before this outbreak. It is currently named 2019-nCoV, and does not have a more detailed name because

so little is known about it. Dr Helena Maier, from the Pirbright Institute, said: "Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that infect a wide range of different species including humans, cattle, pigs, chickens, dogs, cats and wild animals. "Until this new coronavirus was identified, there were only six different coronaviruses known to infect humans. Four of these cause a mild common cold-type illness, but since 2002 there has been the emergence of two new coronaviruses that can infect humans and result in more severe disease (Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronaviruses). "Coronaviruses are known to be able to occasionally jump from one species to another and that is what happened in the case of SARS, MERS and the new coronavirus. The animal origin of the new coronavirus is not yet known."

The first human cases were publicly reported from the Chinese city of Wuhan, where approximately 11 million people live, three weeks ago after medics first started seeing cases in December.

Where does the virus come from?

Nobody knows for sure. Coronaviruses in general tend to originate in animals - the similar SARS and MERS viruses are believed to have originated in civet cats and camels, respectively.

The first cases of the virus in Wuhan came from people visiting or working in a live animal market in the city, which has since been closed down for investigation.

Although the market is officially a seafood market, other dead and living animals were being sold there, including wolf cubs, salamanders, snakes, peacocks, porcupines and camel meat. Bats are a prime suspect - researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences said recently.

Why are health experts so worried about it?

Experts say the international community is concerned about the virus because so little is known about it and it appears to be spreading quickly. It is similar to SARS, which infected 8,000 people and killed nearly 800 in an outbreak in Asia in 2003, in that it is a type of coron-

avirus which infects humans' lungs.

Another reason for concern is that nobody has any immunity to the virus because they've never encountered it before. This means it may be able to cause more damage than viruses we come across often, like the flu or common cold.

Speaking at a briefing yesterday, Oxford University Professor, Dr Peter Horby, said: Novel viruses can spread much faster through the population than viruses which circulate all the time because we have no immunity to them. "Most seasonal flu viruses have a case fatality rate of less than 1 in 1,000 people. Here we're talking about a virus where we don't understand fully the severity spectrum but it's possible the case fatality rate could be as high as two per cent."

If the death rate is truly two per cent, that means two out of every 100 patients who get it will die.

How does the virus spread?

The illness may spread between people just through coughs and sneezes, making it an extremely contagious infection.

It is believed to travel in the saliva and therefore close contact, kissing and sharing cutlery or utensils are risky. Because it infects the lungs, it is also likely present in droplets people cough up which, when inhaled, can infect the next person.

Originally, people were thought to be catching it from a live animal market in Wuhan city. But cases soon began to emerge in people who had never been there, which forced medics to realise it was spreading from person to person.

There is now evidence that it can spread third hand - to someone from a person who caught it from another person.

What does the virus do to you? What are the symptoms?

Once someone has caught the virus it may take between two and 14 days for them to show any symptoms.

If and when they do, typical signs include a runny nose, a cough, sore throat and a fever (high temperature). The vast majority of patients - at least 97 per cent, based on available data - will recover from these without any issues or medical help.

ESWATINI PUTTING SYSTEMS TO DETECT CORONAVIRUS

By Sicelo Maziya

Eswatini's contingency plan on the wide spread of the coronavirus is being oiled to ensure the virus is detected early.

Health officials said the virus might have been widespread in one district but it was detected in other countries. Eswatini wants to ensure that the country is ready anytime.

The ministry of health is working on going full scale in ensuring that the ports of entry are able to detect any anomalies in people coming into the country.

Epidemiologist Nhlanhla Nhlabatsi said the ministry was working on all mechanisms to protect citizens and everyone in the country with the guidance of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Nhlabatsi further shared that the coronavirus in China had been declared by WHO, not a public health emergency of international concern. Nhlabatsi said normally when a condition is declared a public health emergency, WHO then gives directions on its management.

"Coronavirus is more like common cold and requires the usual standard precautions of human hygiene; wash hands regularly, cover mouth and nose when coughing and present to a health facility for supportive care," warned Nhlabatsi. He also stated that even though not declared as an emergency of global concern yet, the status could change anytime. He said the national focal point of International Health Regulations (IHR) Eswatini would have a preparedness session on Monday with WHO.

Nhlanhla further shared that their prepared plan also included the ministry of agriculture, as the virus had links to animals and the ministry responsible would be working together with the health ministry in forming a strong front, should there be any eventualities.

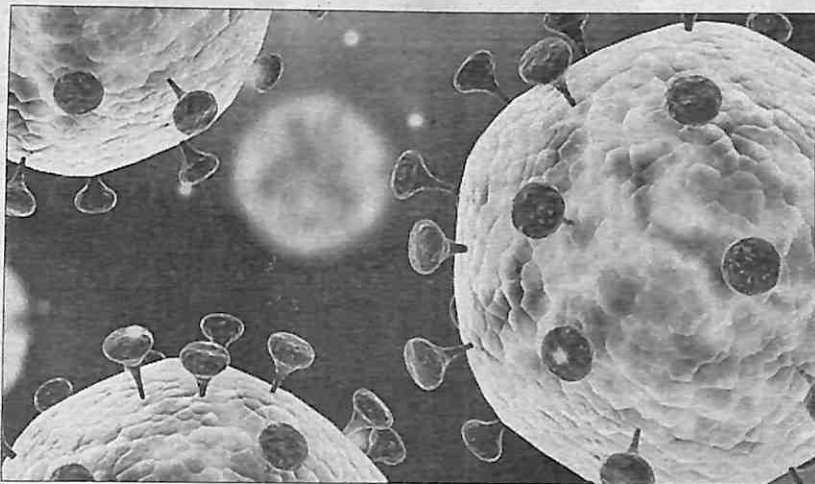
Nhlabatsi said they were aware that the virus was still in China but in some countries it had been detected, the country could not just sit and assume it would not reach the country.

The virus, which has infected almost a thousand people around the world, hundreds still mostly to be infected is said to be a mysterious new disease. Eswatini as a global community with migration of people throughout the world is within reach within a few hours, safety cannot be guaranteed. The virus which quickly reached the US but with global alertness the effected person was quickly identified.

The never-seen-before virus, detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan, has claimed almost a hundred lives and infected hundreds of Chinese citizens with a pneumonia-like illness, according to China's National Health Commission. The virus was first reported to the World Health Organisation on December 31, 2019 and has been under investigation since then. Chinese scientists have linked the disease to a family of viruses known as corona viruses, the family as the deadly SARS and MERS viruses.

Scientists have yet to fully understand how destructive the new virus known as 2019-nCoV, might be. Researchers and investigators are just beginning to

● The virus, which has infected almost a thousand people around the world, hundreds still mostly to be infected is said to be a mysterious new disease. Eswatini as a global community with migration of people throughout the world and within reach within a few hours, safety cannot be guaranteed. The virus which quickly reached the US but with global alertness the effected person was quickly identified



understand where it originated, how it's transmitted, how far it has spread and what its symptoms look like.

As of yesterday, case numbers have skyrocketed closer to 1 000 in China and abroad. Chinese authorities also confirmed that health workers had been infected with the virus, suggesting that it has achieved human-to-human transmission. As a result, authorities are taking steps to guard against its spread. The situation is rapidly evolving, Chinese authorities shared, 'we've collated everything we know about the mystery virus, what's next for researchers and some of the steps you can take to reduce your risk'.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses belong to a family of viruses known as Coronaviridae and look like spiked rings under an electron microscope. They are so named because of these spikes, which form a halo around their viral envelope.

Coronaviruses contain a strand of RNA within their envelope and cannot reproduce without getting inside living cells and hijacking the machinery found within. The spikes on their viral envelope help them bind to cells, which gives them a way in. It's like blasting the door open with C4.

Once inside they turn the cell into a virus factory, using its molecular conveyor belt to produce more viruses which are then shipped out. The virus progeny infect another cell and the cycle starts anew.

Typically, these types of viruses are found in animals ranging from livestock to household pets and wildlife such as bats. When they make the jump to humans, they can cause fever, respiratory illness and inflammation in the lungs. In immunocompromised individuals, such as the elderly or those with HIV-AIDS, such viruses can cause severe respiratory illness.

Extremely pathogenic coronaviruses were behind SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) and were

easily transmitted from human to human. SARS, which showed up in the early 2000s, infected more than 8 000 people and resulted in nearly 800 deaths. MERS, which appeared in the early 2010s, infected almost 2 500 people and led to more than 850 deaths.

Where did the virus come from?

The virus appears to have originated in the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, a Chinese city of over 11 million people about 650 miles south of Beijing. The market sells fish, as well as a panoply of other animal meats. However, it's still unknown whether it emerged from an animal species like SARS and MERS did.

Markets have been implicated in the origin and spread of viral diseases in past epidemics, and a large majority of the confirmed cases seen so far had been to the Huanan Seafood marketplace in recent weeks. The market seems like an integral piece of the puzzle, but researchers will need to conduct a range of experiments and tests to confirm the virus' origin.

"Testing of animals in the Wuhan area, including sampling from the markets, will provide more information," said Raina MacIntyre, a head of the biosecurity research program at the University of New South Wales' Kirby Institute.

On Wednesday, a report in the journal of medical virology by a team of Chinese researchers suggested snakes were the most probable wildlife animal reservoir for 2019-nCoV. The work examined the genetic code of the virus and compared it with two types of snakes, the many-banded krait and the Chinese cobra.

The research demonstrated the snakes' genetic shared the most similarity to the virus. Other animals known to be sold at the Huanan market (marmota, hedgehogs, bats and birds) were also analyzed -- but did not show the same level of genetic likeness.

Another study refuted these claims suggesting 2019-nCoV was harboured by bats.

Police remember those fallen among the ranks

Stories by Sicelo Maziya

More and more, including the security services, are turning to God for redemption in their many afflictions and tribulations, this time around the police yesterday held a prayer in remembrance of officers who died due to different reasons, including ailments and suicide.

The prayer meeting was held at the Police Academy in Matsapha. They prayed for God to take precedence in whatever they do in the line of duty. They recounted how

they endured countless challenges, such as losing officers to different ailments and to suicides, something that had just begun to rear its ugly head in the service.

One suicide was successful while another failed.

Police were under attack at one of their police stations and by grace no one was killed when the criminals opened fire.

The police academy prayer was, therefore dedicated to thank the heavens and ask God for protection as they carry on their mandate, said a communiqué from the communications desk.

...and SNAT rushes to God at start of new year

Meanwhile, Swaziland National Association of Teacher (SNAT), the union of teachers this week issued their statement and they confirmed yesterday confirmed that all roads lead to the SNAT Centre.

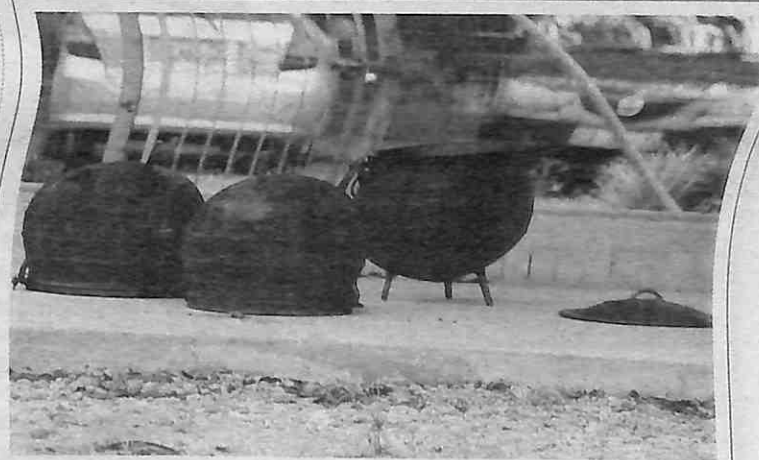
SNAT Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini said today's prayer session was nothing but asking "for God's divine intervention as they start the new year."

Dlamini confirmed that the prayer session would continue as scheduled today.

He shared that all systems were in place and their national prayer session would now act as the only key to open other doors they have failed to open.

Dlamini said they organised the prayer session because they believed anything that had been sent 'to the spiritual realm of the Lord Almighty will be answered'.

He said as per their statement, the national prayer session would start at 10am.



BOGALAZA: Huge cooking pots are already in place for catering in preparation for the official opening of Parliament which is scheduled on January 31. (Pics: Mduzuzi Mngomezulu)

Sibling plants knife into brother at drinking spree, dies

By Sicelo Maziya

Classified as one of the spine chilling incident in Mcaphozini, Lobamba, after a drinking spree a man stabbed his brother to death right in front of other patrons.

The siblings are said to have been drinking the night away with friends at Mcaphozini at different drinking homes. News of the killing quickly spread like wildfire after the brother was confirmed dead at the scene. The drinking spree is alleged to have been as a result of a small loan secured by the deceased.

It is said when the small altercation of the two brothers started, it was not thought to be so serious even

when the deceased brother decided to open his knife ready to stab his deceased brother as he never even ran away because it was not that serious.

Witnesses said the brother charged towards the deceased, who was not even running away, thinking he was just joking. He then planted the knife into his brother and watched him drop dead. Witnesses said police were called to the scene at around midnight and they retrieved the lifeless body.

Chief Police Information and Communication Officer (PICO) Superintendent Phileas Vilakati confirmed that a man from Lobamba was stabbed to death at midnight and was confirmed dead upon reaching hospital.



APPOINTS: Commissioner General LaMakhosini Phindile Dlamini making her remarks.



SPORTS: HMCS Sports and Recreation Committee.



THANKS: Green Mamba Chairperson Chief Assistant Commissioner Davies 'Puma' Zwane speaking on behalf of the new committees.

COMGEN APPOINTS NEW SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEES

The Commissioner General of His Majesty's Correctional Services, LaMakhosini Phindile Dlamini has appointed new committees to head the department's different sporting disciplines and recreation activities.

This was during an event held at the Correctional Staff College on Tuesday and the appointments were effective immediately. The event was attended by senior officers, members of the outgoing executive and other officers. Dlamini firstly announced a new Sports and Recreation Committee, which is the mother body governing all the other committees. These committees include that of Green Mamba Football Club, Green Mamba Ladies Soccer team, Netball, Volleyball, Darts, Athletics, Shooting team, Aerobics and Pool. There is also the Choir, Culture, as well as Sibhaca and Ingadla committees.

Sports and recreation activities play a huge role in the rehabilitation of inmates within the correctional services as they effect positive behavioural change and act as a unifying force amongst them. Sports also help in curbing stress, revitalise a person and improve physical fitness. Over the years, the department has worked towards the development of various sporting activities to cater for the diverse needs of offenders. Officers and inmates alike have used this



WINNERS: Green Mamba Committee.

opportunity in taking part in the different sports so as to boost their health, as well as creating a good and harmonious working environment amongst themselves and offenders.

Speaking during the event, the Commissioner General said the department was currently working on some frameworks for the different sporting codes. She then thanked the outgoing executive for the good work they have been doing over the past years. Addressing officers on the day, Dlamini explained that she regarded them as role models for the new executive. She said they had the duty to emulate the good work done by their predecessors.

Dlamini said that a new executive

had to be put in place because some of the current members had to concentrate more on office duties & some had occupied senior positions which required them to be more hands on when it comes to office work. She also urged them to make a smooth hand over and work hand in hand with the executive committee to uplift the department's sports and recreation activities.

The Commissioner General then appealed for a good working relationship from the new executive. "I am expecting to see team players and leaders through sports," she added while asking for transparency and accountability from all the committees.

The newly appointed Green Mamba Football Club Chairperson; Chief Assistant Commissioner Davies Zwane, who spoke on behalf of the newly-appointed members, thanked the Commissioner General for believing in them.

He said most people were doubtful of the fact that a woman can be a good leader even in sports. But the Commissioner General has shown that from the time she assumed office. Through her leadership, the department has been successful in different sporting and recreation activities. Zwane also said this was a good chance for the new members to show what they were capable of.

He appealed to the different sporting codes to work together and support each other.

He said as such, the Green Mamba executive committee for instance, must support the netball team during their games. This applies to all the other codes and it would garner more support for the teams during their games and activities. He then passed his vote of thanks to the outgoing executive for their good service to the department's sports and recreation activities. "These sporting disciplines wouldn't be so successful without your efforts. Please continue working with us. We would be looking up to you for guidance and advice going forward," he added.

THE SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Deputy Commissioner General Mr. Cyril Maseko
Treasurer: Senior Assistant Commissioner Ms. Zodwa Maseko
Member: Assistant Commissioner Mr. Jethro Ndzingane
PRO: Senior Superintendent Mrs. Gugulethu Dlamini
Ex-Officio Member: Senior Superintendent Mr. Dan Mavuso
Secretary: Warder Cadet Mpendulo Ngwenya

GREEN MAMBA FOOTBALL CLUB EXECUTIVE

Chairperson: Chief Assistant Commissioner Mr. Davies Zwane
Vice Chairperson: Senior Superintendent Mr. Mndeni Simelane
CEO: Senior Superintendent Mr. Mandla Sibiya
Manager: Superintendent Mr. Abraham Maseko
Vice Manager: Sergeant Bheki Nkambule
Treasurer: Sergeant Petros Fakudze
Member: Assistant Commissioner Mr. Trevor Mabuzag

GREEN MAMBA LADIES SOCCER TEAM

Chairperson: Superintendent MS. Sandzile Simelane
Manager: Warder Sicelo Mazibuko
Secretary: Wardress Nondumiso Mthembu
Treasurer: Sergeant Takhona Nxumalo

NETBALL

Chairperson: Assistant Superintendent Mr. Themba Mbui
Vice Chairperson/Secretary: Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Fakudze
Treasurer: Assistant Superintendent Ms. Jabu Tumbatsi
Manager: Sergeant Mduduzi Nhlabatsi
Vice Manager: Sergeant Sithembiso Dlamini
Member: Sergeant Mondli Mkhathshwa
Member: Wardress Khetsiwe Nongwane

VOLLEYBALL

Chairperson: Assistant Superintendent Mr. Clifford Ngomane
Secretary: Assistant Chief Officer Mbuso Vilakati
Manager/Treasurer: Warder Mathokoza Gama

DARTS

Chairperson: Assistant Superintendent Mr. Melusi Nkambule
Secretary: Chief Officer Nonduduzo Mazibuko
Treasurer: Wardress Ziyanda Shabalala

ATHLETICS

Chairperson: Superintendent Mr. Masiza Ntshangase
Secretary: Assistant Superintendent Mr. Cosmo Dlamini
Treasurer: Wardress Ngqobile Dlamini

SHOOTING TEAM

Chairperson: Superintendent Mr. Robert Gama
Secretary: Sergeant Wandile Kunene
Treasurer: Wardress Nellie Myeni

AEROBICS

Chairperson: Assistant Superintendent Ms. Nazipho Gamedze
Secretary/Instructor: Wardress Nondumiso Mthembu
Treasurer: Njabulo Dlamini
Member: Moiniseli Maduna
Member: Bongisipho Dlamini

POOL

Chairperson: Chief Officer Welcome Shongwe
Manager: Chief Officer Moses Shongwe
Secretary/Treasurer: Sergeant Mhleba Dlamini

RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE-MAIN COMMITTEE

Cultural Activities Overseer: Assistant Commissioner MS. Futhi Mhlanga
Chairperson: Assistant Superintendent Ms. Nomvula Nxumalo
Treasurer: Assistant Chief Officer Khanyisile Nzima
Secretary: Sergeant Given Mathabola
Member: Chief Officer Themba Simelane
Member: Sergeant Million Gumedze



CULTURAL: Recreation, Arts & Culture Committee.



BALL GAMES: Netball Committee.

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INSIDE:

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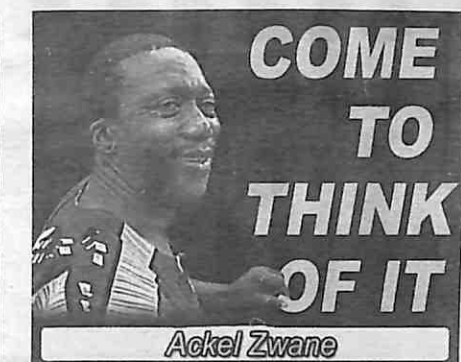
P. 25

Discipline
and business
success

P. 24

Women's,
'we need to
talk, ever
pregnant
with bad news

P. 27



Ackel Zwane
Saturday Observer Editor

IF SANELE MAY RETURNS BEHIND THE WHEEL

"...May admitted he knew his driving permit papers were not legitimate and he had misrepresented to his employer Sagekal Logistics that they were valid. It also emerged from the plea agreement, read into the record by his advocate Louis Barnard, that May had failed an initial driving test with the company two weeks prior to his employment."



There is so much hype about the release of runaway truck driver Sanele May that killed 24 people back in 2013 near Durban. May has been so celebrated that he has become a legend, a virtual hero, a household name that will remain perennial in both our archives and the back of our minds.

But at this time we should at least be parading the employer that forced May to drive a faulty truck knowing very well it did not have brakes. These are the villains who have 24 lives to their credit with of course May as the accomplice. If May returns to drive in our roads we are still yet to see how this will be. It will be because he has served his time, he has suddenly become clean of all his culpable murder or murders, it remains to be seen.

Come to think of it, if May were to take children from a kindergarten down Malagwane or Mehlabovu death traps, who would agree? Would any of us board any vehicle knowing May is behind the wheel?

May is, however, able to convert the wrath of many to sympathy because his victims' relatives sided with him, saying there was nothing he could have done after the employer made him drive an unroadworthy vehicle. Intriguingly on his maiden assignment boom! 24 lives gone. His articulated truck raked a car before ramming into four fully laden kombis. The aftermath was a bloodbath of bleeding human bodies and flattened vehicles. One relative of a deceased victim Steven Mokautle was quoted saying "my heart is also sore for him (May). The company that employed him should be punished, not the driver." His mother perished in one of the kombis.

Thembisa Nompula lost her sister Nombifuthi. "But we can't blame the driver. Everyone needs a job and he was in a difficult position. I don't think he could have told his boss he doesn't want to drive an unroadworthy truck." Joseph Dlamini's brothers – Sibonelo, 30, and Simon, 25 – died instantly. "Nothing can bring them back but I want answers from the truck company. They let this happen." Dlamini said the growing support and sympathy for May on social networks were justified. "I feel sorry for him. He didn't do this deliberately. We will hear his side in court but when will we hear the company's side?"

May survived the cruel charge of murder of the 24 and had the counts changed to 24 culpable homicide charges. He got 15 years plus a year for an immigration misdemeanor and four traffic related offences. "The effective sentence is one of eight years and 10 months. With good behaviour that could be reduced by a third or more," said Judge Kate Pillay, when sentencing May, adding that she believed May

was remorseful and had "demonstrated contrition for his actions."

May admitted he knew his driving permit papers were not legitimate and he had misrepresented to his employer Sagekal Logistics that they were valid. It also emerged from the plea agreement, read into the record by his advocate Louis Barnard, that May had failed an initial driving test with the company two weeks prior to his employment. Here is a fake driver who presents to his employer false driver's licences and also a person who failed his first test, making us to sympathise with him because of the river of tears that flowed in court for the admiration of both judges and the gallery.

Donations

There is also something that softens the public heart, the social media campaign that has managed to attract loads of donations for May; I did not hear of a similar campaign for May's victims. May's friends mobilized lots of money for him and his bills and probably for a not so harsh return back at Mahlalini.

Having entered into a plea agreement with the state, Gregory Govender, the owner of Sagekal Logistics, got away with E25 000 fine.

On the exact opposite end of the stick is Sagekal Logistics, the transport company that trusted quack driver May that he would check the vehicle before driving off and plunging it into 24 innocent lives, taking them with the truck.

However, two years after the Sanele May tragic drama debtors of Sagekal Logistics obtained a E1 million judgment against the transport company to have its assets auctioned to pay debt owed to Wozani Berg Gasoline, a South Coast company.

Buy after all has been said and done May has served his time and therefore must find peace

with himself. Six years after the ploughing into a crowd of loved ones, relatives of the 24 dead might have found closure by this time. But it would be ridiculous to get May back behind the wheel and hitting it to the car on road before the road safety authorities are certain that he is safe and clean to drive. We have witnessed many accidents resulting not just from faulty vehicles but from inexperienced drivers who misrepresent themselves all in the name of struggling to find employment and take care of their families. The expense however is diametrically costly in that it is possible to kill 24 people on the same day because the driver has not passed any test and is not licenced at all, if anything he/she uses fake papers. Because of high levels of corruption-

tion in Eswatini it is easy to obtain a driver's licence, as easy as getting a loaf of bread over the counter. The ease with which people are able to obtain vehicles from the floods of scrap metals from Asia, this contributes immensely to the causes of road accidents. There is no need to persecute May because the courts found him guilty and sentenced him both for the death of the 24 people and for wrong papers. Now it is probably to take a leaf from his book of errors and protect the public from drivers of his league.





Dealing with Diabetes

WITH: Nomalungelo Ginindza

Diabetes
Eswatini PR

QUOTE

Issues like obesity do, as you well know, have a knock-on effect to diabetes. So we all are better off if we invest early in prevention.

- Jacinda Ardern

FOR CORRESPONDENCE, CONTACT;
e-mail us on: diabetesswaziland@gmail.com
CELL: 7607 1889 TEL: 2505 3487

Sometimes it can be hard to relate to your teenager. You might be worried they won't look after their diabetes as well as you do, which could make them unwell both in the short and long term.

If your child has just been diagnosed, your worries could be different: you'll both be learning about diabetes and you may feel guilty that you don't know everything in order to help.

But there are no hard or fast rules when it comes to bringing up a teenager with diabetes – regardless of how long they have been diagnosed. Diabetes doesn't mean your child can't behave like any other teenager. But there are some extra things to consider. If you want to get this message through, good communication is vital:

Pick your time

There's no point trying to have a conversation with your teen when one of you is rushing off somewhere. Make sure you've got the time to talk about things fully – it's really hard to stop and start this kind of conversation.

Pick your moods

Trying to talk to your teen about alcohol when you're cross with them for coming in drunk just isn't going to work. Wait until you're calm and can discuss things rationally. Likewise, don't try and approach your teen when they're in a mood. They're not going to be open to discussion or compromise.

Pick your argument

According to American Diabetes Association, a great tirade about everything your teen's doing 'wrong' is unlikely to make them change. If you're worried about a lot of aspects of their behaviour, it might be worth discussing the ones you're most concerned about first, and coming back to others at a later date.

Pick your approach

Sitting your teen down to a face-to-face conversation might be so daunting for them that they clam up and don't give you honest answers. Try bringing things up gently when you're doing something together, e.g. going for a walk or cooking a meal. This can be particularly useful if you're talking about those embarrassing things like sex and contraception. It can be easier for your teen to open up when they don't have to look you in the face.

Pick your allies

It might feel hurtful, but sometimes you're not the best person to talk to your teen. They might feel more comfortable with a favourite aunt, uncle or family friend. If you go for this approach, make sure you're all clear on what information is shared with who, so you don't feel left out of the discussion, but your teen doesn't feel there's been any 'tale telling'.

Pick your resources

Make sure you've got more information that you can give to your teen, e.g. if you're going to talk about sex, have information on contraception handy, or look it up on an appropriate website.

Until recently almost all children and teenagers with diabetes had type 1, but now younger people are getting type 2 diabetes due to the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity.

Children or teenagers who have recently been diagnosed with diabetes may struggle with their emotional reactions to their condition and the reactions of others, and may have concerns about going back to school.

Diabetes and teenagers



A child and their family will need a period of adjustment after diabetes is diagnosed. They must establish a routine for blood glucose monitoring and insulin injecting, learn how to count carbohydrates, see diabetes health professionals regularly and cope with fluctuating blood glucose levels. New challenges may arise as a child moves through different life stages.

Reactions to a diagnosis of diabetes

A child or teenager newly diagnosed with diabetes will have a range of reactions and emotions. Common reactions experienced by children and their parents include shock, denial, anger, sadness, fear and guilt. These feelings usually subside with time and appropriate support.

Common responses to a diagnosis of diabetes include:

- anxiety about the condition
- fear of needles and multiple injections
- a feeling of being overwhelmed by injecting and other tasks that need to be performed daily
- frustration over fluctuating blood glucose levels
- feeling 'different'
- fear of experiencing hypoglycemia (low blood glucose – potential symptoms include dizziness and fainting) in public
- embarrassment about their diabetes and their friends' possible negative reactions
- Difficulty coping with the emotional reaction of family members.

The period immediately after being diagnosed with diabetes can be challenging. Emotional support offered by friends, family and the diabetes healthcare team can be very helpful during this time and can improve the way children or teenagers cope with their diabetes.

Children and teenagers coping with diabetes

Living with and managing diabetes every day can be a struggle. Children are commonly concerned about:

- feeling like they are a burden on the family

- being treated differently or delicately, as if they are 'sick'

- coping with constant parental questions about their diet, how they are feeling and whether or not they have taken their insulin

Getting extra attention from parents or others, which may cause jealousy among other siblings. It's normal for children or adolescents to feel sad, angry and fed up with their diabetes at times. After all, diabetes is a lifelong condition and there is currently no cure, so the tasks and skills needed to manage it must be continued over a lifetime. If children struggle with their diabetes management due to feeling depressed, anxious or overwhelmed, it is important to seek help from their diabetes healthcare team. A social worker or psychologist can help. In some cases, the involvement of a psychiatrist may be necessary.

Diabetes and school

Many parents are understandably concerned when their child starts or returns to school after being diagnosed with diabetes. However, schools are responsible for all children's safety while at school, and should ensure that relevant teachers and school staff understand diabetes and what needs to take place to support the child with diabetes during the school day (including extracurricular activities).

Parents must make sure that the school is given appropriate information and resources needed to support their child's management of diabetes during school hours and activities.

Some important points (especially for parents of children with diabetes) about management of diabetes at school are:

- A school must have a medical conditions policy in place.
- A school must be provided with a diabetes management and action plan developed by your child's diabetes educator. The plan must clearly outline the details of your child's diabetes management during school hours. The plan should include management of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, exercise, dietary needs, your child's insulin regimen and emergency contact details.

- Separate and distinct management or action plans need to be developed for school camps. Parents should request these from your child's diabetes educator well ahead of time.

- Excursions during a normal school day but off-campus should use the action and management plans relevant for the school day. It is important to make sure all necessary diabetes care supplies are taken on the excursion with your child.

- Consider using a 'communication book' or other method to inform your child's teacher of any important diabetes-related issues. The teacher can also use the book to report any diabetes-related concerns or occurrences back to the child's family or carer.

- Inform your child's physical education (PE) teacher about diabetes. Physical activity can cause a drop in blood glucose levels, and it is important that the teacher can recognise and treat hypoglycemia.

- Encourage your child to tell their friends (at least, their best friends) about diabetes.

Reducing risk for teenagers with diabetes

Encourage your child to avoid alcohol or drink it only in moderation. If your child is going to drink alcohol, suggest that they:

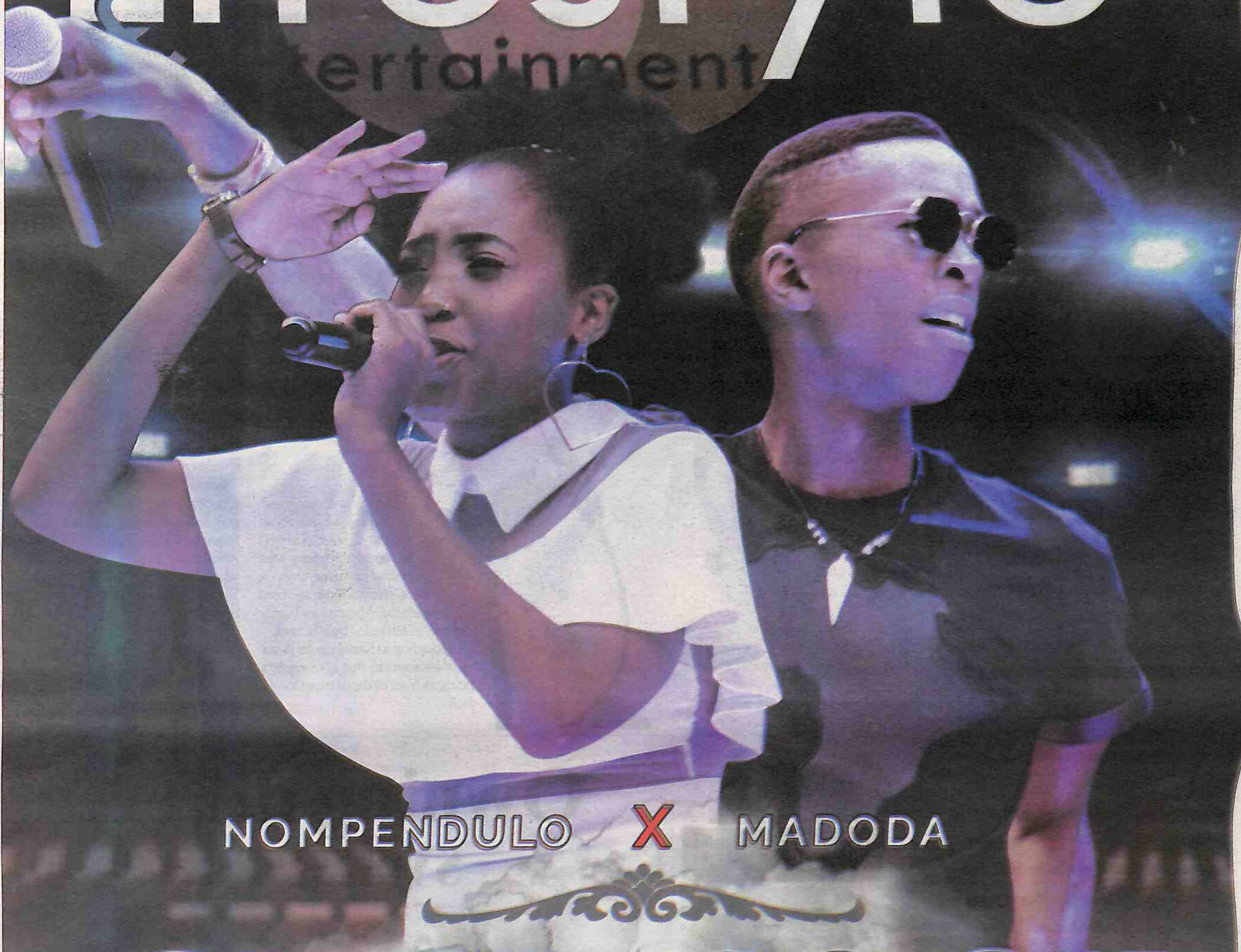
- be with someone who knows they have diabetes, and understands the signs of hypoglycemia and how to treat it
- eat some carbohydrate food before drinking alcohol and every couple of hours while they are out, then before going to sleep
- alternate between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- choose low-alcohol drinks in preference to those with low carbohydrates
- carry hypoglycemia treatment and testing supplies at all times
- check blood glucose levels, especially before bed, and continue to monitor them the next day to detect hypoglycemia

Discuss risk reduction with their doctor or diabetes educator beforehand in regards to insulin adjustment, especially if they are likely to undertake a lot of physical activity, such as dancing.

Lifestyle

entertainment

Issue # 271



NOMPENDULO X MADODA

SIBLINGS ON THE RISE

MONGEZI'S
WORLD OF OPERA

PAGES 2-3

SUB EDITOR: Mbonisi Ngcamphalala

WRITERS: Setsabile Nkambule, Nokwanda Sibandze

E-MAIL: entertainment@observer.org.za



WRITER'S NOTE

WITH NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

As we approach the end of January we continue to celebrate local talent and entertainment.

Life and Entertainment continues to serve you with everything entertainment and with that said, let's get into it.

On pages 2-3, we have a vibrant young and upcoming artist who goes by the name Mongezi Simelane.

Opera singer shares his experiences and how he started singing at a very young age. Read through and get to know him and what he does better. On L&E guide, we give you the lowdown on her your life on track. While on Try the trend, you will find the perfect way to choose the right swimwear for this swimming season. Read through and get tips and tricks on how to find the right cut, shape and colour for you and maybe someone you know. On pages 4-5 we talk to one of kind siblings who are both pursuing music careers. Madoda and Nompandulo Nsibandze made their debut on The Spotlight competition where they both made an impression. The siblings made as far as the finals and believe it or not are still working towards their dreams. With almost similar goals, they talk about how lucky they are to have each other as they both go for what they love. The two also share their experiences, now being in the music industry of Eswatini. They admit that having each other as competition was healthy and helped them in building and growing each other. Read through and get to know the two better and we are sure you will be inspired by their story. We hope that you will enjoy this issue and be inspired by the young people featured this week.

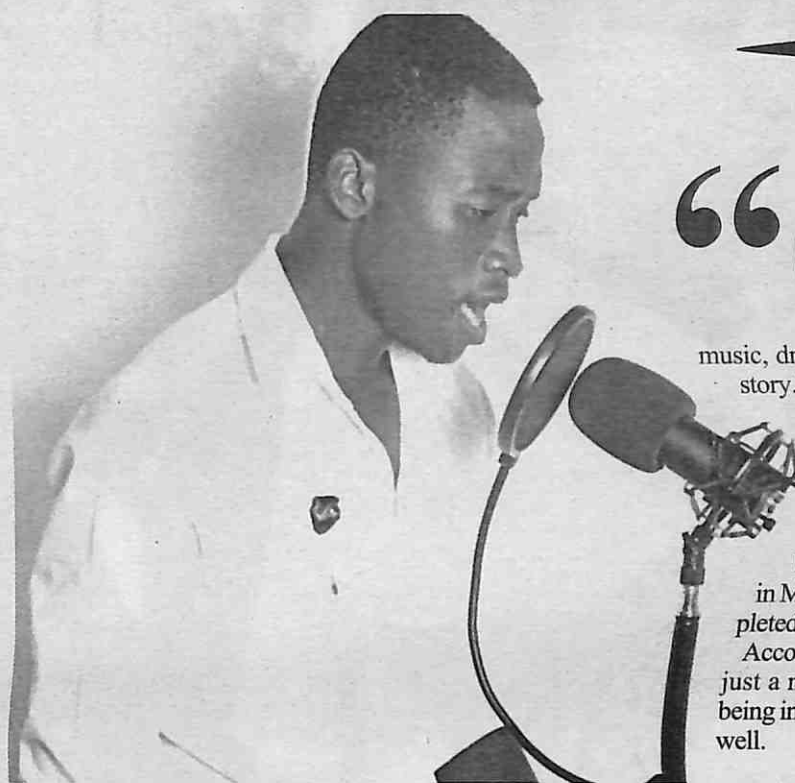
Till next week it was, enjoy and do not forget to follow our social media pages.

Enjoy!

YOUNG & UPCOMING

MONGEZI

IN A WORLD OF OPERA



“Opera is the ultimate art form. It has singing music, drama, dance, emotion and story.”

In today's Young and Upcoming we talk about Opera Tenor Soloist Mongezi Simelane who goes by the name 'Poco A Poco'. He was born and bred in Madonsa, Manzini and completed at Hillside High School.

According to Simelane he is not just a musician but also enjoys being in front of the camera too as well.

“All thanks to Ikhayaletu Production headed by CeCeboy Photography, Vincent Vilakati who always makes sure I look extra good on my snaps,” he says.

His love of music began in primary school while doing his Grade Six at Kwaluseni Central Primary in Matsapha.

“Mr Howard Mbingo spotted as the school was the talent while doing random auditions in our class having Choral Music activity for the first time ever. And carried in to Hillside High School where Mr Mangaliso Mamba and Mr Wandile Dlamini further nurtured this talent to greater heights,” he says.

Simelane began singing in solo competitions in 2013 in Form Two in the same year he was approached to sing at Harmonious Chorus Choir and was there as an Alto singer.

Try the trend

It's swimming season and what's better than owning a beautiful body-clinging swimsuit; and not only one, yes it is very in style to own a number of different swimwear.

It also helps with the pictures.

A good bathing suit feels just like love at first sight, and we couldn't agree more. However, when it comes to finding a swimsuit, there are just so many options out there that it can be difficult to know what to look for and how to decide which is the right one for you.

With pools all around the country, it is imperative to have different swimsuits.

There are a couple of things to look out for when choosing swimwear. According to Teen Vogue, these are things to look out for when buying swimwear.

FIT

First and foremost, always try the bathing suit on first before buying, if you can because sometimes it looks better on the hanger than on your body. Here's but one non-negotiable consider-

ation when it comes to swimwear: don't even think about buying a swimsuit if it doesn't fit or can't be altered. If it's not working for you, move on.

Owning different swimwear



CONFIDENCE AND PURPOSE

Another major factor is confidence as it's impor-



He says this was the best for two years of his life as he then joined the Mighty Royal Eswatini Police to date where he still being nurtured as their tenor soloist and Tutti.

Music has taken a major part of Simelane's life in terms of music he has a lot going on in his life. He says he is a classical/pop/opera performer as a with The Alma Tenors a group which started in 2014. He says he currently performs at weddings, parties, and formal to informal functions.

"I'm also with the newly formed Sesory Academy headed by the beautiful South Korean Dahyun Sarah Suk, have had a number of performances alongside her as a duet. You can find us at Two Sticks with friends Zibuke Matimela who sings bass, Lindokuhle Mdluli who sings tenor and with Bheki Sydney Manana," he says.

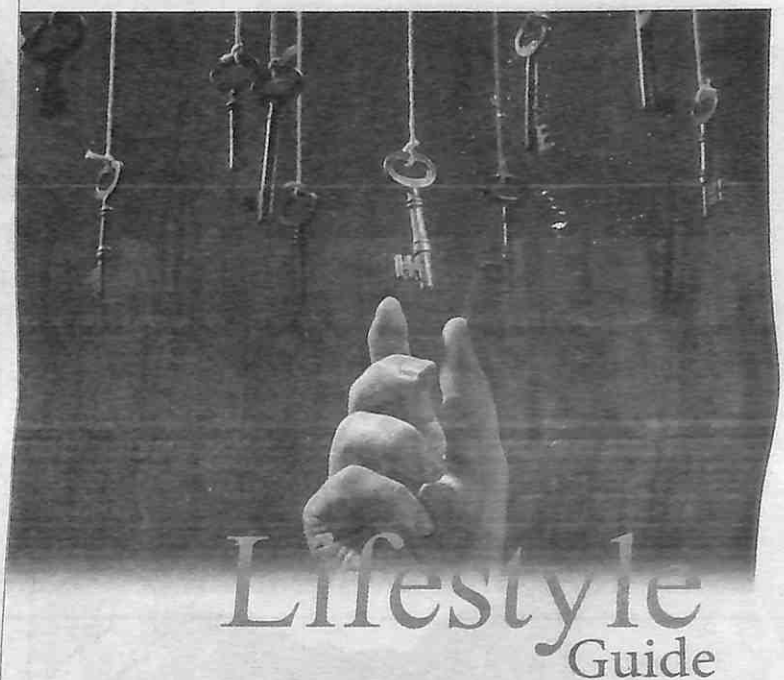
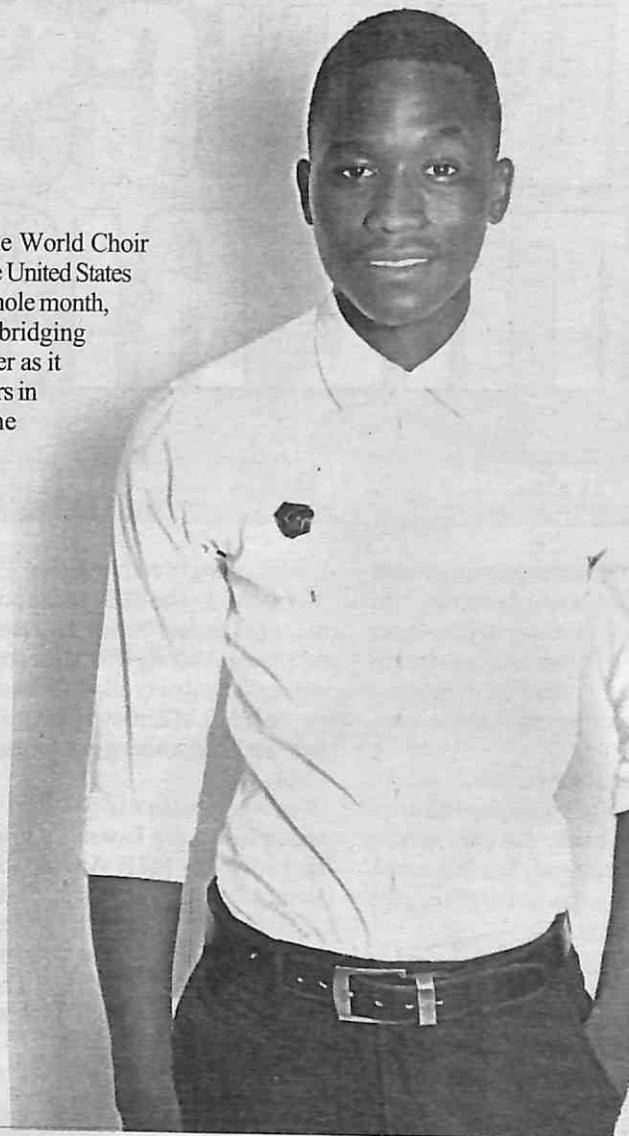
For the future the opera singer has a lot planned. He says as music is his passion, he wants to be the best in my field he says he intend to study music.

"I am focussing more on it and having being invited to come take part and

perform during The World Choir Camp in April in the United States which lasts for a whole month, I find it is a great bridging course for my career as it will open great doors in American side," he says

Simelane says he wants to teach Emaswati on the importance of opera music and studying music as like anything one is passionate about, one has to study for it.

By Setsabile Nkambule



HOW TO STICK TO YOUR DECISION

It is really funny how most people cannot stick to their decisions. You would be surprised to learn about the number of people that fail to see through anything they decide on.

I am hundred per cent one of those, but if you are too, then this guide is definitely for you. First and foremost it is important to make reasonable decisions. For instance, something everyone makes every year, New Year Resolutions. You should ensure that you can meet your goal, and do not rush to meet the goal but take your time to ensure you execute it perfectly.

It is also important to write down your decision on a paper and place it where you will see it every day in that way you will be reminded about what you want to achieve. But here are detailed steps to help you stick to your decisions.

MAKE A STEP-BY-STEP PLAN

Write down a list of specific action steps you can take to follow through on your decision. Then make a timeframe for when you'll take each step.

For instance, if you've decided to go back to college, your action steps might include finishing your application and sending your transcripts by the application deadline.

ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS

Get rid of things that interfere with your follow-through. If you know that certain things tend to distract or tempt you, get rid of them. Replace them with things that will help you stick to your decision.

For example, if you have set a goal to complete your homework everyday, prioritise doing your

homework as soon as you get home. To prevent distraction, place items like your PlayStation, tablet, or phone out of sight. Designate a space for completing your homework and be sure that you have all of your supplies to make getting homework done a success by keeping only your textbooks, pencils, and notebooks on your desk.

EAT AT REGULAR INTERVALS

Keep your blood sugar and energy levels steady by eating healthy meals and snacks throughout the day. Choose foods that provide a slow release of energy, like whole grains.

Some researchers think that willpower uses up glucose. This could explain why people make more questionable decisions when they're hungry.

Snacks are a great way to keep energy up between meals. Go for healthy but convenient choices like apples, cheese sticks, or a handful of nuts.

GET ENOUGH REST

It's harder to stick to a course of action when you're tired, overworked, and grouchy. Avoid this by getting enough sleep and pacing yourself as you work. Aim to get seven to nine hours of sleep every night, and take short breaks at regular intervals during the day.

Practice good sleep hygiene by shutting down electronics at least an hour before bed. Do something relaxing, like taking a warm bath or shower or listening to soothing music. Shut off all the lights in your room and lower the temperature to sleep most comfortably.

By Nokwanda Sibandze
(additional information from Wiki How)



QUALITY AND PRICE

You want to make sure your bikini holds up to washing for more than a couple of uses in the ocean or pool. A

friend of mine after purchasing a few costumes simply because they looked cute, she found that they broke or tore very easily and weren't made to last. Though, when it comes to price, she buys what she can afford. "Don't break the bank to buy a cute bikini."

By Nokwanda Sibandze

tant to pay attention to how you feel when you try a bathing suit on. You know when a bikini is right because it catches your eye right away, you can look in the mirror and feel confident and happy in it.

COVER ISSUE 271



SIBLINGS ON THE RISE

Nompumelelo X Madoda



You have obviously heard about them, they took the country by storm when they both entered one of the biggest talent search competitions in the country.

Madoda and Nompundulo Nsibandze were definitely a great fit to the competition. Not only did they make it through to the finals but left a mark and are still going strong even after the competition.

The siblings both auditioned in Manzini and they were among the first group to audition for The Spotlight. Throughout the competition they both

showed strength and resilience.

Nompendulo was the sweet but powerful singer and her brother the charmer and lyricist. Making it far in the competition did not only allow the two to win the hearts of Eswatini but it also made them bag amazing gigs for themselves.

The two have not only joined the winner Nsika and Eswatini's rapper Illa Penboy as MTN Ambassadors but they have also been signed under one of music stables in the country.

We caught up with the siblings to find out more about them and where they see themselves in the industry.



● The siblings both auditioned in Manzini and they were among the first group to audition for The Spotlight. Throughout the competition they both showed strength and resilience. Nompendulo was the sweet but powerful singer and her brother the charmer and lyricist.





"I would be definitely dropping a single soon and there may just be an album sometime later in the year. Maximizing on performances and give people the chance to get to know Aliah."

THE WORLD'S FIREBALL-NOMPENDULO

Being the younger sibling Nompendolo also known as Aliah, has everything one needs to be a superstar. She won the judges and fans hearts with her style of clothing and of course her voice.

After the competition, she says the journey has been somewhat overwhelming and exciting, a bitter sweet experience.

Now being in the industry, she believes everything she thought the industry would be was indeed true. "Most of my expectations of the industry have been spot on so far. One thing I did notice is Spotlight was like the Grade Seven of life and life after the competition is like being in Form One, at the bottom of the food chain and only hard work and time will determine whether you make it to the top or not, she said.

With everything she has learnt, Nompendolo says her goal is to become an international household name and a force to be reckoned with, through the music she makes.

She says pursuing the same career as her brother feels very normal.

"It feels like every other day of our lives. It definitely feels good to be doing something like this with a best friend. There's also healthy pressure going on, seeing what he does pushes me to do better," she said.

She says they help each other by giving positive criticism where it's due,

motivating each other when one feels low and throwing in a bit of pressure just for that little push in the right direction.

So far the industry has been treating her very well as she admitted to having not had any challenges so far. However she says the only thing she has felt was just pressure and nothing else but pressure.

With the industry just putting pressure on her, Nompendolo is definitely ready for the world. She says she would be dropping a single soon.

"I will be definitely be dropping a single soon and there may just be an album sometime later in the year.

Maximising on performances and give people the chance to get to know Aliah," she said. She added one stage she would like to perform on in the country is on the MTN Bushfire stage while internationally, she would definitely go for Coachella.

"I aspire to be one of the greatest performers and music makers there have ever been in the country, potentially out of the continent even. And as I've mentioned earlier, being an international household name is what it's all about," she added.



Giving the world 'Oxygen'

Mr Oxygen, says the journey since the competition has been something he has been looking forward to.

"As a performer, I would love to work more on my craft so that I bring the best of Oxygen to the people each time I'm given the opportunities, of course," he says.

One of his goals is to be a life changing artist with his music and performances. He says he also wants to inspire people, young and old, that they can do what they set their minds to and become the best at what they do.

Being with his sister in the industry is interesting for Madoda. "To have grown up together in a musical family, it's always been about how we can help each other be better. So now that we are here, I'm proud of us both that we have grown into the artists we are today.

Obviously there's some ways to go but it's fun for me," he says.

"During the competition, we would help each other to pin-point what we could improve in our craft. We apply that even now. Where we can help each other, we do exactly that. It's not a competition between us and working together beats working alone or against each other."

However, unlike his sister Madoda has faced a few challenges in the industry. "The challenges are just balancing time for different things. I always need to be away from home because there's always work that needs to be done. It's good and I enjoy it."

His 2020 plans are to get better at what he does, constantly. They also include growth which he deems as important when one is an artist. "Without that, people will get bored quickly. So, good music, great live experiences and Monday Night Thoughts are just some of the things I have planned."

He says going in, he expected the industry to be full of opportunities and without judgement. "So far, it has been that personally. I always have it in my mind that if I can be part of an industry that is better for the listeners, the creatives and everybody involved, I would be very happy and it would be an achievement."

His goal is not too different from his sister's as he also wants to be one of the best exports from Eswatini to the world.

"It would be amazing to represent the country like that," he closed.

By Nokwanda Sibandze

Lifestyle

Celebville

ZAHARA THRILLED BY
'SONGSTRESSES WITH
GUITARS' CONCERT

1 **J**OHANNESBURG - Sensational local female guitarists will team up in celebrating African women through music. Songstress Zahara, Msaki and Berita will share the stage for the first time at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park in Johannesburg on February 15. Zahara who signed a resident deal with Emperors Palace last year is looking forward to the "night of the girls". Born Bulelwa Mkutukana, Zahara believes the concert will encourage female musicians in general to support and love each other. "I look forward to sharing the stage with both Msaki and Berita. I have absolute respect for them and regard them as my little sisters."

"This is just a celebration of music with guitar girls. We are just going to have fun while entertaining the audience."

The award-winning music star who broke into the music scene with her timeless anthem Loliwe explained that the upcoming performance was not part of her residency that she has with the entertainment place. "This is just a performance and it is not part of my residency. My residency which will feature many artists will start officially in April." Msaki has established herself as the voice of the current generation, and her composing abilities shines in hits like *Imfama Ziyabona*, *Ungazilibali* and *Nal'ithemba* among others.

Sowetan



WENDY WILLIAMS DIDN'T BREAK GIRL CODE WITH NENE

3 **A**TLANTA - Wendy Williams says she didn't violate girl code by sharing NeNe Leake's plans to leave 'Real Housewives' and says she's sitting on an even bigger NeNe bombshell.

As you know, Wendy is getting tons of backlash for sharing on her talk show NeNe's private texts talking about bolting from 'RHOA.' NeNe even chided Wendy for blabbing.

However, after Nene aired her feelings on Twitter our sources say she and Wendy spoke about what happened.

The ladies chopped it up about Wendy's TV segment and came to an agreement which is that NeNe's most



important secret remained under wraps. So, bottom line is they're still the closest of friends. Our sources say Wendy felt, and convinced NeNe, the 'Housewives' news was hardly a big cup o' tea to spill. As for that "HUGE

weight" on NeNe's shoulders to which Wendy referred on her show? We're told WW is taking a vow of silence on that one until NeNe's ready to reveal that. In other words Wendy can follow girl code. **TMZ**

Juice WRLD died from accidental OD of Oxycodone, Codeine

4 **H**OLLYWOOD - Juice WRLD died from an accidental overdose according to the Cook County Medical Examiner.

The M.E.'s office says it found oxycodone and codeine in his system and determined he died from toxic levels of those drugs.

TMZ broke the story that Juice WRLD died in early December following a drug bust at Midway Airport in Chicago. Witnesses believed the rapper had swallowed a bunch of Percocet pills in an attempt to hide them from the feds. He ultimately suffered seizures, which proved fatal.

We should note oxycodone is the main active ingredient in Percocet. Juice often rapped and talked about abusing lean aka codeine cough syrup.



So, the presence of codeine in his system adds up.

As we reported, after Juice WRLD's death his mother, Carmella Wallace, told us her son had "battled with prescription drug dependency." She told us her hope was that Juice's openness

about his struggles would help others dealing with the same issues.

The feds also found 70 pounds of weed in multiple vacuum-sealed bags inside luggage from the private jet. But, as we reported ... it doesn't appear anyone will be charged for the weed. **TMZ**

Yvonne Chaka Chaka's backing vocalists awards make a return

2 **J**OHANNESBURG - The BVSM (Backing Vocalists and Session Musicians) awards founded by Yvonne Chaka Chaka are making a comeback for a third installment after hitting a snag last year. The awards that shine the spotlight on backing vocalists and session musicians, who have for a long time been cast aside, will be staged on March 15 at the Soweto Theatre in Jabulani, Soweto.

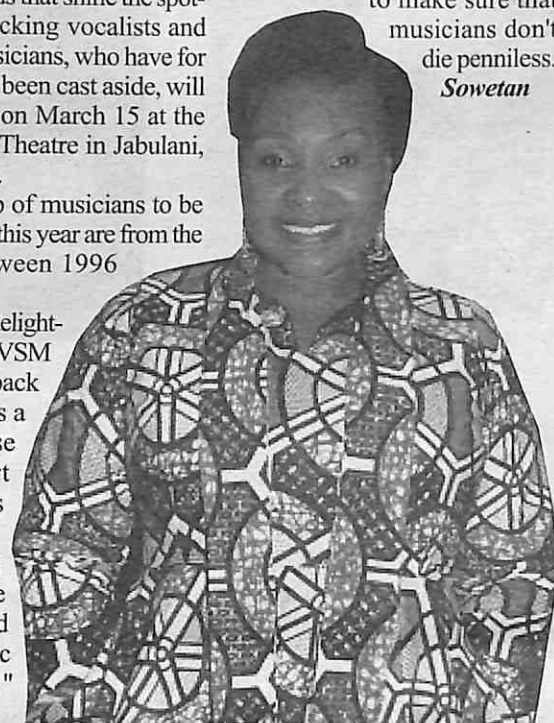
A crop of musicians to be honoured this year are from the period between 1996 and 2000.

"I'm truly delighted that the BVSM awards are back this year. It's a project close to my heart because it's rooting for the underdog and often the marginalised in the music industry,"

Chaka Chaka said.

The winners this year will receive R5 000 cash. An additional R20 000 will be deposited in an endowment policy that the winner can only cash in no less than five years. This is done in an effort to make sure that musicians don't die penniless.

Sowetan



Run, Kwaito! 'Skeem Saam's' Glenda is in town, visiting your parents

5 **J**OHANNESBURG - Twitter almost became one big Glenda stan account on Monday after sis made a return to popular SABC1 soapie Skeem Saam.

Kwaito must have thought he had left his ex in 2019, but the ghost of relationships past came back to haunt him this week when Glenda came to visit his parents.

Of course, his parents were happy to see her. In fact, Ma Ntuli was over the moon.

Remember how the streets wanted to call Uyajola's Jub Jub to sort out Kwaito when he cheated on Glenda last year? Remember how Glenda turned down a huge international scholarship just so she could be closer to Kwaito, only to find out dude was also dating his "friend", Lizzy?

Well, karma was staring him straight in the eyes.

While Kwaito was sweating at the meeting, Glenda was glowing real bright and leaving everyone blinded with her beauty.

Over on social media, the streets were deep in their feels, with some predicting flames and others praying for Kwaito.

Actress Nozipho Langa has a warning for anyone trying to break into the industry: talent alone won't get you anywhere.

The star, who plays the role of Glenda on popular soapie Skeem Saam told TshisaLIVE that she has seen how many aspiring performers fall flat because they didn't put in the hardwork or have enough knowledge about the industry.

"There is only so much you can do without an education of how things work. You need to have knowledge behind that and work hard. Talent will only get you so far. The things that works for me is prayer and planning.

It is also broadening your knowledge in everything you do and putting yourself out there."

Times Live



Movie watch



SPIES IN DISGUISE

PG | 1H 53MIN | ANIMATION, ACTION, ADVENTURE
When the world's best spy is turned into a pigeon, he must rely on his nerdy tech officer to save the world.
DIRECTOR: Nick Bruno, Troy Quane
WRITER: Brad Copeland (screenplay by), Lloyd Taylor (screenplay by)
STARS: Karen Gillan, Rachel Brosnahan, Will Smith

QUEEN & SLIM (2019)

R | 2H 12MIN | DRAMA | 27 NOVEMBER 2019
A couple's first date takes an unexpected turn when a police officer pulls them over.
DIRECTOR: Melina Matsoukas
WRITERS: Lena Waithe (screenplay by), James Frey (story by)
STARS: Daniel Kaluuya, Jodie Turner-Smith, Bokeem Woodbine

BIRDS OF PREY (2020)

R | 1H 49MIN | ACTION, ADVENTURE, CRIME | 7 FEBRUARY 2020 (USA)
After splitting with the Joker, Harley Quinn joins superheroes Black Canary, Huntress and Renee Montoya to save a young girl from an evil crime lord.
DIRECTOR: Cathy Yan
WRITER: Christina Hodson
STARS: Margot Robbie, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Jurnee Smollett-Bell

TV Shows (Series)



'NEXT IN FASHION'

PREMIERE DATE: JANUARY 29

Project Runway fans, this is likely going to be your next big obsession. The competition series features 18 designers who face off in various fashion challenges in hopes of impressing judges Elizabeth Stewart, Eva Chen, and others. Even better, *Queer Eye's* Tan France and world-renowned model Alexa Chung co-host the new show.



'HOLLYWOOD'

PREMIERE DATE: TBA (SOMETIME IN MAY)

Glee co-creator Ryan Murphy described *Hollywood* as "a love letter to the golden age of Tinseltown" set in the 1940s—in other words, think Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne, Jean Harlow, Lucille Ball, and Vivien Leigh. While not a ton is known about the plot at this point, we do know that the show has cast Darren Criss as the leading man, as well as Jeremy Pope and David Corenswet. Per what Ryan told *The Hollywood Reporter*, the series looks at "Hollywood and the sex industry, and how absolutely everything has changed and nothing has changed."



'THE EDDY'

PREMIERE DATE: TBA

With Academy Award-winning *La La Land* director Damien Chazelle at the helm, you know it's going to be good... especially if you're a fan of musicals. The contemporary drama takes place in a Paris club and centers around Elliot Udo (André Holland), a jazz pianist from New York City who is forced to grow up when his 15-year-old daughter shows up to his club unannounced.

Book Review



DEAR EDWARD

BY ANN NAPOLITANO

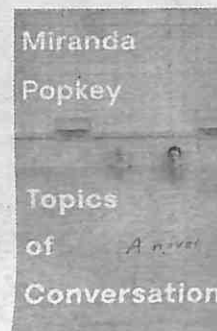
In Ann Napolitano's *Dear Edward*, a 12-year-old boy is the sole survivor of a plane crash and must put the pieces of his life back together while dealing with media fascination and overwhelming fame. Napolitano weaves Edward's devastating post-crash experience with heart-pounding chapters set during the final hours and minutes of the flight. Though there's so much tragedy and loss in this novel, there is also a lot of hope.



FOLLOWERS

BY MEGAN ANGELO

Debut author Megan Angelo skewers social media and celebrity culture in her debut dystopian novel, *Followers*. In alternating chapters, we follow New York City celebrity blogger Orla in 2015 as she conspires to make her roommate Floss famous—and enjoy the perks that go along with that. In 2051, Marlow is a government-controlled celebrity who lives her life for public consumption and corporate sponsorship. How these women are connected will keep you completely enraptured from start to finish. This is sure to be one of the biggest books of the winter.



TOPICS OF CONVERSATION

BY MIRANDA POPKEY

In this perceptive, biting debut novel that's perfect for Sally Rooney fans, readers follow an unnamed narrator over two decades of her life via conversations she has with other women about desire, relationships, sex, and motherhood. There's much to relate to and dogear in this slim book.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Dua Lipa - Don't Start Now

[Intro]

If you don't wanna see me

[Verse 1]

Did a full 180, crazy
Thinking 'bout the way I was
Did the heartbreak change me? Maybe
But look at where I ended up
I'm all good already
So moved on, it's scary
I'm not where you left me at all, so

[Pre-Chorus]

If you don't wanna see me dancing with somebody
If you wanna believe that anything could stop me

[Chorus]

Don't show up, don't come out
Don't start caring about me now
Walk away, you know how
Don't start caring about me now

[Verse 2]

Aren't you the guy who tried to
Hurt me with the word "goodbye"?
Though it took some time to survive you
I'm better on the other side
I'm all good already
So moved on, it's scary
I'm not where you left me at all, so

[Pre-Chorus]

If you don't wanna see me dancing with somebody
If you wanna believe that anything could stop me
(Don't, don't, don't)

[Chorus]

Don't show up, don't come out
Don't start caring about me now
Walk away, you know how
Don't start caring about me now ('Bout me now, 'bout me)

[Bridge]

Up, up
Don't come out, out, out
Don't show up, up, up
Don't start now (Oh)
Up, up
Don't come out, out
I'm not where you left me at all, so

[Pre-Chorus]

If you don't wanna see me dancing with somebody
If you wanna believe that anything could stop me

[Chorus]

Don't show up (Don't show up), don't come out (Don't come out)
Don't start caring about me now ('Bout me now)
Walk away (Walk away), you know how (You know how)
Don't start caring about me now (So)

[Outro]

Up, up
Don't come out, out, out
Don't show up, up, up
Walk away, walk away (So)
Up, up
Don't come out, out, out
Don't show up, up, up
Walk away, walk away, oh

GREAT AMADODANA GOSPEL FESTIVAL

@ ALL NATIONS CHURCH



The Great Amadodana choir performing during their gospel music festival at All Nations Christian Church in Ezulwini recently. The festival was attended by a number of gospel music lovers and groups from as far as South Africa to support the local group. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



The Great Amadodana group members in action during the festival.



Amadodana Movement Music Association PRO who is also a former MP Mduduzi Dlamini and Brian Shabangu from Ford were also at the event.



Different groups came and gave the best of performance on the night.



Sicelimpilo Zwane leading All Nations Christian Church in Zion performing at the launch.



Sikiza enjoying the music rendered by one of the groups on the night.



A section of All Nations Church in Zion Choir captured during their performance.



Shlabani Nxumalo flanked by Great Amadodana members Samkeliso Nxumalo and choir leader Samkelo Msweli.



Lungile Magagula AKA Sgagu Semalangeneni and Siphesihle Nxumalo AKA Sihlabani directing proceedings of the event.

Columns & Opinion

QUOTE

Whenever a man has cast a longing eye on offices, a rottenness begins in his conduct.
- Thomas Jefferson

Parents who suffer the loss of a child under the age of 18 will be entitled to two weeks' statutory paid leave from work, the government has announced.

The new legal right, coming into force from April, is the most generous offer on parental bereavement pay and leave in the world, said ministers.

The regulations will be known as Jack's Law, in memory of Jack Herd, whose mother Lucy has been campaigning on the issue since her 23-month-old son Jack drowned in a pond in 2010.

She found out the law only allowed Jack's father three days off work to grieve, one of which had to be the funeral.

Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom said: 'There can be few worse experiences in life than the loss of a child and I am proud that this government is delivering Jack's Law, making us the first country in the world to do so.'

'When it takes effect, Jack's Law will be a fitting testament to the tireless efforts of Lucy Herd, alongside many charities, to give parents greater support.'

Lucy Herd said: 'In the immediate aftermath of a child dying, parents have to cope with their own loss, the grief of their wider family, including other children, as well as a vast amount of administrative paperwork and other arrangements.'

'A sudden or accidental death may require a post-mortem or inquest, there is a funeral to arrange and there are many other organisations to contact, from schools to benefit offices.'

'When I started this campaign 10 years ago after the death of my son Jack, I always hoped that a positive change would happen in his memory.'

'Knowing that nearly 10 years of campaigning has helped create Jack's Law is the most wonderful feeling, but it is bittersweet at the same time.'

Parents will be able to take the leave as either a single block of two weeks, or as two separate blocks of one week each taken at different times across the first year after their child's death.

Shadow Business Secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey said: 'Labour has supported the proposal for parental bereavement leave from its inception, and we welcome this announcement.'

'As set out in our Workers' Rights Manifesto, Labour is calling for bereavement leave for those who have lost a close family member.'

Matthew Percival of the CBI said: 'The loss of any child is unimaginably difficult. Offering this flexibility to bereaved parents is something businesses absolutely welcome. Giving time for families to grieve without the worry of what's going on at work is fundamental.'

Mike Cherry, Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: 'We've engaged with the Government to ensure Jack's Law works for both employees and small businesses, making it a day one right as it absolutely should be.'

'It would be fantastic to see this legislation improved even further with the creation of a parental bereavement allowance for the self-employed.'

Susan Clews, Chief Executive of the Conciliation Service Acas, said: 'This new legal right will allow eligible working parents paid time off to help them grieve and will help employers who manage staff that are experiencing the distressing loss of a loved one.'

When I first entered Parliament nearly a decade ago, it was with one ambition in mind: to make life better for people across the UK - and particularly, for families.

And in my role as Business Secretary, I have

UK launches 'Jack's Law'

...to give bereaved parents two paid weeks off work if they lose a child under the age of 18



the enormous privilege of hearing a wide variety of people's views and considering concerns raised about where the law doesn't go far enough.

The right to paid leave in the terrible case of stillbirth or death of a child is one such important issue.

There can be few more devastating experiences in life than losing a child. I can only imagine the trauma and pain of such a loss. And if such a tragedy happens, the last thing that parents should have to worry about is going to work.

While most employers treat bereaved parents with consideration and compassion, and there is already a legal duty for employers to allow reasonable time off for emergencies involving a dependant, there is no specific legal right to time off following the death of a child.

Gap

This is an inexcusable gap in the law, and one that affects thousands of families every year.

And I am proud to say that it is changing, thanks to the amazing work of Lucy Herd and my colleagues, Will Quince and Kevin Hollinrake.

In 2010, Lucy's 23-month-old son, Jack, tragically died. While struggling with her grief, Lucy discovered that her then-husband could only take three days paid leave off work - one of which had to be for the funeral - to cope with the death. In 2013, Lucy initiated the Jack's Rainbow campaign, to change the law around parental bereavement in the workplace.

I had the huge pleasure of meeting Lucy this week, together with my Conservative colleague Kevin Hollinrake, the MP for Thirsk and Malton, who sponsored the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill through Parliament with the Government's support,

paving the way for the legislation being laid today.

So today, with thanks to the amazing work of Lucy and numerous charities including the National Bereavement Alliance, Sands and the Lullaby Trust, we will put this new legislation before parliament. In memory of Lucy's son, we have named it Jack's Law.

Jack's Law will provide a new legal right to a minimum of two weeks off work for parents after the death of a child. At two weeks, it will be the most generous law of its kind in the world. It will apply to parents who suffer a stillbirth, or the death of a child before the age of 18.

The death of a child is difficult to speak of. But there are around 7 500 child deaths every year: of which 3 000 are stillbirths. Relative to the rest of the world, these numbers are low - but that will of course be immaterial to a grieving parent.

Charity

Earlier this week, I was lucky to visit Sands - the stillbirth and neonatal death charity. In their headquarters in London, I met bereaved parents and heard what Jack's Law meant to them. While some had had very supportive employers, others had not. And they all agreed that by enacting this law, we are not only ensuring a statutory minimum leave, but acknowledging that when there is such a tragedy, employers need to provide adequate support.

Anyone who has experienced grief will know that it is not a linear process. It affects people differently, at different times. Jack's Law will allow bereaved parents to use their period of leave flexibly. Parents will be able to take bereavement leave as either a single block of two weeks, or as two separate weeks taken at different times across the first year after their

child's death. This will enable parents to match their leave to the times they need it most - which could be in the early days, or over the first anniversary - or both.

But I want employers to see Jack's Law as a statutory minimum standard, not the goal - and I urge them to go further to support bereaved parents in any way that they can. Sands themselves offer training to provide employers with the knowledge that they need to support grieving staff - but the parents I met were clear that the worst approach is to stay silent. Many had been abandoned by friends that simply couldn't find the words to say, and so said nothing at all.

Sands advocate that in the case of a bereavement, employers should be parent-led in their approach. Some parents prefer their colleagues to be informed before they return to work - others prefer to have that conversation themselves.

The UK already has some of the strongest workplace rights in the world to help parents. We have laws on flexible working, shared parental leave and maternity, paternity and adoptive parental rights.

As Business Secretary, I am determined to go further.

We will shortly bring forward the Employment Bill, bringing in the right to leave for unpaid carers, extending redundancy protections to prevent pregnancy and maternity discrimination and allowing working parents of babies who go into neonatal care to take extended leave.

My ambition is for the UK to be the best place in the world to work and to grow a business. That sometimes means tackling difficult issues - but it will build a sustainable working environment we can all be proud of.

(Daily Mail)



ECONOMICS TODAY

WITH: George Choongwa

QUOTE

The ultimate purpose of economics, of course, is to understand and promote the enhancement of well-being.

- Ben Bernanke

For correspondence, contact:
geohacho1@gmail.com 765 30445
Southern African Research Foundation for
Economic Development - SARFED
Nurturing sustainable growth

Discipline and business success



One of the most inhibiting factors to the success of most entrepreneurs in African is lack of discipline.

With regards to talent and skill acquired either formally or informally acquired, these individuals are able to produce competitive goods and services. We see most of the African entrepreneurs in both formal and informal sectors where they are engaged in doing various activities such as tailoring, carpentry and other income generating activities starting well, but due to poor management of discipline, they soon fall off the business arena with nothing to show. However, we have seen a total contrast of things with these entrepreneurs, some because of discipline, start small, but because they are very focused in doing their things, would soon make it in life and achieve even bigger things. Good examples on the African scenery include: Aliko Dangote from Nigeria, Hakainde Hichilema from Zambia, Fomba Trawally from Liberia, Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu from Ethiopia, Adii Pienaar from South Africa, Patrick Ngowi from Tanzania, Fred Deegbe from Ghana. The list is endless. Others, after making a fortune in their businesses, soon lose focus, they engage in luxurious lifestyles with high level of spending. Some get themselves in polygamous acts where family squabbles and cranky relations tear their businesses to nothing. All this boils down to discipline.

Defining discipline

Though there is no one true definition of discipline in general and business in particular, it can still be related to the ability to remain effective and constant in achieving a given goal. This would also mean that discipline can be defined as the absence of compromise.

Characteristics of discipline in business

African entrepreneurs' level of discipline can be characterised by some of the following traits namely; hardworking, stable mindset, patience, punctuality, resourcefulness, and accountability.

Hardworking

Most disciplined people are very hard working people. They aim at achieving the intended goals of the business. They stay focused on the goal and are not easily disturbed with anything that comes along which was not business. In this regard, one of the things that make them succeed is that of not being able to remain satisfied with the demands of an average life. In this manner, they put in to the work extra hours with pleasure, just to have things done. In this way, the issue of being efficient and effective comes first in everything they do.

Stable mindset

The other feature of a disciplined entrepreneur is the issues of having a stable and positive mindset. Most disciplined entrepreneurs are very mindful with the thoughts that cross their minds. Therefore, the way they looked at things about their businesses and those things that surround them is mainly in a more productive and rewarding manner. They always aim at developing a positive attitude about them. All what they think about is success and failure does not exist in their minds. Hence,

they remain stable no matter the situation at hand. Think of the famous Nigerian business people, they remain focused on the results and not the circumstances they found themselves of. All what matters to them is the profit and nothing else. Hence, they are known to be very aggressive with whatever they did. Remember that everything being success or failure beings and ends with the mindset which is the manner of seeing things around you.

Patience

Business is never the same every time especially in Africa were the economic fluctuations were an order the day. Things would at times get really bad and discouraging to continue with business, but disciplined entrepreneurs always remained focused and resilient, hence their levels of patience was ever high. They understand that business success is not static, but a process. Disciplined entrepreneurs are always convinced that discipline is the greatest virtue that no one can afford to lose. However, these disciplined entrepreneurs don't stop pushing and hustling apart from being patient with the situation. They understand that patience was only a virtue, but things were to continue moving. In other words, this would also mean hard working while they remain hopeful that things will get better one day. This spirit, has seen many entrepreneurs in Africa to remain hopeful. One business man once said, it is very normal to run the entire business on hope some times. Only hope!

Punctuality

Punctuality can mean everything in African

business or life of an entrepreneur. The point in this is that since most of them were involved in informal businesses which were also highly competitive, the issue of time management would just mean everything. Most of the African entrepreneurs were not very prudent with the issue of time management and how it had the potential to impact their businesses. Despite aiming to supply the commodities on demand, most of them did not do it on the principle of punctuality. One of the reasons to such kind of vice is that time has never been appreciated in Africa.

However, some entrepreneurs in Africa have achieved much through the element of punctuality. They remain disciplined and committed to their goals in business and with time combined with other factors, they attained the intended goals of their businesses. They never procrastinate, but always did their jobs on time and within the limits of time. This has been seen in the manner they handled their businesses like: opening on time always and closing at a given time. They remain constant with business regards of holidays, weather, and other socioeconomic factors. They just remain constant with doing things at all times.

Resourceful

Since most of these people know what they want out of business, African entrepreneurs are very resourceful. Since most of their survival is dependent on support they received from family members in terms of activities like rising of capital and provision of human workforce. The disciplined entrepreneurs will always remain resourceful as they mainly aim at getting information about a given product

that was on market demand. In this manner, the element and issue of getting the right product and service for the right market is well demonstrated. However, the challenge in understanding that most of them were not involved in primary production of these goods but retailing where they found themselves and middlemen in trade.

Accountable

Despite being a critical element in the definition of discipline, Most of the African entrepreneurs never embraced the blame when things went wrong. Unlike disciplined people who always refrain from blaming others for the bad outcome of things, but take up the blame themselves if they were responsible, Most African entrepreneurs blamed their respective governments for the failure and mischief of their businesses. Instead of being creative and innovative about the situation, these entrepreneurs in African mainly remain stuck with the situation at their disposal.

This is one of the contributing factors why most of the African entrepreneurs remain unaccountable with various socioeconomic vices such as corruption, climate change, and poverty, and tax returns just to mention a few of them.

Conclusion

Africans achieved their business goals alongside other factors, besides the central one which is discipline.

Hence, get discipline and be a winner as an entrepreneur!

Columns & Opinion

For correspondence, contact;
2404 7231/ 2404 6363

QUOTE

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

- Mahatma Gandhi



LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE,
EAT WISELY

Ministry of Agriculture Home
Economics Section

Garlic is a herb that is grown around the world. It is related to onion, leeks, scallion, shallot and chives. Garlic is a popular ingredient in cooking due to its strong smell and delicious taste.

In foods and beverages, fresh garlic, garlic powder and garlic oil are used to add flavour. Throughout history, garlic has been used to treat bronchitis, hypertension (high blood pressure), TB (tuberculosis), liver disorders, dysentery, flatulence, colic, intestinal worms, rheumatism, diabetes and fevers. Garlic is very easy to include in your diet. It complements most savory dishes, particularly soups, sauces, dressings and more. The strong taste of garlic can also add a punch to otherwise bland recipes. Garlic comes in several forms, from whole cloves and smooth pastes to powders and supplements like garlic extract and garlic oil. However, keep in mind that there are some downsides to garlic, such as bad breath and allergic reactions. Garlic is incredibly nutritious. One clove (3 grams) of raw garlic contains:

Manganese: Two per cent of the Daily Value (DV)

Vitamin B6: Two per cent of the DV

Vitamin C: One per cent of the DV

Selenium: One per cent of the DV

Fiber: 0.06 grams

Decent amounts of calcium, copper, potassium, phosphorus, iron and vitamin B1. This comes with 4.5 calories, 0.2 grams of protein and 1 gram of carbohydrates. Garlic also contains trace amounts of various other nutrients. In fact, it contains a little bit of almost everything you need.

Garlic benefits

Garlic Combats Sickness, Including the Common Cold

Adding garlic to your diet may be worth trying if you often get colds. Garlic helps prevent and reduce the severity of common illnesses like the flu and common cold. Garlic is known to boost the function of the immune system.

The Active Compounds in Garlic Reduces Blood Pressure

Cardiovascular diseases like heart attacks and strokes are the world's biggest killers. High blood pressure or hypertension is one of the most important drivers of these diseases. Garlic reduces blood pressure in people with high blood pressure.

Garlic Improves Cholesterol Levels, Which May Lower the Risk of Heart Disease

High triglyceride levels are another known risk factor for heart disease, but garlic seems to have no significant effects on triglyceride levels. Garlic reduces total and LDL cholesterol, particularly in those who have high cholesterol. HDL cholesterol and triglycerides do not seem to be affected.

Garlic Contains Antioxidants That Help Prevent Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Oxidative damage from free radicals contributes to the aging process. Garlic contains antioxidants that support the body's protective mechanisms against oxidative damage. High doses of garlic are known to increase antioxidant enzymes in humans, as well as significantly reduce oxidative stress in those with high blood pressure. The combined effects on reducing cholesterol and blood pressure, as well as the antioxidant properties, may reduce the risk

Health benefits of garlic



of common brain diseases like Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Garlic contains antioxidants that protect against cell damage and aging.

Eating Garlic May Help Detoxify Heavy Metals in the Body

Sulfur compounds in garlic are known to protect against organ damage from heavy metal toxicity. They also reduce many clinical signs of toxicity, including headaches and blood pressure.

Garlic May Improve Bone Health

Foods like garlic and onions may also have beneficial effects on osteoarthritis. Garlic appears to have some benefits for bone health by increasing estrogen levels in females, but more human studies are needed.

Side effect and safety

When taken orally: When taken by mouth, garlic can cause bad breath, a burning sensation in the mouth or stomach, heartburn, gas, nausea, vomiting, body odour or diarrhea. These side effects are often worse with raw garlic. Garlic may also increase the risk of bleeding. There have been reports of bleeding after surgery in people who have taken garlic.

When applied to the skin: When applied to

the skin, garlic might cause severe skin irritation or damage that is similar to a burn. Raw garlic might cause severe skin irritation when it is applied to the skin.

Bleeding disorder: Garlic, especially fresh garlic, might increase the risk of bleeding. If you have a bleeding disorder or are taking blood-thinning medications, talk to your doctor before increasing your garlic intake.

Diabetes: Garlic can lower blood sugar. In theory, taking garlic might make blood sugar too low in people with diabetes.

Stomach or digestion problems: Garlic can irritate the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Use with caution if you have stomach or digestion problems.

Low blood pressure: Garlic can lower blood pressure. In theory, taking garlic might make blood pressure become too low in people with low blood pressure.

Surgery: Garlic might prolong bleeding and interfere with blood pressure. Garlic might also lower blood sugar levels. Stop taking garlic at least two weeks before a scheduled surgery.

Caution

Garlic's health benefits are plenty, but don't

add too much to your diet too quickly. Overdoing it can cause discomfort, including upset stomach, bloating, diarrhea, bad breath and body odor.

You may also get a stinging feeling on the skin if you handle significant amounts of fresh and dried garlic. To avoid garlic-induced skin lesions, wear kitchen gloves.

On rare occasions, garlic supplements can cause headaches, fatigue, appetite loss, muscle aches, dizziness and allergic reactions such as asthma attacks or skin rashes.

If you take blood thinners, taking a garlic supplement can increase the medication's effect, making it even harder for your blood to clot.

Maximise the garlic

While you can steep chopped garlic in hot water to make tea, covering the taste with honey, taking advantage of garlic's benefits is a little complicated. Heating it or putting it in a recipe can change its pH balance.

The enzymes from the allicin need a few minutes to start working, so let it sit after you mince, crush or chop it.

You'll get the most benefit from raw garlic. But if you choose to cook it, don't heat it above 140°F. Higher temperatures kill the allicin, so add garlic to your recipes when you're almost done cooking.

PET OBSERVER

HILLARY HAGUE
SWAZILAND ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY (SAWS)
FOR VACCINATED AND STERILISED
PETS

QUOTE

Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms.

- George Elliot

Columns & Opinion

For correspondence, contact;
SAWS
MBABANE 2404 3446
MANZINI 2505 6231

SWASA
e-mail us at: info@swasa.co.sz
Tel: (+268) 2518 4633/10

Valuable lessons dogs teach us

If you open your heart to your dog, whether a lap-pet or an outdoor guard dog - the reward will be a warm and wonderful emotional experience.

Dogs and humans have evolved through generations of symbiosis to have close, loving relationships. Anyone who denies this is doing themselves and their dog a huge disservice.

Dogs teach us many life lessons. Here are some.

1. Looks can be deceiving.

The ugliest mutt is as loving and protective as a breed specimen. Don't judge a book by its cover; a special being can be hiding inside any body. Humans, too.

2. Allow fresh air and wind in your face whenever possible.

Dogs truly do know how to live in the moment. Take every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors - a walk among spring flowers in Malolotja, the smell of the earth after rain in your garden, the feel of a breeze on your skin on a warm day. Like a dog, be excited for this moment, all the time.

3. Be loyal.

If only we could all be the person our dogs think we are. No matter your circumstances, your dog's opinion of you will never change. When you think you've lost everything; your dog will still be there full of love and admiration. Don't abandon your friends if you or their circumstances change.

4. Don't try to be something you're not.

Dogs don't care what other dogs think and they don't care what anyone else thinks of you. Be yourself.



5. You are never too old to play.

Life is short, so have fun and stop taking everything so seriously. Dogs are always ready for a game. So should we be.

6. When loved ones come home, always greet them.

One of the best parts of the day is the huge welcome your dog meets you with when you arrive home after work. He makes you feel loved and special. Let those you love always know how happy you are to see them.

7. Stretch frequently.

Dogs often stretch. Stretching is one of the best exercises to prevent injury.

8. Avoid biting when growling will do.

Stand up for yourself; but no need to be unnecessarily aggressive or harmful. As dogs do, always warn someone if you are feeling aggressive to let them get out of the way.

9. Forgive.

Nearly every dog has been hurt in some way

by a careless or ignorant human, but they quickly forgive. Don't hold grudges, even if someone hurt you; you have the choice to forgive.

10. Show compassion.

Your dog will be the first to cuddle and comfort you when you are upset. Take every opportunity to be kind.

11. Trust your instincts.

Trust your initial instincts of a situation or person, before you let the mental chatter in your mind tell you you're wrong. Your gut instinct is usually correct.

12. Things don't matter.

A dog can have the best time with an old worn out ball. You can find joy in small things. Don't obsess over material things.

13. Go for walks everyday.

Dogs are never too tired or too old for a walk. Walks are great for physical and mental health. Take your dog and yourself for a walk every day even if you don't feel like it.

14. Love unconditionally.

Love yourself, your friends, your children, your family, your job, your community and most of all love nature, which gives us everything.

15. Get lots of rest.

Dogs nap on and off for 12-14 hours out of 24. Sleep reinvigorates the brain. We should always get adequate rest.

Eswatini
Standards Authority

From the manufacturer to the end user we all have a role to play in ensuring that only high quality and safe products are manufactured, sold and used.

We all have the responsibility of promoting the production and use of high quality products that conform to national and international standards. Product testing is one of the significant quality assurance tools that can be used to ensure product quality and safety.

It is the responsibility of a supplier and manufacturer to produce quality and safe products. This can be ensured by making sure that the raw material used when manufacturing is of good quality and only reputable raw material suppliers are used. It is important for manufacturers to always manage the quality of the product throughout the production line. Testing your product during processing and before release can benefit the supplier in many ways such as increasing customer confidence, reducing product recalls and reducing

Product testing for quality assurance

costs due to claims.

Customer Confidence - Supplying safe and quality product to consumers or retailers will increase consumer confidence on that brand. As a supplier you can have the best product, innovative marketing and even a great network but without the consumer trust, the product will not move in the shelves. Consumers are not likely to buy a product that proved to be harmful or that did not live to their expectations the first time they bought it, they will not even recommend it to anyone else.

Product recall - By testing the product before selling to the final consumer or retailer the supplier will avoid product recalls due to goods not meeting specifications or goods deemed to be unsafe for the consumer. The supplier will be able to prevent product from getting to the shelf if the test results show that there might be defects with the product. Once a consumer is disappointed with the quality or safety of a product, it is very difficult to gain their trust as a manufacturer. It is therefore important to prevent defective products from reaching the shelves through product testing.

False claims - By testing your product as a manufacturer you protect yourself from consumers who may claim to have been harmed by using your product thus demanding compensation. If you have proof that the product was tested and con-

formance was assured before the product was distributed then you stand a better chance to win if the matter is taken to court. But what if you had nothing as proof that you made sure that your product was safe to use before dispatch? Your company could even shoulder false claims and end up making huge losses by paying out ridiculous claims.

Local traders or retailers need to make good choices when looking for suppliers. It is also their responsibility to make sure that they supply the final user with a quality and safe product. Retailers

It is our responsibility as consumers to make sure that we buy and use products that are of good quality and are safe. If a mother goes to a supermarket to buy food for her house, it is her responsibility to buy quality and safe products to make sure that she feeds her family with safe food.

are encouraged to have a clear criteria and procedures on how they choose their suppliers. Where necessary they should also conduct supplier audits to ensure that the product they get from supplier is manufactured in a good environment and the integrity of the product is maintained during manufacturing. The retailer must demand proof from the supplier that the product is safe and of good quality and this could be in a form of a Certificate of Analysis (COA) or Certificate of Compliance (COC).

It is our responsibility as consumers to make sure that we buy and use products that are of good quality and are safe. If a mother goes to a supermarket to buy food for her house, it is her responsibility to buy quality and safe products to make sure that she feeds her family with safe food. If as consumers we would make sure that we only buy quality products, suppliers will be compelled to produce quality products. The power rests on our shoulders as consumers, the more we support sub-standard goods the more they are going to flood the market.

At SWASA we facilitate the testing of products by engaging accredited laboratories in the country or in neighbouring countries to conduct testing for clients. We can test a wide range of products both to international and nationally recognised standards. After receiving your test report, SWASA will assist with the interpretation of the test results according to national and international standards. Furthermore, we facilitate the calibration of precision instruments, gauges and scientific apparatus.



Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini

QUOTE

"Relationships end too soon because people stop putting in the same effort to keep you, as they did to win you."

— Unknown

Columns & Opinion

Nothing inspires a woman than their desire to get the best from a man whatever they think he has or can give, to inflict the worst of pain unto him but not so keen to give the best they can to him not unless it is meant to get her as much in return.

For the three conditions all which are a springboard for women to manipulate men, which they almost always do and get away with, they would introduce the trap in a very sophisticated catch phrase, "We need to talk." No man in his right mind would not and shouldn't be intimidated by his phraseology because it comes laden and pregnant with bad news, trouble *nesilungulela nje lesitakuhwaya shengatsi sidliso lucubo lwaso*. It is a well calculated statement, first, to capture your attention to the effect that even if *besewudlalela khashane naye*, you will think of ways and means of getting in touch with her instantly. Or if familiarity with her has bred contempt in such a manner that you no longer take her seriously. "We need to talk," will bring a man to order in the quickest way possible, unless he has never cared for the woman anyway. Your good old wife will also use this catch phrase so that she gets your attention over matters she has always been meaning and willing to discuss with you and you have always been elusive.

Look, Scales will tell you this much that even a woman *lomsomango* and not yet your girlfriend becomes very dangerous when she sends you the "We need to talk," statement. She has considered your proposal at length alongside her personal problems and love mess she is in. *Nyalo ke sowufuna kutilahla inyandzana kuwe* and wants to gauge if you will be ready for the challenge. If you actually get to talk together as she would have intimated, you will shocked *kutsi tintfombatana tinenkinga* long, wide and high as the Drakensberg Mountains. You will find out she has three children, with different paternity, she is working only as a cheap labourer and that she is single parent *futsi ke sewute sikhat-si sekudlala*. In all this talk she wants you to commit and she will laden you with all her troubles. A gentleman fool will listen through and even promise to take part in the mess but *skelem siva ngendlebe yinye nje* and will instantly cut communication immediately after that conversation. Scales would advise that it would be wise for any man, never to honour the invitation that the two of you need to talk. It is a wide pond wherein the kind of fish you will hook up are trouble, expenses, complications and at the end of the day you will discover that *vele nje ufuna timbasha noma lijahalecinile etimbasheni* and she is less worried about this concept of love. She would have tried it with everyone else and wants you as a scrubbing brush to wipe all the mess other three legged creatures have caused her.

This catch phrase is however popular with a woman who is your girlfriend and Scales supposes men know for sure now that *ungeke nje ube wedywa entfombini yakho, nilintsantana nje sibili* and she keeps weighing her options on each of you. When it is your turn that she invites you that you two need to talk, she may be considering one of the others better than you and eager to cut you off. But hey, she could be pregnant and always wanted it. Now she wants to let you know and see how much you love that. Mtsetfwa wase Timbutini an extremely married evangelist got a lady pregnant. He got the message, "We need to talk",



Women's, 'we need to talk, ever pregnant with bad news

whilst he was enjoying supper with his family *wavele wacela kuyolala* instantly because he knew the phrase didn't mean well. The other woman wanted to commit abortion and was preparing Nyambose for *timbasha* for a smooth and neat operation.



In other situations your wife will indicate the need to talk because she has weighed her options away from you. She wants separation or divorce. In the series of fights, tiffs and cheating sprees she has never been this calm. The moment, she approaches you with composure and utter the words, "We need to talk", hamba uyotsenga emaCurtains because she will leave with every stitch of clothing in the house.

Having made providence of same he was further asked to give her money for psychological counselling because, "*Iyangihlupha lentfo nangingedvwa*," she claimed. On the other hand the gentleman would not resist anything because a lot would go wrong if the issue were to come to the fore. On another serious tone, the invite could mean that she is pregnant by

another man. She is not then supposed to be seen with you or any other man other than the intimated dad lest the latter denies paternity after discovering that all along *sisi* was a football team coach.

In the stillness of a drive with his wife Mcimbi Malindzisa noticed that his wife was somehow quiet for the past week. The situation was playing itself the same way in the car. He asked her if she was alright and she said she was. However, just before disembarking from the car, she gave him a fixed stare and said, "We need to talk *yebabe waKhubekile*."

Tests

Believe Scales, the gentleman did not have an easy day at work. For the first time he called his wife throughout the day and she insisted *kufuna bakhulume ekhaya* and they did.

She told the man she had gone for a medical check-up wherein a series of medical tests were recommended and carried out on her. She was discovered that *sewunawo lomkhulane lomkhulu loyindzaba yelive lonkhe*. She then started to cry hysterically. The declaration and the crying were indicators who the culprit was. Now you can affirm with Scales that this is no simple statement.

In other situations your wife will indicate the need to talk because she has weighed her options away from you. She wants separation or divorce.

In the series of fights, tiffs and cheating sprees she has never been this calm. The moment, she approaches you with composure

and utter the words, "We need to talk", *hamba uyotsenga emaCurtains* because she will leave with every stitch of clothing in the house. Lomnantiso Matsenjwa had a serious talk with her pastor who was worried she was getting over the cliff and no wedding bells were heard. She was a good, beautiful and fairly educated girl *adlalwa kweskelm kwakaGulwako nje* posing as a boyfriend and future husband. The pastor suggested she opens up to *umzalwane* Nehemiah who was gentleman also but failing to attract a good partner. Holy Fire erupted between the two and they prayed strongly and it appeared they had chemistry for each other.

The woman called her not-so-committed boyfriend and told him they needed to talk. He was, like all men, agitated at the message. He tried to coax the content of the talk over the phone to no avail. When they finally met, she told him it was over and she was moving on in life.

Of course she had counted all his sins one by one, some of which were things and people the boyfriend was never aware she knew about.

The moment your women be she a girlfriend, fiancé or wife demands that you talk, you should know she is pregnant with trouble for you, *kute lokutakuba mnnadzi boetie*. It is either *uganile, ugugudlele* or wants out of the relationship because she strongly believes *kufanele uve ngaye!*



QUOTE

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.
-Mahatma Gandhi



4 Q&As on Beginning HIV Treatment

Congratulations, you made a courageous step to test for HIV and to know your status! If your test reflected positive, it is important that you begin HIV treatment immediately, regardless of your CD4 count. Here are four common questions and answers about initiating HIV treatment.

1. Who will benefit from treatment?

Everyone – you, your partner(s), your baby (if pregnant), and your loved ones who wish to see you live longer! Commencement of treatment for HIV early can enable you to be a productive contributor to your family and society without experiencing the negative effects that come with being sick from HIV infection symptoms.



2. When can I start treatment?

Immediately! Once you test positive for HIV, speak your health care provider about starting treatment as soon as possible. It is normal to feel that you are not ready – maybe even scared – for treatment on the same day or day after, but it is more important to understand that it is best to start treatment as soon as possible in order to have a healthier and longer-lasting life.



3. What is ART? What are the benefits of ART?

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is the treatment taken for those infected with HIV. It has several benefits, such as:

- Slows the process of HIV progression.
- Reduces chances of getting sicknesses from HIV.
- Helps people living with HIV have a near-normal life expectancy.
- Reduces the chances of transmitting HIV to children and sexual partners (if you completely adhere to treatment), because the virus is suppressed.
- Improves your health, even when and if you already feel healthy.
- Helps you learn ways to disclose your status to partners, spouses, and family members.

4. Where can I start treatment?

Visit New Start or Litsembe Letfu Men's Clinic in Matsapha, both at Big Tree Complex; laMvelase clinic in Manzini; or go to your nearest health facility to access other free health services, such as HIV testing/counselling/treatment.



We would like to hear from you. Contact us for your feedback or question. Call 1212 for free and follow us on social media.



Special Feature

By Emily Crane and Valerie Edwards

'Toddlers tried to fight back'

... by kicking and punching their 'meth-addict' mother, 22, as she smothered her three children to death while singing them lullabies'



Rachel Henry, 22, was charged on Tuesday with three counts of murder after the bodies of her children - aged three, one and seven months - were found inside their Phoenix, Arizona home.

the property some time later to reports of unspecified 'trouble'.

Officers said they were called by one of Henry's relatives.

Authorities offered no possible motive for the killings but court records cited one of the other adults in the house as having told police that Henry

'had a methamphetamine addiction and had been acting strange the past several days'.

It was also reported earlier on Tuesday that the children had previously been removed from their family home because Henry's alleged addiction. A representative from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office said late Tuesday that Henry apparently admitted to having a history of addiction to methamphetamine and that her children were previously removed from her care, according to AZ Central.

Authorities said the alleged drug abuse likely occurred in Oklahoma because the Arizona Department of Child Safety said it had no previous contacts with Henry. The family moved to Arizona over the summer from Oklahoma.

Video shot by AZ Family showed Henry dressed in a white Hazmat suit with her hands restrained behind her back, being brought to the 4th Avenue Jail, where she is being held without bond.

Henry said nothing in response to questions from reporters asking her to address her children's deaths.

Those who knew Henry while she lived in the town of Prague, Oklahoma, said she was a pleasant woman who they trusted to look after their own children.

Anthony Repsher, whose wife Tiffani Hardy features in photos with Henry, said he had known her for around six years.

Speaking to Fox10, he said Henry would be the last person he would suspect of harming her own children.

'As a matter of fact, she'd even babysit my chil-

dren. I've never noticed any kind of depression or anger or hostility towards children or anyone else.'

Henry initially claimed an illness may have been a factor because the youngsters had been sick earlier in the night.

According to reports, officers first received an 'unknown trouble call' from one of the parents and when police arrived at the home, they were greeted by three adults.

The 30-year-old father and a 49-year-old relative identified in redacted court records as the homeowner and an aunt were also taken in for questioning.

A neighbor told local reporters he went outside after hearing a helicopter above the residential area.

David Ware said the property where the children were found included a landscaping business or plant nursery, with trucks often coming in and out.

He told AZ Central: 'I've always just assumed it was an active business. I've never seen children on the property.'

Ware said that 'cops went frantic' at the scene, adding: 'I freak out, you panic. You want to make sure there's not a present danger to your children.'

Sgt Fortune described the scene that first responders found as 'very difficult'.

First responders who tried to save the children's lives were sent home early after the traumatic event.

The family lives in a neighborhood with old homes of wood or stucco, where a white Spanish-style church graces a corner.

But there is new construction going up all around, with a golf course and several housing developments of single-family homes priced at more than \$500,000. Court records showed that Henry is being held in lieu of bail of \$3million.

It was not immediately clear if Henry had an attorney. Her next court date is scheduled for January 31.

Two toddlers tried to fight back against their mother by kicking and punching her before she allegedly smothered them to death.

Rachel Henry, 22, was charged on Tuesday with three counts of murder after the bodies of her children - aged three, one and seven months - were found inside their Phoenix, Arizona home.

Police said her two elder children tried to fight her off in the moments before they were all smothered.

Henry allegedly told police that she started with her one-year-old daughter by holding her hands over the girl's nose and mouth until she stopped moving on Monday night.

The girl was initially kicking out at her mother while she was being smothered.

Her three-year-old brother was screaming 'no' as he watched his little sister die and repeatedly tried to punch his mother to no avail.

Henry told police that she left the girl's body at the back of the house and chased her son around until two relatives - including the children's father and another adult relative - arrived at the property. She caught the boy and took him upstairs on the pretense of putting him to bed as the relatives sat in the living room.

Investigators say the boy pinched and scratched his mother but was unable to save himself.

She then went to find her seven-month-old daughter, gave her a bottle to feed on until she fell asleep, then smothered her as well, authorities say.

Henry said she sung lullabies to all three children while they were dying.

She then propped all three bodies on the couch 'as if they were sleeping'. Police were called to

Focus on

SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

PATRICE MOTSEPE TELLS DONALD TRUMP!

'AFRICA LOVES AMERICA, AFRICA LOVES YOU'

PRETORIA - Billionaire businessman Patrice Motsepe reckons that Africa loves US President Donald Trump. However, it appears Twitter users disagree.

The mining mogul was caught on camera addressing Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week.

"Africa loves America. Africa loves you. It's very, very important. We want America to do well. We want you to do well. The success of America is the success of the rest of the world," Motsepe told Trump.

Trump thanked Motsepe and said that he did a great job.

But many South Africans didn't seem impressed. Some took to social media to share their views.

News24



LOVE?: US President Donald Trump with FIFA President Gianni Infantino and billionaire businessman Patrice Motsepe.

— Ndisha Makhari (@ndisha) January 23, 2020

Patrice Motsepe doing everything he can to make sure Africa is never involved in World War 3! I stan????

— ?????????????????? (@unclescrooch) January 24, 2020

Disclaimer: the views of Mr Patrice Motsepe on Africa loving Donald Trump are his, and his alone.

— Mahlodi (@Dikgale_Mahlodi) January

24, 2020

Motsepe is not operating in our level guys, this guy is international and understand business and politics more than us and trump combined, that's why he is wealthy.

You need brains to understand what Motsepe is doing, a man is way intelligent guys just watch and learn.

— Thabisom (@Thabiso16721931) January 24, 2020

Meet Mr Patrice Motsepe, Africa's Spokesperson.

Suspended PSA union leaders fight back, threaten to sue

JOHANNESBURG - Senior leaders of the Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) are threatening to sue their own union after three of them were served with precautionary suspension letters last week.

On Tuesday last week, PSA board members took a decision to place its General Manager Ivan Fredericks; his deputy Tahir Maepa and Labour Relations officer Thami Makhuzeni on suspension pending an outcome of an internal forensic investigation.

Announcing the board decision, PSA President Lufuno Mulaudzi said their decision came in the wake of a Labour Court judgment in favour of the recently elected PSA board after three of its

structures' chairpersons challenged the outcome of the elective congress held in September last year. "In remaining steadfast to the values of accountability, transparency and good governance, the PSA board met on December 11 to initiate an independent investigation into the alleged irregular appointment of a legal firm by PSA that represented three of its structures/chairperson at the Labour Court.

"This precautionary suspension is in no way an implication of guilt on the part of the suspended employees but to allow for this investigation to be conducted in an environment which is free from interference and/or possibility of evidence being withheld or tampered

with," Mulaudzi said.

On Sunday, however, three suspended leaders served Mulaudzi with a letter of demand in which they wanted to be reinstated to their jobs.

A letter written by their attorney - Mickey Mfenyana of Mfenyana Attorneys Inc - read: "None of our clients were party to the litigation in which the law firm (name withheld) is alleged to have been irregularly appointed. None of the PSA financial resources were utilised to the benefit of the law firm by our clients in the litigation. The law firm has had no working relationship with the PSA since 2018 to date. In essence, the said litigation has nothing whatsoever to do with our clients." She said the suspension of the three was "inconsistent with the principles of natural justice and as contained in the disciplinary code of the PSA".

She gave the PSA until Monday to reinstate her clients but Mulaudzi rejected their request, saying: "They are free to go to court and we will defend our decision there."

Political Bureau



Ramaphosa warned to speed up implementation of Party Funding Bill

CAPE TOWN - My Vote Counts, a civil society organisation, has warned President Cyril Ramaphosa to speed up the implementation of the Political Party Funding Bill.

The organisation said it would not allow the president to continue to delay the implementation of the law as the local government polls were around the corner.

My Vote Counts Spokesperson Sheilan Clarke said they have been waiting for a year for Ramaphosa to gazette the law and implement it. The new law forces parties to disclose their funders.

Clarke said with next year's elections fast approaching, Ramaphosa had to

move fast. She said if the president failed to act now, they would consider a number of options, including taking him to court.

"We vote for the party who will uphold the constitution and not abuse their powers. If there is any chance that a party is being influenced by a wealthy business person or a foreign entity, we have the right to know.

"We have the right to protect our state institutions against the rot of corruption that has been plaguing South Africa of late and this is because of the lack of laws regulating political party funding," Clarke said.

Political Bureau

With or without Zuma and the Guptas, the State Capture Commission will go on

CAPE TOWN - Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo on Thursday said the State Capture commission would continue with or without another appearance by former President Jacob Zuma, or members of the Gupta family.

"Whether or not the commission of inquiry into State Capture ends up hearing from former president Jacob Zuma or members of the Gupta family implicated in the evidence of witnesses who have appeared before it, the show will go on and it will conclude its work without their input," he said.

Zondo was providing the media with an update on the commission's application to the Gauteng High Court for a further extension of its lifespan, in Johannesburg.

The current sitting ends late February, with an application for extension expected to be heard on February 11 at the Pretoria High Court.

Zondo also said the deadline for opposing the application had passed, and to his knowledge, the court had not received a single one.

If extended, the commission would continue to hear evidence until year end; if not granted, the commission would be unable to make findings.

Since inception in 2018, the commission has heard evidence from over 150 witnesses, with over 27 000 pages of transcripts filed.

Once Zondo's findings have been submitted to President Cyril Ramaphosa, it will be the president's prerogative to decide if the full report is made public or a redacted version is released.

Zondo said the credibility of the

commission remained intact, with his legal and investigation teams working hard. "They are not perfect, nobody is perfect, I'm not perfect, but they are very dedicated."

Refusing to be drawn on his views for the reasons forwarded by former president Jacob Zuma over his non-availability to give evidence, and objecting to a recent application to summons him, Zondo said he was not in a position to comment.

"It would be important for the commission to get what he knows, but if ultimately he doesn't appear, the commission would wrap-up its work on the basis of what other witnesses have said.

Last year, Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said plans to extradite the Gupta brothers were being put in place.

"From the side of the commission," said Zondo, "if they are brought back, it will look at what can be done."

Established in early 2018, the inquiry was initially meant to last for six months, as per the recommendations of former public protector Thuli Madonsela, but Zondo applied for an extension of another year.

His motivation at the time, he said, was based on the scope of the terms of reference and the issues the commission was tasked with probing.

Since the public hearings began in August 2018, however, Zondo's view of the scope of work his team has to undertake has changed significantly.

"Corruption is very deep in our society, there is a lot of corruption, even with what the commission has seen, it is the tip of the iceberg."

African News Agency



Moja Love forced to halt Mampintsha, Babes Wodumo reality show

JOHANNESBURG - Controversial couple Mampintsha and Babes Wodumo have stopped the airing of their reality show.

The Gqom musicians approached the court at the eleventh hour on Thursday. This forced Moja Love channel to stop the screening of the show about the couple's lives.

The reality show called *Impilo* was supposed to be screened last night. After posting a video on social media of the artists involved in a dispute there was backlash.

Some people accused the show of promoting violence.



STOPPED: Mampintsha and Babes Wodumo.

Mampintsha took to Instagram to say he has considered concerns raised. The couple's relationship has been in the spotlight following allegations of abuse.

A video of Mampintsha assaulting Babes went viral on social media last year. She laid an assault charge against him, but later withdrew it. eNCA

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

30 000 PEOPLE HIT BY FRESH FLOODS IN MOZAMBIQUE

MAPUTO—At least 28 people have been killed and more than 58 800 affected in the latest floods to hit the disaster-prone Mozambique. Some 66 people have been injured during the crisis affecting regions still recovering from the Cyclones Idai and Kenneth early last year. The Cabo Delgado, Sofala and Zambezia provinces are the hardest-hit but Gaza, Manica, Maputo, Nampula, Niassa and Tete are also affected. More than 10 200 houses have been damaged or destroyed, including 2 589 completely shattered, and at least 47 schools have been affected. In Zambezia, the province with the highest number of people affected, flooding since the beginning of 2020 has damaged infrastructure, destroyed crops and led to displacement.



Nearly 2 300 hectares of crops are currently flooded, less than two months before the planned harvest. In Cabo Delgado, the United Nations for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs, is concerned the crisis may heighten the needs of the estimated 60 000 people displaced or affected by violence in the province since October 2017. *ZimEye*

GRACE MUGABE ACCUSED OF ILLEGALLY ACQUIRING LAND

HARARE - Former Zimbabwean First Lady Grace Mugabe is among at least 132 people accused of allegedly dealing illegally in state land. An audit report into sales of state land in Harare, which was conducted by a commission of inquiry led by Supreme Court judge Tendai Uchena, recommended that former President Robert Mugabe's wife Grace be prosecuted along with many others. The inquiry investigated the acquisition and sale of state land in the city and other urban areas since 2005. Other prominent figures recommended for investigation include former local government minister Ignatius Chombo, secretary in the same ministry George Mlilo, former minister Nyasha Chikwinya, businessman and president of the Confederation of Southern African

Football Associations Philip Chiyangwa and former legislator Shadreck Mashayamombe. Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) Chairperson Loice Matanda-Moyo said on Thursday that the commission had received a copy of the audit report and that investigations would start soon. "We hope investigations will start on Monday after we have agreed on the cases that ZACC and the police will be investigating," she said. The former First Lady is accused of grabbing stands at a farm north of the city and transferring ownership into names of her relatives without payment. She said all stands improperly acquired by Mugabe, Chombo and some local government officials at the farm must be recovered. *AFP*

Legislature approves bumper retirement package for Pierre Nkurunziza

BURUNDI-Burundi lawmakers have approved legislation that will hand outgoing president, Pierre Nkurunziza a handsome retirement package that includes a one-time payment of one billion Burundian francs, (\$530 000/ 480 000 euros).

Nkurunziza is set to leave the presidency after the May 2020 elections, and his ruling CNDD-FDD party will select its candidate for the polls on Sunday.

The former rebel leader who has led Burundi since 2005, threw the East African country into chaos in 2015 when he ran for a disputed third term that some called unconstitutional. He, however, said he would not run again when his current term expires this year, despite a new constitution in 2018, adopted by referendum, allowing him to do so.

Some of the perks Nkurunziza is set to receive when he retires include;

A luxury villa built with public funds in the location of his choice within five years. A one-off allocation of one billion Burundian francs (\$530 000)

Benefits equivalent to those of a serving vice-president for seven years after he steps down

A lifetime salary equal to that of a



RETIRED: Outgoing President, Pierre Nkurunziza.

lawmaker. The title of 'supreme leader' will also be bestowed upon the 55-year old leader. Jean Claude Karerwa Ndenzako, a spokesman for the presidency, tweeted that the Cabinet took the decision to make President Pierre Nkurunziza "Paramount Leader, Champion of Patriotism and Leadership Core."

Lofty titles have been given to Nkurunziza before. In 2018 the ruling party called him "the eternal supreme guide," a description mocked by some of the president's critics.

The legislation, adopted with 98 votes for and two against, differentiates between former heads of state elected via universal suffrage — of which Nkurunziza is the only candidate — and those who came to power via peace deal or military coup. "A president who came to power via the simple consensus of a group of politicians does not have the same regard as one who was democratically elected," Justice Minister Aimee-Laurentine Kanyana told the national assembly. *AFP*

Banker linked to Isabel dos Santos found dead in Lisbon

LISBON - Angola's billionaire Isabel dos Santos and the daughter of former President of Angola Jose Eduardo dos Santos has been charged with money laundering and fraud as one of the five suspects in the case was found dead.

An international arrest warrant could be issued for Dos Santos as officials in the capital, Luanda, move to try and bring her home to face trial for allegedly looting the country's coffers. Angolan prosecutors launched a bid today to have the billionaire and other suspects return home for questioning. One of five named suspects, Nuno Ribeiro da Cunha, a Portuguese banker identified at the weekend in the 'Luanda Leaks', has been found dead in Lisbon, police in the country said.

Documents leaked this week alleged that Dos Santos, plundered Angola's funds during her stewardship of the state-owned

oil firm to build her personal fortune, estimated at \$2.1 billion.

Dos Santos is said to have got access to deals involving diamonds, oil and telecoms when her father was president.

The 46-year-old, who was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, has lived outside Angola since her father ended his 38-year rule in 2017 and is now believed to mostly spend time in London, Lisbon and Dubai. Dubbed Africa's richest woman and known as 'the princess', Dos Santos is accused of using her father's backing to plunder state money from the oil-rich but poor southern African country and moving the money abroad with the help of Western firms.

Investigations into Dos Santos's 18-month tenure as Sonangol head from June 2016 were opened after her successor Carlos Saturnino raised the alarm about 'irregular money transfers' and other dodgy procedures.

News24

BRIEFS

Nigeria remands ex-minister in custody over oil scandal

ABUJA - A Nigerian court on Thursday remanded a former justice minister accused of corruption in custody pending a bail hearing. Mohammed Adoke who appeared in the high court in the nation's capital Abuja has been charged over a \$1.3 billion dollar oil scandal involving international majors Shell and Eni. Adoke was arrested last month on arrival from the United Arab Emirates where he had been detained on a Nigerian warrant in connection with one of the West African state's biggest-ever corruption scandals. *AFP*

Fresh clashes in key Central African Republic town

CAIRO - Two armed groups who last year joined an agreement aimed at bringing peace to the Central African Republic have clashed in a key northeastern town, the UN said. "The Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, Denise Brown, has gone to the area to assess the situation," the Spokesperson for the UN peacekeeping mission Minusca, Vladimir Monteiro, told AFP. The fighting broke out on Monday in Birao, a trading town located near the Sudan border, and continued on Tuesday. *DPA*

Scientists recreate voice of Ancient Egyptian priest

CAIRO - A mummified Ancient Egyptian priest has "spoken" from beyond the grave thanks to scientists who were able to recreate his voice. Nesyamun worked as a priest and scribe during the politically volatile reign of pharaoh Ramses XI. He has lay silent for 3,000 years, but researchers have now shed light on what he may have sounded like. Experts created a 3-D printed version of his vocal tract after the mummy's remains were given a CT scan. *The Standard*

Baby still missing as woman, 18, appears in court on kidnapping charge

JOHANNESBURG - Two-month-old Kwahlelo Tiwane, who was snatched in Cape Town, has yet to be found as his alleged kidnapper made her second appearance in court. Karabo Vivian Tau, 18, applied for bail in the Bellville Magistrate's Court, confirmed Regional National Prosecuting Authority Spokesperson Eric Ntabazalila. He said Tau, who faces a charge of kidnapping, would remain in custody until her next appearance on Monday as her application was postponed. *The Standard*

Focus on World News

Global News

HARRY, MEGHAN'S ATTEMPT TO TRADEMARK SUSSEX ROYAL NAME BLOCKED

TORONTO-Harry and Meghan's attempt to trademark their Sussex Royal brand has been blocked after a complaint from a man in Australia.

The pair are keen to use the name to launch their foundation and make money from branded goods including hoodies and postcards. The Queen has yet to decide whether they can still use the "royal" part of their name - which could be worth billions. And now they face a legal battle after an Aussie doctor launched a legal opposition to the trademark. Documents at the Government's Intellectual Property Office show that a formal 'notice of threatened opposition' has been registered, this week. The notice was sent on Tuesday and means Harry and Meghan could have to shell out in lawyers fees and other costs to get the right to use the name in the UK. After registering a trademark, there is a period of 'opposition', when anyone against its use is first allowed to make this known and has the effect of extending the time before the trademark can be used. It gives opponents the time to mount a case against its use, although



NO WAYS: Harry and Meghan.

they may decide not to object.

The period of opposition for Harry and Meghan's application was due to end on February 20, but that period is now extended until at least March 20. The opposition was filed by Benjamin Worcester of Victoria, Australia, who is believed to have worked as a doctor in the NHS in London from 2011 to 2014 and studied medicine at University College London. It is not known why he filed the opposition. Lee Curtis, a chartered trademark attorney and partner at specialist law firm

HGF, said "Filing a notice of threatened opposition is relatively easy and can be done online for free. 'The filing of a formal notice of opposition is much more involved. 'Right now, the threatened opposition delays the progress of the Sussex Royal application by at least one month, but if a formal opposition is ultimately mounted, this will involve the payment of an opposition fee, the drafting of formal grounds of opposition and the filing of evidence and legal submissions in support of the opposition. *The Sun*

'You can't trust this President'

WASHINGTON - House impeachment managers continued their hours-long arguments for removing President Donald Trump on Thursday, with no indication that they have moved any Republicans to their side.

Two-thirds of the 100-member chamber are required to agree to remove a president from office. The Senate is controlled by Trump's Republican party, meaning the most likely outcome is acquittal.

House Impeachment Manager Jerry Nadler began on Thursday by laying out a constitutional argument that proving Trump committed a specific crime is not the only basis for him to be impeached.

Impeachment can also be used for presidents who "act as if they are above the law" Nadler argued, contradicting the White House's claim that a criminal act is required.

Democrats say Trump's removal is necessary to protect the country's democracy, while Republicans have blasted the move as a partisan attempt to undermine the November presidential elections.

"We have an election in nine months where the American people can judge President Trump themselves," Senator Bill Cassidy said Thursday on Fox News.

The impeachment managers are now two-thirds of the way through their arguments for removing Trump and were expected to conclude yes-

terday.

Democrats hope they can convince at least four Republican senators to switch sides in order to garner a majority to vote in favour of introducing new witnesses and other evidence to the trial.

The vote on witnesses is likely to take place next week, in line with trial rules.

While Democrats say the current evidence is already "overwhelming," they also say key White House officials - including former national security advisor John Bolton - could provide valuable testimony on Trump's actions involving Ukraine.

The Democrat-appointed impeachment managers argue that Trump abused his power by withholding a White House meeting and nearly 400m Dollars in military aid in a bid to pressure Kiev into investigating his political rival, Joe Biden.

Trump then used his presidential powers to cover up his wrongdoing by blocking lawmakers' access to key documents and witnesses, Democrats say. "You know you can't trust this president to do what's right for this country. You can trust he will do what's right for Donald Trump," Adam Schiff, the lead impeachment manager, said Thursday.

"If you find him guilty, you must find that he should be removed. Because [what is] right matters and the truth matters, otherwise we are lost," Schiff added. *AP*

Julian Assange's lawyers demand more time

LONDON-Julian Assange's lawyer today complained about lack of access to the Wikileaks founder at the maximum-security Belmarsh Prison.

The 48-year-old is wanted in the US for allegedly conspiring with army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to expose military secrets between January and May 2010.

Assange appeared via videolink at Westminster Magistrates' Court yesterday wearing a black suit, defiantly saluting his supporters by raising his fist above his head.

It also emerged that the hearing to decide whether Assange can be extradited from Britain to the US will be split into two, with the second half

not finishing until June.

The Australian is being held at the maximum-security jail in Thamesmead, South East London and was transported from his cell early this morning.

Edward Fitzgerald QC, for Assange, said instructing solicitors had continued to work 'night and day' over Christmas.

But he added: "We've had great difficulties in getting into Belmarsh to take instructions from Mr Assange and to discuss the evidence with him."

Mr Fitzgerald continued: "We simply cannot get in as we require to see Mr Assange and to take his instruction." *News24*

Put refugees ahead of climate change discussions

DAVOS-The plight of refugees across the world is often swept under the carpet as global focus is diverted to other international challenges, particularly climate change. This is according to the winner of the 2017 International Children's Peace Prize, 19-year-old Mohamad Al Jounde, who was speaking at this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

"Of course we have been discussing a lot about climate change, it is such a crucial issue nowadays especially in the World Economic Forum. [The WEF] has a lot of emphasis on it. As a refugee, there is a really important issue when we work with climate

change, which is that I cannot demand refugees to care about climate change - they have to get education first," said the former Syrian refugee, who also won MTV's Generation Change Award in 2018.

"It is concerning that all the emphasis is on climate change - from business to government - people are forgetting refugees in the sense that they are forgetting the struggles that refugees face like finding education, like finding work. You cannot solve climate change if you can't solve those problems first because refugees make a huge part of the population around the world and we could lift them up to a certain socio-economic level..."

Mohamad is one of the teenage "change-makers" making waves at Davos 2020. According to the WEF, Mohamad grew up in Syria but fled to Lebanon when life became too dangerous at home. Like thousands of other refugee children in the country, he couldn't go to school, so he set out to support children in the same situation. Together with his family, then 12-year-old Mohamad built a school in a refugee camp where 200 children now access their right to an education. Mohamad, who has now moved to Sweden, helps children to heal, learn and have fun with games and photography.

African News Agency

BRIEFS

US to limit visas for pregnant women

Washington - US President Donald Trump opened a new front in his battle against immigration on Thursday, barring the issuing of visas to pregnant women seeking to enter the United States for so-called "birth tourism". In announcing the move, which took effect on Friday, the White House said foreigners were using the visas "to secure automatic and permanent American citizenship for their children by giving birth on American soil". *AFP*

Queen, pulls out of her annual visit

LONDON - The Queen has pulled out of her annual visit to the branch of the Women's Institute in Norfolk yesterday because she 'is not feeling up to it'. Her Majesty was unable to attend the meeting, which she goes to every year at West Newton village hall, as part of her winter stay at Sandringham. The indefatigable 93-year-old monarch joins the WI ladies for tea and cake, then listens to a speech, which was made this year by BBC Newsreader Huw Edwards. *Daily Mail*

'Doomsday Clock' closest to midnight

WASHINGTON - The keepers of the Doomsday Clock moved the symbolic countdown to global disaster to the closest point to midnight in its 73-year history, citing "existential danger" from nuclear war and climate change. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which was founded after the creation of the atomic bomb in World War II and focuses on the greatest threats to human survival, said it moved the clock from two minutes to midnight to 100 seconds to midnight - a 20-second advance. *DPA*

Transgender soldier forced to leave

SEOUL - South Korea's first known transgender soldier pleaded to be allowed to continue serving after the military decided to discharge her for undergoing gender reassignment surgery. It was the first time in South Korea that an active-duty member has been referred to a military panel to determine whether to end his or her service due to a sex reassignment operation. South Korea prohibits transgender people from joining the military but has no specific laws on what to do with those who have sex reassignment operations during their time in service. *DPA*

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INDEX

1. NOTICES

General Notices
Legal Notices
Church Notices
Announcements
Change of Surname
Sales & Foreclosure
General Items
Auctions

2. BUSINESS SERVICES

Special Services
Business Opportunities
Restaurant, Catering & Office

3. JOBS or VACANCIES

Equipment
Garage sale
Other Business Items
Maintenance & Construction
Motoring and Transport

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Medical & Natural Healing
Tuition & Courses

5. HEALTH & BEAUTY

Pets & Pet Accessories
Pets & Adoptions
Cats & Kittens
Dogs & Puppies
Birds & Poultry
Fish & Aquarium
Other Pet & Accessories

6. ELECTRONICS

TV's, DVD Players, Decoders & Satellites
Household Appliances
Music Equipment, Amplifiers, Equalizers & Speakers
Mobile Devices, Smart Phones
& Tablets
Computers, Laptops, Cameras
& Optics
Games, Gaming Consoles & Software

7. HOUSEHOLD

Domestic
Clothing
Baby and Kids
Furniture
Hobbies, Model Toys,

8. BUILDING, GARDENING & DIY

Woodworking
Machinery & Tools
Plumbing & Electrical
Other Building & DIY
Plants, Trees & Flowers
Garden Furniture & Appliances
Other Gardening

9. FARMING EQUIPMENT

SPARES
Car Spares or Parts
Bike Spares
Truck, Bus and Trailer Spares
Stripping for Spares
Farming Equipment & Machinery
Livestock
Other Farming

10. LEISURE, SPORT & EVENTS

Fitness
Tennis & squash
Watersport
Karate, Boxing & Judo
Angling & Cycling
Other Sport
Caravans, Campers and Trailers
Leisure, Community and Events
Music and Instruments
Camping and Outdoor

11. PROPERTY

Residential
Commercial
Farms and Vacant Plots
Holiday & Accommodation
Apartments / Flats / Houses to Rent

12. VEHICLES

Cars
Bikes
Classics and Custom Builds
Trucks
Buses Farming
Trailers
Aircraft

13. DEATH NOTICES

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DEATHS



Sonile Olga Vilakati

Friends and Relatives of SONILE OLGA VILAKATI are informed that she has joined the Heavenly Kingdom. May the following families be particularly be informed: baka Mavimbela, baka Magagula nebaka Vilakati. She will be buried at Sigcineni/Enceka on the 25/02/2020 (Saturday) after a night vigil on Friday. Announcement by his son Phillip P. V Vilakati on behalf of the family

R/N 173648 Dx24/01/20



Grace Ntombie Langwenya ula Dlamini

Kwatiswa baka Sihlongonyane e Mbekelweni nebaka Dlamini e Tinyonini emangcongco kutsi Grace Ntombie Langwenya ula Dlamini akasekho emhlabeni. I memorial service inga lesihlanu mhlaka 24/01/2020 nga 2pm esontfweni ekuthuleni e Mbekelweni (eWeseli) bese kuyalindzelwa ntsa mba ekhaya. Inkonzo yekumungcwabala nga 04:30 ekuseni ekhaya ka lekelele. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu AS Langwenya babetala wakhe.



Betty Christinah Masilela

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni wa Betty Christinah Masilela kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhakhakhe ka Lomahasha embokojweni ngemgicibelo emva kwemlindzelo ngalesihlanu. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Rachel Mkhabela sikoni wakhe.



Kaba Nonhlanhla Catherine

Relatives and friends of Kaba Nonhlanhla Catherine are notified of her demise. Memorial service will be held at Edwaleni High School at 2:00pm on Friday. She will be laid to rest on Saturday 25th of January 2020 at her matrimonial home in Mahlalini. Announcement by her husband Xaba Themba on behalf of the family.



Vinah Siphitsi Mamba

Relatives and friends of Vinah Siphitsi Mamba an ex Employee of Good Shepard Mission Hospital are notified of her sudden death. She will be laid to rest on Saturday morning 25 January 2020 after a night vigil at Sithobelweni. (Emkhatsini) Announcement by her family.



Simphiwe Nonhlanhla Tfwala

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni nebangan ba Simphiwe Nonhlanhla Tfwala kutsi akasekho emhlabeni, Utawufihlwa ngelisontfo mhlaka 26 Jan 2020 ekhaya kuba Bhekinkhosi ekuseni emvakwemlindzelo. K ucelwa belibandla lakhe batochuba umsebeni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Lobamba Tfwala egameni lemndeni.



Ntombikayise Josephine Dlamini (la Nkambule)

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangan ba Ntombikayise Josephine Dlamini (la Nkambule) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bakubo ka Nkambule nebe khabonina ka Magagula. Umlindzelo unga lesihlanu mhlaka 24/01/2020 angcwatjwe ngemgicibelo 25/01/2020 ekhaya kakhe ku Mpaka. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumyeni wakhe Reverend Msombuluko Monday Dlamini.

*Death brings pain
that time can only
heal, no words
could ease what
we truly feel but
with God, her joy
is eternally
sealed, and cherish
her memories that
death can't even
steal*

Condolences



Fana Samson Ngengelenkenke Dlamini

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangan ba Fana Samson Ngengelenkenke Dlamini kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngemgicibelo ekhaya lakhe e Luve eLutfofja. Kwatiswa baka Ndwandwe ka Bhenkosi, baka Ndwandwe eMdumezulu, baka Malambe e ekhakhakhe noma Langeni ekutsimuleni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumnakabo Tili Dilika Dlamini.

**JOB
13:15**

Though He
slay me,
yet will I hope
in him;
I will surely
defend my ways to
his face.

The LORD is close to the
broken-hearted; He
rescues those whose
spirits are crushed.

It's almost unbearable
when so much hope turns
in deep sorrow wishing
you much strength



Khangezile Sylvia Simelane

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangan ba Khangezile Sylvia Simelane kutsi sosishiyile emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ekhaya kuba Elulakeni (Kamngayi), umlindzelo ungalesihlanu 24/01/2020 afihlwe ngemgicibelo ekuseni (25/01/2020). Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni wakhe.



Nelisiwe Nonhlanhla Simelane

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni nebangan ba Nelisiwe Nonhlanhla Simelane lobekatiwa nge kutsi ngu Kappa, kutsi sewusishiyile emhlabeni, umlindzelo ungalesihlanu, ufihlwa ngemgicibelo ekhaya kamKhoki eSiphofaneni, simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Make wakhe lomkhulu Phumzile Gwebu egameni lemndeni.

Our Deepest Condolences

Death is only a bridge
towards eternal life
with God. Certainly
Heaven is rejoicing
for another soul has
finally reached
his true home.



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'I HAVE SO MUCH RESPECT FOR YOU

LONDON - Conor McGregor's conversation with Donald Cerrone's grandmother has been revealed after a touching embrace between the pair went viral following the Irishman's triumphant return to the octagon.

The UFC star returned after 15 months out of action in emphatic style as he brutally knocked out veteran Cerrone inside the first 40 seconds of the fight in Las Vegas last weekend.

And fans have been given an insight into the immediate aftermath of the contest with behind-the-scenes footage from inside the octagon.

The video, titled 'UFC 246: The Thrill and Agony' shows the immediate reaction of the respective fighter's corners, with McGregor's camp in jubilation while Cerrone's team are sat dumbstruck by the brutal manner of their fighter's defeat.

UFC President Dana White mouths 'holy f***** s****' after watching his prized asset demolish Cowboy



RESPECT: Conor McGregor at the T Mobile Arena. McGregor goes to console his opponent and says: "I love you Donald. Those shoulder shots broke it [his nose] eh?"

Shortly after his interview with

Joe Rogan inside the octagon, McGregor goes to hug Cerrone's grandmother, Jerry.

He says: "I have respect for you, so much respect for you. You raised a hell of a boy. You should be proud,

I'm serious."

White then enters the dressing room to congratulate the former lightweight and featherweight champion.

"You won't hear a word out of me about not fighting at 170 pounds again. Now I'll shut up!" The McGregor team then exclaim 'The King is back!' before drinking the Irishman's Proper 12 whiskey.

Given the nature of McGregor's win, fans are growing excited as to who the Notorious will fight next. A rematch with arch nemesis Khabib Nurmagomedov has been mooted, with White seemingly keen on that match up. Should McGregor wish to continue fighting in the welterweight division, a showdown with Jorge Masvidal would be extremely popular among fans, with the 34-year-old holding the 'Baddest M***** F*****' title after beating Nate Diaz. A trilogy fight with Diaz is also an option for McGregor.

Daily Mail

Khabib offers to fight Floyd Mayweather

LAS VEGAS - Khabib Nurmagomedov has agreed to box Floyd Mayweather - but only if the ring legend competes in one round of MMA.

Nurmagomedov was called out by the retired 42-year-old boxing legend after a mocked up poster of the pair was posted online.

Mayweather also appeared to confirm his interest in a rematch with Conor McGregor, who he beat in a 2017 money-spinning boxing bout.

Nurmagomedov has his own business to settle with The Notorious, but only after he defends his UFC lightweight title against Tony Ferguson in April.

But the Russian's father Abdulmanap threw a spanner in the works as he claimed the unbeaten Russian could fight Mayweather after Ferguson - in a modified fight with 11 rounds

of boxing and one round of MMA.

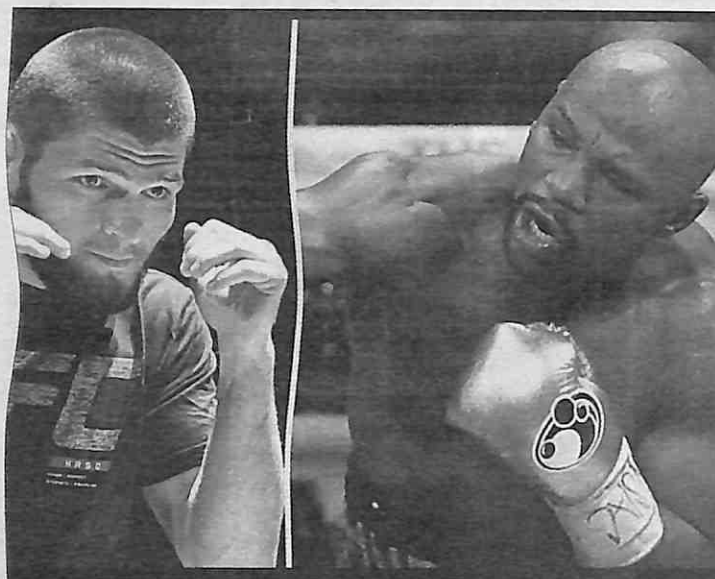
Nurmagomedov will also seek the training of Vasiliy Lomachenko's dad and trainer Anatoly as well as heavyweight icon Mike Tyson.

Abdulmanap told TACC: "Mayweather has statistics on fights of 50 wins and zero losses, he is the greatest in boxing.

"He wants to fight with the same champion who did not lose a single fight, Khabib, everything is fine, but now we have Tony Ferguson on the line.

"We said a long time ago: let us finish with Tony, after that we will work with the team of Ukrainian boxer Vasiliy Lomachenko for six months, then there will be a boxing fight.

"We offer any day anywhere, with only one condition - 11 rounds in boxing and one in mixed martial



arts. "We will stand 11 rounds against the best boxer, so why not go one round according to the rules of MMA

with us? But all things will happen after Tony."

The Sun

Lukaku reveals how Conte brutally scolded him

MILAN - Romelu Lukaku has revealed how Antonio Conte gave him a dressing-down in front of the whole Inter Milan team after he played poorly in their Champions League home draw with Slavia Prague earlier this season.

The Belgian striker had only been at the club for just over a month, having signed from Manchester United in August, when he was on the wrong end of a tongue-lashing from Conte.

Peter Olayinka looked to have scored the winner just after the hour mark but

Slavia Prague were denied a famous victory at the San Siro when Nicolo Barella netted in the dying embers of the match to secure a point for Conte's men. Lukaku had played the full 90 minutes, but Inter boss Conte was left incensed by his performance, and didn't hold back in making his feelings known.

"The manager, he tells it straight to your face if you're doing well or wrong," Lukaku told Sky Sports.

"I remember one of my first Champions League games against Slavia Prague

when I played really bad - like I was trash that day - and I really got it from him in front of the whole team.

"It had never really happened to me [in my career]. It had never happened.

"He was telling me that I was really trash and that he would take me off after five minutes if I would have done it again.

"He just gave me that - he stepped on my confidence but it woke me up at the same time. He does it to everybody, it doesn't matter who you are. Everybody is equal." *Daily Mail*

Rugby Chiefs in the dock

LONDON - Premiership Rugby Chiefs could face a grilling from MPs over their handling of the Saracens salary cap crisis later this year amid growing concerns about the sport's governance.

The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee want to summon PRL officials to a hearing when they reconvene in the spring, which could bring more embarrassment for the beleaguered organisation whose dominant club were sensationally kicked out of the top flight by their rivals last week.

On another dramatic day which saw PRL belatedly publish a redacted report into Saracens' multiple salary cap breaches, Damian Collins MP, who is seeking re-election as chairman of the DCMS Select Committee next week, told Sportsmail: "It's a real mess and is something I'm sure the committee will want to look at.

The 103-page report, which has been locked away at Twickenham since November, made excruciating reading for Saracens, who are condemned for a 'continuing, flagrant and reckless failure' to comply with the Premiership's salary cap by a three-man independent panel.

The report details a series of breaches such as illicit payments to England stars Maro Itoje, Billy and Mako Vunipola and Richard Wigglesworth, whose names have been redacted. Intriguingly there is no mention of Owen Farrell despite his business venture with Saracens owner Nigel Wray, Faz Investments Limited.

His absence from the report is believed to be because his status as a marquee player puts him outside salary cap restrictions.

Wray issued a grovelling apology to Saracens on Thursday night and PRL could soon be in the dock themselves as many questions remain unanswered, not least the process which has led to the champions accepting they will be relegated before completing their fixtures this season.

Collins added: "It raises serious issues about governance in rugby. Saracens have been called out and punished, but why was it allowed to come to this?

"And who has determined the punishment - PRL or the clubs? These are issues the committee would like to get to the bottom of."

Sports Mail

AC Milan keen to raid England's lower leagues

MILAN - AC Milan keen to raid England's lower leagues for a full-back as Serie A giants eye sensational swoop for Wigan youngster Antonee Robinson.

Due to Financial Fair Play concerns, the Rossoneri could be offloading left-back Ricardo Rodriguez to Fenerbahce and chasing a replacement.

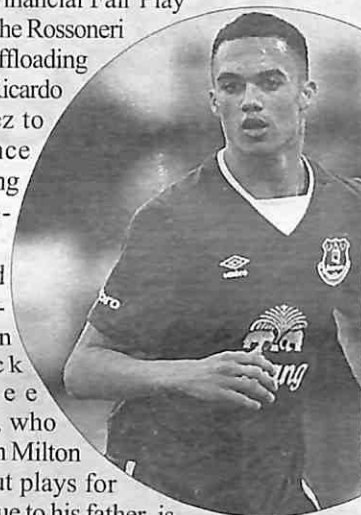
And Wigan's former Everton full-back Antonee Robinson, who was born in Milton Keynes but plays for the USA due to his father, is on their radar.

The 22-year-old only joined Wigan in the summer after his contract expired at the Premier League club.

Milan spotted Robinson in a sweep of emerging talent and think he has the talent to play for their side in the Italian elite.

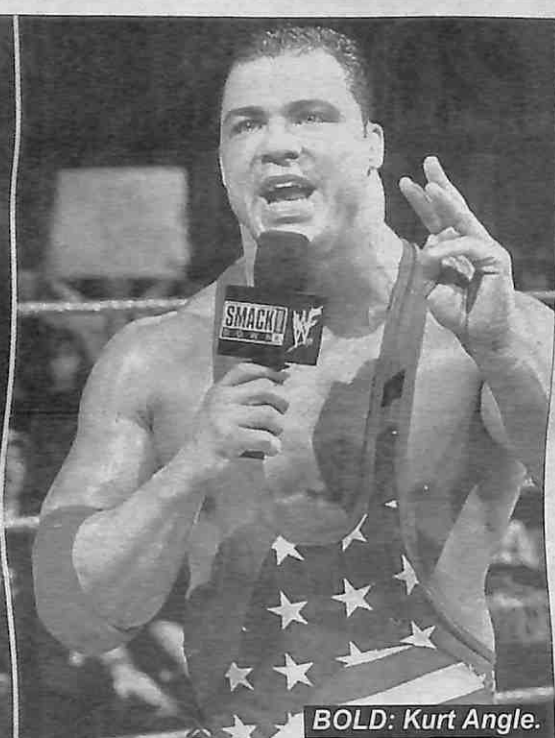
Milan have also identified Nottingham Forest's Matt Cash as a target, having also looked at Derby's Jayden Bogle.

Daily Mail





REVEALS: Vince McMahon.



BOLD: Kurt Angle.

ANGLE REVEALS WHAT MCMAHON TOLD HIM WHEN HE DEBUTED IN 1998

LONDON - Kurt Angle went into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2017 as one of the most popular wrestlers of his generation.

But it wasn't always like that. For much of his in-ring career, the American Hero was a heel.

He was jeered so much that his entrance music became famous for the 'YOU SUCK!' chants worked into it by every live crowd.

When Angle debuted in WWF two years after winning Olympic gold, fans still booed him because he was yet to prove himself to them inside the squared circle.

Plus, previous reports that he saw professional wrestling as 'beneath him' didn't help and thus begun a long run as a heel.

Speaking ahead of WWE's move to BT Sport, Angle opened up about the reaction to his debut and what Vince McMahon told him when he first arrived in the company.

"I didn't mind [the boos]. I didn't know, but Vince knew that the fans wouldn't accept me," he exclusively told GIVEMESPORT.

"He told me they're a very harsh group of fans and you have to prove yourself to them and as a professional wrestler,

I hadn't done that yet."

"You want the fans to either cheer you or boo you. If they do nothing they don't care about you. It was good I started as a heel and spent most of my career as one. I enjoyed it."

Of course, during his career, Angle had plenty of face turns too and he mentioned how much easier life is when the WWE fans respect you.

"Being a face is always good. Your popularity rises, you make more money, sell more merchandise. Being a face is always a better pick but I enjoyed both of them."

DPA

Nienaber named new Springbok coach

JOHANNESBURG - The worst-kept secret in the Springbok rugby was confirmed on Friday when Jacques Nienaber was named head coach.

Nienaber replaces Rassie Erasmus, who stepped down as national coach after South Africa's Rugby World Cup triumph to focus instead on his director of rugby position.

Nienaber had been the team's defensive coach for the past two seasons under Erasmus. Erasmus and Nienaber have a long history, having first met in the army

before crossing paths at the University of the Free State's Shimlas team where Nienaber was the physiotherapist and Erasmus the captain.

When Erasmus became coach of the Free State Cheetahs, he appointed Nienaber as strength and conditioning coach, with the latter later shifting his focus to the team's defensive structures.

Nienaber followed Erasmus to the Stormers and also to Munster in Ireland, before starting at the Springboks in 2018. Nienaber is the 14th Springbok coach since

readmission in 1992.

The 13 previous coaches were (with victory %): John Williams (20%), Ian McIntosh (33%), Kitch Christie (100%), Andre Markgraaff (61%), Carel du Plessis (37%), Nick Mallett (71%), Harry Viljoen (53%), Rudolf Straeuli (52%), Jake White (67%), Peter de Villiers (62%), Heyneke Meyer (67%), Allister Coetzee (47%) and Rassie Erasmus (65%).

Sports24



Chris Eubank Jr has thousands of pounds of belongings

LONDON - Chris Eubank Jr has had his luxurious Brighton mansion broken into 18 months after inviting criminals to try and get past his nine CCTV cameras and home security system.

Eubank Jr, 30, warned any potential burglars that targeting his mansion would be unwise and made a subtle threat he would use a baseball bat to stop them in a video back in 2018.

However, the boxer revealed that his mansion was burgled in the early hours of Thursday morning after returning home to find it had been ransacked.

The middleweight boxer mocked the 'little rats' who stole thousands of pounds worth of belongings, includ-



HOUSE: Eubank Jr let MTV Crips into his house last year and showed off his shoe collection.

ing seven pairs of Louboutin shoes and his boxing gloves, after they failed to spot a diamond-encrusted watch hidden inside a jacket which he claimed is worth '100 times' more than anything else they stole.

Eubank Jr posted videos of the mess leftover in his mansion on social media and showed that the thieves had gained access by smashing through his back window.

Eubank, the son of former world champion boxer Chris

Senior, said that the two men, who were seen roaming around his house on CCTV footage, also left behind a Dolce & Gabbana jacket worth £2 000 and an iPad amongst other expensive, prized possessions.

DPA

Pieters takes early lead at Dubai Desert Classic

DUBAI - Belgian Thomas Pieters carded a five-under-par 67 in difficult conditions to open up a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Dubai Desert Classic.

Narrowed fairways and extremely fast greens combined with blustery conditions meant only 29 players finished under par at Emirates Golf Club.

Starting on the back nine, Pieters dropped three shots on his 10th and 11th holes but recovered with three straight birdies to finish one-shot clear of American David Lipsky.

"I've been working on my putting real hard and I just hope to see some progress," he said. "There was nothing easy about today, but

I found 14 greens, which is always nice in these kind of conditions.

"You don't know what to expect (at the start of the season), even though you've put the work in. That competitive mind-set sometimes takes a while to kick in. But today was, I think, one of my better rounds of the year."

Mixed

Early starter Lipsky mixed five birdies with a sole bogey, while defending champion Bryson DeChambeau was in a group at two-under.

After lifting his 25th European Tour title in Abu Dhabi last weekend, England's Lee Westwood had a day to forget as he finished with a disappointing round of 78.

Reuters

Conor McGregor handed £50k 'Performance of the Night' bonus

LONDON - Conor McGregor was awarded a £50,000 bonus by UFC President Dana White after the 'Notorious' defeated Donald Cerrone in his return to the Octagon.

The former two-weight champion dismantled his opponent in just 40 seconds in his first bout since October 2018.

And after his stunning comeback, McGregor was selected as one of five fighters to receive a performance of the night bonus.

The outspoken Irishman was pictured being handed the money in person by White on Instagram, with the two sharing a drink following the 31-year-old's demolition of Cerrone in Las Vegas.

UFC Chief White was snapped taking out the hefty stack of notes and giving it to McGregor.

McGregor's base fee for overcoming the 51-fight veteran at UFC 246 is reportedly US\$3million, although the star claimed that he expects to walk away with US\$80million instead after his first victory in three years. The returning

McGregor was found in devastating form from the very first bell and sealed an early finish against Cerrone.

The heavy favourite shattered the American's nose within the opening few seconds of the welterweight showdown, and then landed an inch-perfect head kick square on the jaw of Cerrone.

McGregor ensured victory after a flurry of punches prompted an early stoppage, which fuelled speculation surrounding a potential highly-anticipated bout with BMF title holder Jorge Masvidal.

The Irish fighter has made his desire clear for a trilogy scrap with Nate Diaz, with the pair sharing unfinished business after claiming a victory apiece.

Drew Dober was also a recipient of a performance bonus after his win against Nasrat Haqparast, and Diego Ferreira was rewarded after submitting Anthony Pettis.

Brian Kelleher and Aleksei Oleinik were the other fighters who saw their paychecks boosted.

Sports Mail





BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



McAteer thinks Klopp could quit Liverpool

LONDON - Former Liverpool star Jason McAteer has suggested he wouldn't be surprised if Jurgen Klopp decides to walk away from the club in the next 18 months.

The Reds boss penned a contract extension that runs until 2024 in December, with the club appearing destined to lift the Premier League trophy at the end of this season.

But despite the top flight giants' success, McAteer sensationally claimed Klopp could step away sooner than expected because of the day-to-day demands of the role.

After Liverpool's hard-fought victory against Wolves on Thursday, the runaway table toppers can clinch the league title with just nine more wins.

But Klopp was hesitant to be drawn into questions focused on how close

his side are to glory, and McAteer even believes that the pressure of attempting to deliver for an expectant fan base could see the German depart in the summer of 2021. The ex-midfielder told beIN Sports: "He has a team around him, Melwood is locked down, you can't get into it. It's the hub. "No [I wouldn't be surprised if he walks away]. It wouldn't surprise me, it wouldn't surprise me at all. I

just think there's burnout.

"The passion he puts into it, the effort he puts into it, it's all the time.

"I've been on tour with them before, he can't move. He can't go out the hotel, he's meeting potential partners, he's going to dinners, they're putting things on, it's constant."

Daily Mail



MAN UNITED FLOPS TREATED TO SPA DAY

LONDON - Manchester United sent their players on a spa day at a luxury resort on Thursday — the morning after they were booed off the pitch at Old Trafford.

The United squad turned up at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa in the wake of Wednesday night's dire 2-0 defeat to Burnley that saw angry fans also turn on the club's hierarchy.

It is the same exclusive Cheshire retreat where 22 Instagram models stayed earlier this month before allegedly joining Manchester City players in a 'Bunga Bunga style' party.

United are understood to have booked their team's warm-down session before the Burnley game and decided to stick to their plans despite one of their worst performances in recent years.

Some fans will be shocked to learn that the players were being



pampered after suffering their third defeat in four league games and losing at home to Burnley for the first time in more than half a century. United are also set to go on a warm-weather training camp in Marbella during the winter break

next month.

Assistant manager Michael Carrick was first into the spa at 10.40am on Thursday — closely followed by Nemanja Matic, before captain Harry Maguire and the rest of the team went in.

The players not involved on Wednesday night — including Eric Bailly, Angel Gomes, Tahith Chong and James Garner — had a behind-closed-doors game against Liverpool Under-21s at Carrington.

Daily Mail

Man U make shock enquiry for Leicester flop Islam Slimani

LONDON - Manchester United have enquired about the possibility of signing Leicester flop Islam Slimani on loan, but have been told it will cost them a £4 million fee.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is desperately searching for a new striker following Marcus Rashford's long-term injury and Anthony Martial's topsy-turvy form.

United have just seven days to bolster their forward line and now Solskjaer has been forced into trying to sign Slimani.

Slimani, who scored just eight Premier League goals in 35 appearances for Leicester, remains on the books at the King Power Stadium but has been on loan at Monaco this season.

He was previously shipped out on loan to Newcastle, where he failed to score in four appearances, and Fenerbahce.

The 31-year-old Algerian has had to make do with a substitute role at the Ligue 1 side in recent weeks, but he is now being considered by United.

Leicester have told the Red Devils that they would have to pay a £4m fee just to sign him on loan until the end of the season.

Slimani has scored seven goals in 14 appearances for Monaco this season, but his Premier League numbers were nowhere near as impressive. Solskjaer is desperate to land a new forward after Rashford was ruled out for around two months with a double stress fracture in his lower back. Sports Mail

'Inter Milan schedule medical for Eriksen on Monday'

LONDON - Barcelona have made a surprise late enquiry about Tottenham midfielder Christian Eriksen.

Talks have been ongoing with Inter Milan over a £17.5million transfer with the Italians still to agree structure of the deal.

Barcelona, who were initially interested in taking Eriksen on a free in the summer, have now entered the fray to sign him this month.

The Danish playmaker is out of contract in north London this summer and has been keen on leaving this month.

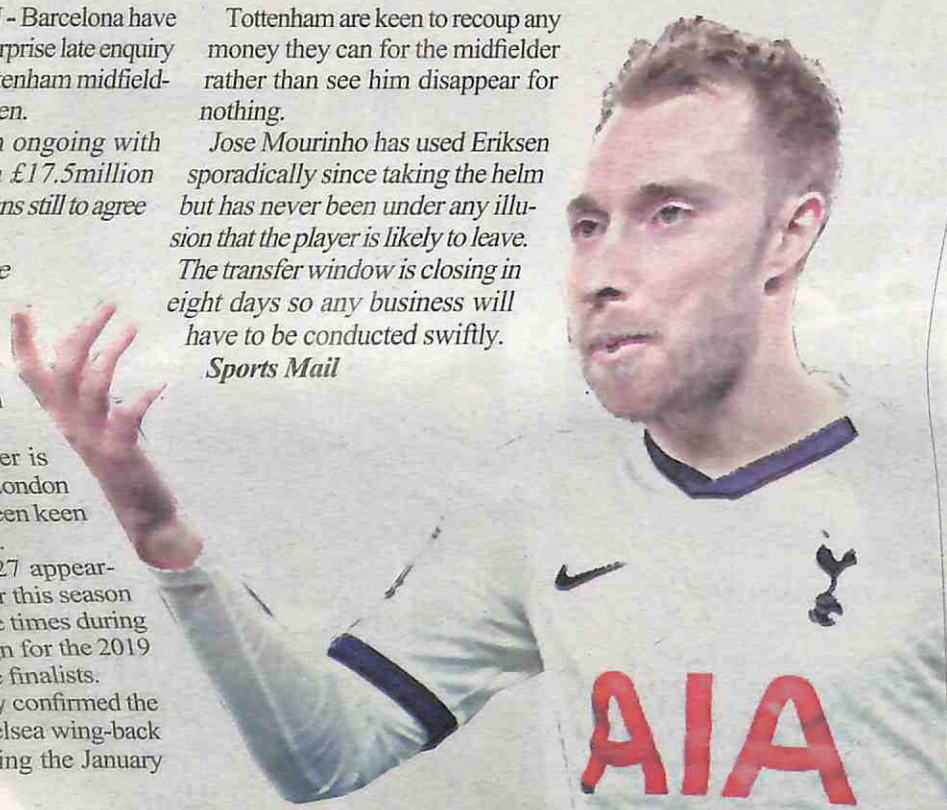
Eriksen has made 27 appearances for Spurs so far this season but scored only three times during a turbulent campaign for the 2019 Champions League finalists.

Inter have already confirmed the loan arrival of Chelsea wing-back Victor Moses during the January transfer window.

Tottenham are keen to recoup any money they can for the midfielder rather than see him disappear for nothing.

Jose Mourinho has used Eriksen sporadically since taking the helm but has never been under any illusion that the player is likely to leave. The transfer window is closing in eight days so any business will have to be conducted swiftly.

Sports Mail



FA back down on dispute with England players

LONDON - The FA have backed down in a dispute with England players over payments they are due for international appearances.

The governing body had been refusing to pay fees relating to commercial activities undertaken by recently capped players who have not signed up to the agreement with 1966 Entertainment, which the FA want to terminate.

But Sportsmail has been told that officials have had a change of heart and are prepared to make payments worth tens of thousands of pounds per game.

The long-running stand-off stems from the FA's desire to bring all their sponsorship activities in-house and cancel a deal with long-term partners 1966, whose contract has another 10 years to run.

A number of England players who have been called up for the first time by Gareth Southgate since 2018 were unwittingly dragged into the dispute, as they rejected the FA's request to sign up to a separate commercial deal.

Jadon Sancho, Callum Hudson-Odoi, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Declan Rice

and Nick Pope are among those who won their first caps during that period, although not all of them objected to the FA's terms so some have been paid.

Those who did refuse to sign up to a new in-house commercial deal did so on the grounds that they did not want to isolate themselves from the rest of the squad.

The issue is largely being handled by the players' intermediaries and there is no suggestion that it has led to problems within Southgate's squad. Senior players, including Harry Kane and Jordan Henderson, have been consulted.

The FA have yet to resolve a related dispute over the structure of the new deal and are planning to meet a delegation of agents, ahead of England's European Championship warm-up matches against Italy and Denmark at Wembley in March. Under their most recent proposal, made last year, the FA are understood to have offered more guaranteed income than the players are getting under their arrangement with 1966, but smaller bonus payments. The Sun

TRANSFER WINDOW UPDATES

ONE WEEK TO GO UNTIL THE WINDOW SLAMS SHUT

● Here's who every Premier League club wants



LONDON - The January transfer window is entering its final week and managers are scrambling with their chairmen to get those final deals over the line.

Some managers need fresh faces to stave off the threat of relegation, and for others it is a case of finding a diamond in the rough to help achieve a European finish. *Sportsmail* looks at what each club needs, who could be moved on and who they are targeting in the final seven days of the 2020 winter window.

Arsenal

What they need: Centre back, left-back, midfielder

Who do they like: Dayot Upamecano (RB Leipzig), Pau Torres (Villarreal), Glen Kamara (Rangers), Adrien Rabiot (Juventus), Mykola Matviyenko (Shakhtar Donetsk), Layvin Kurzawa (PSG), Boubakary Soumare (Lille), Djene Dakonam (Getafe), Bruno Guimarães (Athletico Paranaense)

Who could go: No one

Who's arrived: No one

Who's left: Emile Smith Rowe (Huddersfield Town, loan), Konstantinos Mavropanos (Nuremberg, loan), Ben Sheaf (Doncaster Rovers, loan), Tyreece John-Jules (Lincoln City, loan), Deyan Iliev (Jagiellonia Bialystok, loan)

Budget: £30m

Mikel Arteta has only just got his feet under the table at the Emirates Stadium but will still be keen to make his own imprint on the squad following a tough few weeks in the hotseat.

Shoring up a shaky back-line will be a priority in the final seven days, with Layvin Kurzawa and Djene Dakonam being mooted as likely options.

Aston Villa

What they need: Winger, full back

Who do they like: Josh Maja (Bordeaux), Said Benrahma (Brentford), Glen Kamara (Rangers), Marcus Tavernier (Middlesbrough), Omar Elabdellaoui (Olympiacos), Sam McCallum (Coventry), Olivier Giroud (Chelsea), Serhou Guirassy (Amiens), Islam Slimani (Leicester), Christian Benteke (Crystal Palace)

Who could go: James Chester

Who's arrived: Mbwana Samatta (Genk, £10m), Danny Drinkwater (Chelsea, loan), Pepe Reina (AC Milan, loan), Louie Barry (Barcelona, £3m)

Who's left: Jonathan Kodjia (Al-Gharafam undisclosed), Easah Suliman (Vitoria SC, undisclosed), Andre Green (Charlton Athletic, loan), Lovre Kalinic (Toulouse, loan)

Budget: After a busy summer, Villa would prefer loans

Aston Villa have been one of the most active sides in the transfer window and it is for good reason.

Dean Smith's side currently find themselves in a relegation battle and have already lost £22m summer signing Welsey and goalkeeper Tom Heaton to serious injury.

However, the arrivals of Mbwana Samatta, Danny Drinkwater and Pepe Reina are sure to put Villa in a better position for the final four months of the season.

Bournemouth

What they need: Left-back, centre-back, centre midfield, winger

Who do they like: Joe Rodon (Swansea City), James McCarthy (Crystal Palace), Karlan Grant (Huddersfield Town), Jarrod Bowen (Hull), Bertrand Traore (Lyon), Jacob Bruun Larsen (Borussia Dortmund), Danny Rose (Tottenham)

Who could go: Nathan Ake, Emerson Hyndman, Ryan Fraser, Andrew Surman

Who's arrived: No one

Who's left: Asmir Begovic (AC Milan, loan)

Budget: £30m

Perhaps the best bit of business Bournemouth can do in the next week is to keep hold of in-demand centre back Nathan Ake.

Eddie Howe's side find themselves in the thick of a relegation battle and need freshening up across the park.

The Cherries are also targeting a move for ex-Chelsea forward Bertrand Traore in the hope of sprucing things up in attack.

Brighton

What they need: Full back, forward

Who do they like: James Tavernier (Rangers), Kyle Walker-Peters (Tottenham), Emil Bohinen (Stabæk), Sebastian Andersson (Union Berlin), Moussa Konate (Amiens), Jamie Hamilton (Hamilton Academical), Fedor Chalov (CSKA Moscow), Serhou Guirassy (Amiens)

Who could go: Ben White, Shane Duffy, Lewis Dunk, Glenn Murray

Who's arrived: No one

Who's left: Anders Dreyer (Midtjylland, undisclosed), Max Sanders (AFC Wimbledon, loan), James Tilley (Grimsby Town, undisclosed), Tudor Baluta (ADO Den Haag, loan)

Budget: £20m

It's been an extremely quiet month for Brighton so far and it doesn't look like there will be much movement in or out of the Amex Stadium. Graham Potter has worked his magic in his first season in the Premier League and has got his squad playing with smiles on their faces, but the former Swansea boss is keen to add new players if an

opportunity arises.

Burnley

What they need: Centre back, midfielder, striker

Who do they like: Josh Maja (Bordeaux), Jayden Bogle (Derby), James McCarthy (Crystal Palace), Jamie Hamilton (Hamilton Academical), Adrien Tameze (Nice), Josh Brownhill (Bristol City), Joe Allen (Stoke), Dael Fry (Middlesbrough)

Who could go: Ben Gibson, Matej Vydra, Dwight McNeil, Nahki Wells

Who's arrived: No one

Who's left: Danny Drinkwater (Chelsea, end of loan), Christian N'Guessan (Oldham Athletic, loan), Adam Phillips (Morecambe, loan), Ryan Cooney (Morecambe, loan), Scott Wilson (Blyth Spartans, loan), Will Harris (Warrington Town, loan), Tunde Bayode (Curzon Ashton, loan), Anthony Glennon (Grimsby Town, loan), Josh Benson (Grimsby Town, loan)

Budget: £25m

Sean Dyche does not need to spend his way out of trouble after recent wins over Leicester and Manchester United.

However, after sending Drinkwater back to Chelsea, the former Watford boss is on the lookout for a new central midfielder for the second half of the campaign.

Chelsea

What they need: Full-back, centre-back, centre forward, winger

Who do they like: Timo Werner (RB Leipzig), Moussa Dembele (Lyon), Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace), Richardson (Everton), Jadon Sancho (Borussia Dortmund), Ben White (Brighton), Nathan Ake (Bournemouth), Jonjo Kenny (Everton), Edinson Cavani (PSG), Alex Telles (Porto), Boubakary Soumare (Lille), Kays Ruiz-Atil (PSG)

Who could go: Olivier Giroud, Michy Batshuayi, Emerson, Marcos Alonso, Pedro, Ross Barkley

Who's arrived: No one

Who's left: Danny Drinkwater (Aston Villa, loan), Marc Guehi (Swansea,

loan), Conor Gallagher (Swansea, loan), Victor Moses (Inter Milan, loan), Jamal Blackman (Bristol Rovers, loan)

Budget: £125m

With Chelsea no longer under a transfer ban, everyone thought Frank Lampard would get stuck into the transfer market this month. However, it's been quiet at Stamford Bridge until now, with five players leaving the club and no new arrivals. Tammy Abraham hobbled off in the draw with Arsenal on Wednesday, which is likely to accelerate Lampard's search for a striker. Edinson Cavani is the one he wants.

Crystal Palace

What they need: Winger, right-back

Who do they like: Nathan Ferguson (West Brom), Kyle Walker-Peters (Tottenham), James Tavernier (Rangers), Josh Maja (Bordeaux), Odsonne Edouard (Celtic), Dwight McNeil (Burnley), Michy Batshuayi (Chelsea), Nemanja Nikolic (Chicago Fire), Yannick Carrasco (Dalian Yifang)

Who could go: James McCarthy, Connor Wickham

Who's arrived: Scott Banks (Dundee United, undisclosed), Cenk Tosun (Everton, loan)

Who's left: Sam Woods (Hamilton, loan), Victor Camarasa (Real Betis, end of loan)

Budget: £30m plus sales revenue

Roy Hodgson has remained upbeat on Crystal Palace's prospects of keeping star man Wilfried Zaha and it would take a huge offer to prise him away this month. The Eagles signed Everton striker Cenk Tosun on a six-month loan and the move is already paying off, with the Turkish forward having found the back of the net in his first start for the club against Manchester City.

Palace still want another winger and are in talks with Chinese club Dalian Yifang over a deal for Belgium star Yannick Carrasco.

Everton

What they need: Centre-back, centre midfielder

Who do they like: Ruben Dias, Ferro (Benfica), Joe Rodon (Swansea), Adrien Rabiot (Juventus), James Rodriguez (Real Madrid), Kyle Walker-Peters (Tottenham), Everton (Gremio), Matias Vecino (Inter), Emre Can (Juventus), Allan (Napoli), Pierre Hojbjerg (Southampton)

Who could go: Oumar Niasse, Jonjo Kenny

Who's arrived: Jarrad Branthwaite (Carlisle United, £1m)

Who's left: Cenk Tosun (Crystal Palace, loan), Kieran Dowell (Wigan Athletic, loan), Callum Connolly (Fleetwood Town, loan)

Budget: £49m

While new boss Carlo Ancelotti has played down the idea of adding to the current squad, it wouldn't be crazy to expect a couple of signings before the window slams shut. The Italian could make full use of his Serie A connections to bring in Napoli midfielder Allan and Inter Milan's Matias Vecino, but whether the Toffees can get the deals done remains to be seen.

Leicester City

What they need: Centre-back, forward

Who do they like: Jannik Vestergaard (Southampton), Ben White (Brighton), James Tarkowski (Burnley), Aurelio Buta (Royal Antwerp), Jarrod Bowen (Hull), Karlan Grant (Huddersfield Town), Sam McCallum (Coventry), Serhou Guirassy (Amiens)

Who could go: Daniel Amartey, Filip Benkovic (loan), Islam Slimani (loan)

Who's arrived: No one

Who's left: Andy King (Huddersfield, loan), Raul Uche (Real Valladolid, undisclosed), George Thomas (ADO Den Haag, loan)

Budget: £60m - but they may save it until the summer.

Despite beating West Ham in mid-week, Leicester's brilliant start to the season slowed with a couple of defeats early in 2020. Brendan Rodgers is on the lookout for new players to ensure they finish inside the top four, with competition for Jamie Vardy at the top of his wishlist.

Liverpool

What they need: Left-back, midfielder, forward

Who do they like: Ben White (Brighton), Ferran Torres (Valencia), Jude Bellingham (Birmingham City), Sam McCallum (Coventry), Max Clark (Vitesse), Boubakary Soumare (Lille), Sandro Tonali (Brescia), Kai Havertz (Bayer Leverkusen)

Who could go: Curtis Jones, Caoimhin Kelleher (on loan)

Who's arrived: Takumi Minamino (Red Bull Salzburg, £7.3m)

Who's left: Rhian Brewster (Swansea City, loan), Herbie Kane (Hull City, loan), Nathaniel Phillips (Stuttgart, loan), Isaac Christie-Davies (Cercle Brugge, loan), Allan Rodrigues de Souza (Atletico Mineiro, undisclosed), Daniel Atherton (Marine, loan)

Budget: £50m - but they are likely to save it until the summer

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp was quick out of the blocks when it was announced the club had agreed a deal with Red Bull Salzburg for Takumi Minamino at the start of the window.



Six-month bans await PSL duo?

PRETORIA - The Premier Soccer League have confirmed that the prosecutor has charged two Bidvest Wits players for alleged assault of a match official.

Wits goalkeeper Ricardo Goss and midfielder Sameehg Douthie are set to face the music following their recent actions in an ABSA Premiership match against Cape Town City last Saturday.

Goss and Douthie are both thought to have shoved referee Masixole Bambiso following the awarding of a penalty to The Citizens in the 60th minute, after which a protest ensued.

Goss was subsequently shown a yellow card, while Douthie walked away scot-free from the scene. However, the League's prosecutor Nande Becker will now take retrospective action.

Given the charges of misconduct, if found guilty of assault, The Clever Boys duo could face a minimum sanction of a six-month ban in accordance with rule 57.2.1.2 of the NSL Handbook - similar to that of City midfielder Mpho Makola last year.

But should they be found guilty of unsporting behaviour, a lesser sentence of a minimum four-match ban will be handed down - as was the case with Makola, who took the initial sentence on review to SAFA.

A monetary fine is also expected to be handed down to both players and the club, which may be suspended.

CHIEFS' NEW SIGNING STILL RESTRAINED

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs supporters will have to continue holding their breath to see new signing Anthony Akumu make his club debut.

Akumu's arrival at Naturena was confirmed early last week on a free transfer after leaving ZESCO United at the end of December last year.

The Kenya international midfielder had been training with his new club for a while prior to Chiefs releasing Ghanaian James Kotei, who had to make room in their foreign quota.

But the 27-year-old seems unlikely to make his debut when Amakhosi visit Golden Arrows in Durban this afternoon (15h30), with no further updates coming from the Department of Home Affairs.

KickOff.com has learnt that there had been system issues at the public service office, resulting in the delay to the issuing of Akumu's work permit.

This has also been the case for Baroka new coach Dylan Kerr, who was announced by his club more than three weeks ago.

'Teddy', as Akumu is known, could eventually get his first run in The Glamour Boys' colours when they next host Royal Eagles in their Nedbank Cup opener at FNB Stadium on February 7.



HIGHLANDS SET RECORD STRAIGHT ON RHULANI TALK!

JOHANNESBURG - Highlands Park have commented on the speculation linking the club with Orlando Pirates assistant coach Rhulani Mokwena, after the Siya crew had been informed that the club is looking at adding the tactician to their technical team.

Mokwena is still under contract with Pirates, though it is believed that he could be leaving the Soweto giants at the end of the season as he plots the next step in his career, and most likely as a head coach.

With that in mind, the crew had been informed that the Lions of the North, who have struggled with a loss of form in recent times, are said to be considering bringing Mokwena on board as a potential addition to their technical team.

However, Highlands co-chairman Brad Kaftel denied rumours linking Mokwena with the club.

"That's definitely not true, it's false - 100% false. We've got a contract with Owen da Gama that

runs until the end of next season, in 2021," Kaftel told the Siya crew.

"The truth is we are in eighth place (Highlands are currently ninth on the log, one point behind eighth-placed Golden Arrows).

We have had a few bad results, I accept that, but bottom line in football is that you are not going to win every game. There will be some bad results. We've had some good results and got to a cup (MTN8) final. We did well against SuperSport in the cup final and we had chances. So, we are fully behind Owen da Gama and we've got a very close relationship.

"This is now his (Da Gama's) third season, he's done very well for us. When he took over our team we were in the NFD and had just lost two (games) in a row. We were languishing in the NFD and he took us and got us promoted. Last season, he got us to the top eight and this season we've got to a cup final. We don't see why we should change



EYEING: Orlando Pirates assistant coach Rhulani Mokwena.

the coach and bring someone else. We are fully committed," the club boss added. "It's just rumours, we haven't made contact with any other coach. I put my head on the Bible,

I've not head a discussion with any other coach, we haven't signed any other coach, we haven't had a meeting with any other coach."

Soccer Laduma

We have to fight for the league - Pitso



PRETORIA - Pitso Mosimane explained that Mamelodi Sundowns still have to fight for the league title even with the odds against them.

Mosimane was awarded the ABSA Premiership award for December and although in Angola, the Sundowns head coach made sure to express his gratitude to everyone involved.

Speaking to the Premier Soccer League, Mosimane revealed how important it is to continue their fight on all fronts, especially for the number one spot on the ABSA Premiership log.

"Our match on Saturday is a must-win, of course, sometimes you want to and you might not but you have to fight to win to stay at the top of the log in the

CAF Champions League," he said.

"We also have to fight for the league title in South Africa, even though the odds are against us and it will be difficult for us now because of a lot of different programmes that we are involved in.

"We are in the Champions League and in the PSL, now it will be the Nedbank Cup, we've been doing the same thing, especially in December when it included the Telkom Knockout Cup and managing Stellenbosch, managing AmaZulu and all those games that you had played, is a hectic programme. But we are humbled and appreciate that we have been recognised," Mosimane added. Soccer Laduma

Buccaneers defence must step up

JOHANNESBURG - The sooner Orlando Pirates fix their defensive issues, the readier they'll be to compete on all fronts in domestic football.

There has been a breath of fresh air that has hung over the Parktown-based team in the last two months following the arrival of coach Josef Zinnbauer, who has led the team to 13 points out of 15. The Buccaneers achieved that feat in impressive fashion, scoring 12 goals in five matches, while striker Gabadinho Mhango contributed a whopping eight goals in that tally, hence he currently leads the league's scoring charts with 12 goals.

It is safe to say Zinnbauer has found the team's mojo up front. However, Pirates' leaky defence, which has conceded four goals and kept only one clean sheet in those five outings, should be a source of concern for the German.

However, that won't be an easy fix, especially with the issue having persisted for the last 18 months.

After all, if you recall, it was defensive blunders that ensured Pirates lost the Premiership title to Mamelodi Sundowns last season, despite being top of the table until the penultimate round of matches. And instead of the club addressing those defensive issues with quality signings during the pre-season transfer window, they went on to acquire midfielders, something that saw then interim coach Rhulani Mokwena chopping and changing his engine room - as they conceded 16 goals in 11 matches.

Nonetheless, having Pirates transformed from a team that floated in the bottom half of the log standings to a side that's competing for a top three finish in recent weeks, there's ample of belief from the Ghost that Zinnbauer could actually make the Bucs run like a well-oiled machine once again.

The Mercury

Another change of coach in Limpopo?



LIMPOPO - The axe could swing again in the ABSA Premiership with another coach in danger of getting fired if results don't go his way soon. KickOff.com has been reliably told that things are not looking good for Cavin Johnson at Black Leopards despite a good performance against Kaizer Chiefs last weekend.

According to our source, the coach might lose his job if the team fails to collect

pressure to deliver and things are not looking good," says the source. Leopards official Bery Ramunenyiwa denied the club is already thinking of letting Johnson go. "We don't know about those talks, we are still happy with the coach," he says.

"We are playing well, we just need that win to get out of that position and he knows his mandate." If Johnson gets fired it will be the second time this season after he was fired at AmaZulu just five games into the season following a poor run that has seen Uthutu still struggling to recover. Leopards invested heavily in big-name players during the off-season and had high hopes for the campaign but find themselves at the wrong end of the table, having already fired Lionel Soccoia and watched Luc Eymael leave for Young Africans in Tanzania.

maximum points in their next few matches. Cavin Johnson is under



Federer survives incredible fifth set tie break

MELBOURNE - A remarkable day at the Australian Open that spilled into the weekend ended with Roger Federer dramatically avoiding the same fate as some of the women's top names.

The 38-year-old Swiss, born 49 days apart from Serena Williams, survived his third round encounter by beating the host nation's John Millman 6-4, 6-7, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 in four hours and three minutes.

With the time approaching 1am it came down to a sudden death first-to-ten tiebreak which Millman began fearlessly thanks to a stunning series of passing shots that had the Rod Laver Arena on his feet.

Federer was entitled to feel his age as they whizzed past but from 4-8 down his opponent began to miss and he ran off six points to make a fourth round appointment with Hungary's Marton Fucsovics.

Memories were kindled of the sti-

fling night at the 2018 US Open when the same player knocked him out. The heat was not an issue this time, but Federer unusually lacked the ideas to work out the aggressive baseliner from Queensland ranked 47 in the world.

The unrelenting Millman would not lie down until the pressure got to him at the end, leaving Federer relieved. "Oh God it was tough, John played a great match, he's a great fighter," said Federer.

"I had to stay focussed, he kept on coming up with the goods. The demons are always there, what a match. He did a great job keeping me on the back foot."

The match capped a dramatic day in Melbourne as both Williams and defending champion Naomi Osaka were bundled out.

Williams was beaten by Chinese No 1 Wang Qiang while Osaka was knocked out by American teenage sensation Coco Gauff. **AFP**

WILLIAMS IS KNOCKED OUT

MELBOURNE - When Serena Williams won her first title as a parent earlier this month in Auckland everything looked set up for her to do an Antipodean double at the Australian Open.

So the blow was all the more shattering yesterday when she failed to reach even the second week of the season's first Grand Slam, beaten 6-4 6-7 7-5 by Chinese No. 1 Qiang Wang, the 27th seed for the tournament.

The same player had won just one game when she played Williams in the US Open quarter-final back in September, another event she was strongly favoured to win.

The 38-year-old American now looks increasingly unlikely to win that elusive 24th Major as the years tick by, and the changing of the guard in women's tennis becomes more apparent.

Outside Roland Garros, which is her weakest suit given the requirements of clay, going out of the third round here was Williams' worst result at a Major since Wimbledon 2014, when she lost at the same stage.

Williams blamed herself afterwards, saying: "I just made far too many errors to be a professional athlete today."

She insisted that she can still win big again, and added: "I definitely do believe that or I wouldn't be on tour. I don't play just to have fun. To lose is really not fun, to play to lose, personally. I seem to do well the last two slams of the year. I have won them all several times. Each one is definitely an opportunity



LOSES: Serena Williams.

for me to go out there and win. It's not even about the slams, it's about just me playing good tennis, and I didn't do that today.

"That is more disappointing. So it's not even about the win, it's just more about I'm better than that."

"She served well. I didn't return like Serena. If we were just honest with ourselves, it's all on my shoulders. I lost that match."

Williams also maintained, although her demeanour did not really back it up, that defeats still sting the same as they used to: "I am just a better actress. I'm no happier than I was 10 years ago. I just have to pretend like I don't want to punch the wall, but in reality I do."

The legs are not quite as willing as

they were, and the athletic Wang just about held herself together to fight off the inevitable Williams comeback.

On the eve of the Chinese New Year she had taken the first set in 45 minutes and then broke for 3-2 in the second, only for the American to dig deep into herself and pull things round when Wang served for the match at 5-5.

As the tiebreak was secured 7-2 it looked like Wang had missed her chance, but she refused to back down in a desperately tight deciding set which went with serve right until the end at 6-5. It was then that Wang edged ahead to 40-15 against the Williams serve, only for her arm to turn to lead and make two unforced errors.

Daily Mail

Kyrgios apologises to his team

MELBOURNE - Australia's view of Nick Kyrgios continues to be transformed by his deeds both on and off the court.

He is into the third round of the Australian Open, registering sky high TV viewing figures across the nation, packing out stadiums and having crowds hang on his every word.

The enfant terrible remains on course for a colossal fourth-round match against Rafael Nadal, who he playfully mimicked in the course of a four-set victory over Frenchman Gilles Simon.

The Australian now plays powerful

Russian Karen Khachanov, but it is his effort in leading the efforts of athletes to raise money for victims of bushfires still raging in the country that has most caused the reassessment among his compatriots.

"It's a good feeling," he said of his charity campaign during his on-court interview. "I woke up this morning and there were fires close to Canberra, it's tough, but the whole tennis world is behind it now."

There was yet another reminder of the climate issue in the scenes at Melbourne Park on Thursday, where play on the outside courts was severe-

ly delayed.

Deposits of brown sludge had to be power-hosed off the courts after vicious winds had whipped up desert dust and come down, mixed into overnight downpours.

Already in the past 10 days Mother Nature has delivered to this city biblical rainfalls, hailstones the size of ping pong balls and smoky haze blowing in from the fires.

Andy Murray is not here, but the spirit of him barracking his own court-side support box lives on in Kyrgios, who in a further sign of maturity spoke later of how much he regretted that tendency.

Daily Mail

COCOMANIA STRIKES AGAIN

MELBOURNE - Coco Gauff scored a sensational win over defending champion Naomi Osaka at the Australian Open on a day that felt like there was an abrupt changing of the guard.

With Serena Williams having bowed out just a few hours earlier, her 15-year-old heir apparent stepped up to upset a clearly rattled Osaka 6-3, 6-4 in just 67 minutes.

Serving with penetration and covering the court with incredible agility, Gauff played with amazing poise to take advantage of 30 unforced errors from the No. 3 seed.

The Rod Laver Arena witnessed something completely different to New York's Arthur Ashe Stadium at the US Open, where the teenager won just three games, and ended up having to be comforted by her conqueror. This time Osaka was apparently unnerved by the youth of her opponent and was broken for 3-5 with her backhand especially awry.

Gauff has clearly improved since last summer, but could also be grateful for the amount of gifts that came her way.

"Two years ago, I lost in the first round at juniors and now I'm here!" 15-year-old

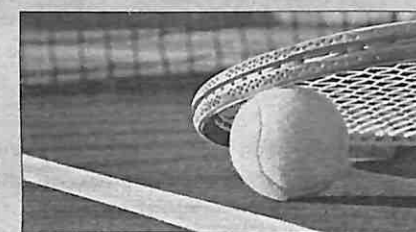
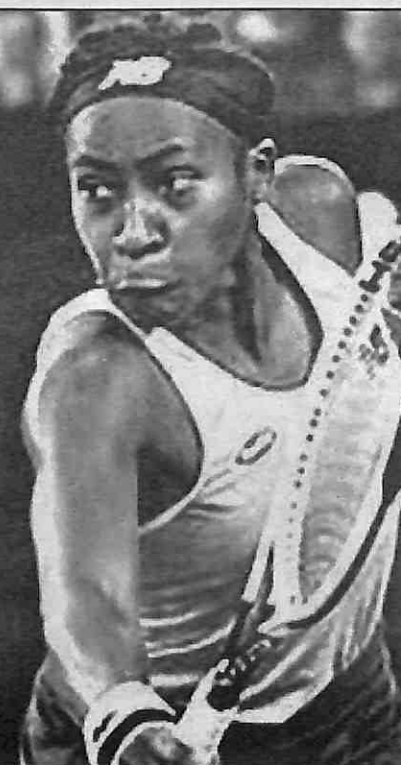
@CocoGauff has knocked out defending champion Naomi Osaka to book her place in the fourth round in Melbourne??

She broke for 5-3 in the first set and then just needed to keep her poise as her opponent's game collapsed in a heap by the end.

"What is my life? Oh my gosh, Two years ago I lost first round in juniors, and now I'm here. This is crazy," said Gauff, who is still doing schoolwork online.

"I was just telling myself one point at a time and keep fighting because you never know what happens on this court."

Daily Mail



MEN'S SINGLES

(2) Novak Djokovic bt. Yoshihito Nishioka: 6-3, 6-2, 6-2
(14) Diego Schwartzman bt. (24) Dusan Lajovic: 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (7)
Marton Fucsovics bt. Tommy Paul: 6-1, 6-1, 6-4
Marin Cilic bt. (9) Roberto Bautista Agut: 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-0, 5-7, 6-3
Tennys Sandgren bt. Sam Querrey: 6-4, 6-4, 6-4
(32) Milos Raonic bt. (6) Stefanos Tsitsipas: 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (2)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

(1) Ashleigh Barty bt. (29) Elena Rybakina: 6-3, 6-2
(27) Wang Qiang bt. (8) Serena Williams: 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5
(7) Petra Kvitova bt. (25) Ekaterina Alexandrova: 6-1, 6-2
(22) Maria Sakkari bt. (10) Madison Keys: 6-4, 6-4
Ons Jabeur bt. Caroline Wozniacki: 7-5, 3-6, 7-5
(8) Alison Riske bt. Julia Goerges: 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2
Coco Gauff bt. (3) Naomi Osaka: 6-3, 6-4



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PREVIEWS

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE RETURNS TO ACTION

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER –The MTN Premier League returns to action this afternoon with a bumper action following a two week break.

WILL PIRATES ADD WOES TO MALANTI?

*Malanti Chiefs vs Milling Hotspurs
(2pm, Mavuso Sports Centre)*

On-form side Moneni Pirates will be looking to add more woes to Malanti Chiefs when the two sides face each other this afternoon at Mavuso Sports Centre.

Sitting at position four with 25 points, the 'Sea Robbers' will be aiming to collect maximum points by beating the struggling opposition that is languishing at the bottom of the table with nine points. The hub outfit will enter the match with their spirit high after they advanced to the semi-finals of the Ingwenyama Cup last weekend. Congolese striker Fabrice Mopina is expected to lead the attacking forays in this encounter. He will be not alone, as he is expected to be assisted by youngster, Lizwe Zwane.

However, the Manzini-based outfit must thread carefully as they will be up against Malanti Chiefs who are rooted at the bottom of the log standings and they will be fighting for their lives. The gold and black outfit will rely on the experience of Thokozani Dlamini to torment the opposition defence with his flourishing talent. The national Under 20 player is maturing like wine and he has established himself as one of the key players for the team.

Moneni Pirates

Coach: Gcina' Magiyane' Dlamini

Captain: Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane

Key Players: Lizwe Zwane, Njabulo Shongwe, Sifiso 'Mkhelele' Mdluli

Match Winner: Fabrice Mopina

Malanti Chiefs

Coach: Christopher Tembo

Captain: Siyabonga Nkambule

Key Players: Innocent Jere, Zweli Fakudze, Lindokuhle Fakudze

Match Winner: Thokozani Dlamini

WESLIANS ENTERTAIN INYOKA ELUHLAZANA

*Manzini Wanderers vs Green Mamba
(4:05pm, Mavuso Sports Centre)*

Hub giants Manzini Wanderers will be looking to redeem themselves this afternoon after a shocking exit in the Ingwenyama Cup.

The team coach, Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe will be pinning his hopes on his midfielders in the likes of Mpendulo Ngidi and Hossesou 'Kante' Abboudou, to carry the day for him and possibly complete a double over the same team by 3-1 during the first round encounter.

Ghanaian striker Johnson Mensah is likely going to cause problems for the shaky position backline upfront alongside Mike Dombo in order to bring joy to their long suffering supporters.

The hub giants will be meeting a tough side in Green Mamba. The defending champions are slowly but surely re-discovering their old form that made them win the league last season.

The Correctional Services mentor Caleb Ngwenya



once again likely to deploy pint size midfielder Njabulo Thwala in the belly of the park to play the holding role, while Mcolisi Mkhontfo is expected to bang in the important goals.

Green Mamba

Coach: Caleb Ngwenya

Captain: Banele Dlamini

Key players: Njabulo Thwala, Musa Dlamini, Mthunzi Mkhontfo

Match winner: Mcolisi Mkhontfo

Manzini Wanderers

Coach: Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe

Captain: Sihle Mkhonta

Key players: Mike Dombo, Jose Machado, Mpendulo Ngidi

Match winner: Johnson Mensah

BUFFS LOOKING TO STRETCH LEAD

*Manzini Sea Birds vs Young Buffaloes
(2pm Somhlolo National Stadium)*

Army side Young Buffaloes will undoubtedly aim to stretch their lead at the summit of the

log when they take on struggling side Manzini Sea Birds this afternoon at Somhlolo National Stadium. The last time the two sides met in a league match Buffaloes easily won by 3-0, and surely the Phocweni-based outfit will continue from where they left off. The trio of Alie Matse, Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze and Fanelo 'Order' Mamba will be running the show this afternoon. On the other hand, Manzini Sea Birds will have to display a gallant performance to outsmart the army side and improve their position on the log standings.

Young Buffaloes

Coach: Dominic Kunene

Captain: Nhlanhla Gwebu

Key players: Phiwa Dlamini, Fanelo 'Order' Mamba, Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu

Match winner: Alie Matse

Sea Birds

Coach: Anthony Mdluli

Captain: Sibusiso Dlamini

Key players: Ndimiso Shongwe, Thembumenzi Mayisela, Colani 'Chocco' Sibandze

Match winner: Wandile Nhleko

WILL MILLING SHOCK LEOPARD?

*Milling Hotspurs vs Royal Leopard
(4:05pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

Unpredictable side Milling Hotspurs are ready to take on 'Ingwemabalabala' by the horns at Somhlolo National Stadium when the clock strikes at 4:05pm. The rookies have already made their intentions clear that they in the Premier League to stay after beating the defending champions Green Mamba and hold the big guns in the likes of Mbabane Swallows and Moneni Pirates during their previous outings. It is such games of magnitude whereby the new kids on the block rise to the occasion. Players like Lungelo Nyoni and Linda Mbuli enjoy the big stage. Royal Leopard, on the other hand will want to separate men from boys. The Edwin Matsebula led boys will come out with their guns blazing so that they close the gap at the top.

Royal Leopard

Coach: Edwin Matsebula

Captain: Machawe Dlamini

Key players: Sifiso Matse, Muzi Dlamini, Berry Steenkamp

Match winner: Fanelo Tsabedze

Milling Hotspurs

Coach: Clement 'King Clay' Mdluli

Captain: Linda Mbuli

Key Players: Futhi Gama, Lungelo Nyoni, Samkeliso Mhlanga

Match Winner: Lwazi Bhembe.



MTN Premier League log									
Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
Young Buffaloes	14	11	2	1	39	8	31	35	
Mbabane Swallows	14	9	4	1	24	6	18	31	
Royal Leopard	14	8	4	2	19	9	10	28	
Moneni Pirates	14	7	4	3	19	12	7	25	
Green Mamba	14	6	2	6	20	11	9	20	
Mbabane Highlanders	14	3	9	2	9	8	1	18	
Denver Sundowns	14	4	5	5	13	17	-4	17	
Manzini Wanderers	14	4	4	6	17	24	-7	16	
Milling Hotspurs	14	3	6	5	12	18	-6	15	
Tambuti	14	2	9	3	16	25	-9	15	
Mhlume Peacemakers	14	3	4	7	13	17	-4	13	
Sea Birds	14	3	4	7	13	22	-9	13	
Black Swallows	14	3	1	10	15	33	-18	10	
Malanti Chiefs	14	3	0	11	9	23	-14	9	

CYCLING UPDATES



ALL SET FOR SA COMPETITIONS

By Mbusi Motsa
(Guest writer)

As you read this article this morning, we will be at the tough Barberton MTB race. The past three weekends in preparation for this race we rode, firstly, from Manzini to Mphembekati, Mkhulamini, Maliyaduma and back. Next from Malkerns to Mhlambanyatsi and last one from Phocweni to Dwaleni Farm Lodge via Nhlambeni. A big number of locals have always participated in the Barberton race over the years. A good number of Newcom Wheels and Forever Cycling Club cyclists are doing this year's race.

MIXED FEELINGS OVER 2020 CALENDAR

The 2020 calendar has been received with mixed feelings due to the absence of two prominent races, namely Mafutseni Road Race and MTN Khemani.

Please note that the two races are sponsored by two corporate companies and until agreements are in place, no dates can be issued. I can safely say that the Mafutseni race is on 24 May. You will recall that we made an undertaking that the race will take more than one day from this year. We are surely working on that. I have



also been assured that the MTN Khemani returns to Mankayane this year too.

The first race of the season is the exciting individual time trial that resumes and ends at Phocweni Barracks. This one was won by MTN Khemani's Muzi Shabangu during last year's

edition. Judging by the way he is training, he looks set to defend it.

We cannot rule out the likes of Sihle Dlamini and Gcina Banda. I take it they have recovered from the Siteki shock.

I will also be battling it out with the Madalas in the quest to clinch my

category win. To perform well in a time trial, one has to learn to pace well and it comes with experience. If you come out too fast you will blow out and ultimately lose more time than what you gained. According to Lance Armstrong, if you can sprint at the end of a time trial, you did not

go hard enough.

It is important to assimilate this type of racing during training because it demands more from your body as opposed to group riding where you can even draft and be paced. Here, it is you alone against the clock.

The pinnacle of South African cycling, The Cape Town Tour also known as The Cape Argus, is on this year on 8 March and as always a good number of locals participate in this race, especially Malkerns Cycling club and Inyatsi Cycling Club.

This is the time to make preparations for this tough 110km race. I recall well how I suffered that one time I participated in this race many years ago.

It was very unfortunate on the last edition where due to extreme winds, the race had to be cancelled.

Now imagine the more than 30 000 cyclists from all over the world whose preps went to waste. We hope for the best weather this year.

I will be resuming with profiling the local cycling clubs so that the newcomers can align themselves with the right clubs that best suit their requirements. Club principals; here is your chance to market your teams or clubs for membership.

GOD LUCK TO KUSEKHAYA CYCLING CLUB

Good luck and safe travel to Kusekhaya Cycling Club who will be racing at The Fast one race in Gauteng tomorrow.





● Manchester United could make a surprise move to re-sign Boca Juniors' 35-year-old Argentina forward Carlos Tevez. (Tuttosport)

● Tottenham Hotspur have agreed a 20m euro (£16.8m) deal with Inter Milan to sell midfielder Christian Eriksen, 27. (Sempainter.com)



● However, Barcelona have made an enquiry about signing Denmark international Eriksen this month. (Sky Sports)

● Liverpool are interested in signing Real Madrid midfielder Isco, 27, although the La Liga giants want about 70m euros (£59m) for the Spain international. (El Desmarque - in Spanish)

● Arsenal's Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 30, is open to a move to Barcelona. (Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish)

● Meanwhile, the Gunners are favourites to sign France midfielder Thomas Lemar, 24, from Atletico Madrid. (Express)

● Chelsea have reopened talks with Lyon over a deal to sign French striker Moussa Dembele, 23, this month in case they miss out on Paris St-Germain's Edinson Cavani, 32. (Sun)



● Manchester United are also considering a move for Uruguay forward Cavani this month. (Telegraph)

● Manchester United's move for Bruno Fernandes is off because they refuse to meet Sporting Lisbon's £68m asking price for the 25-year-old Portugal midfielder. (Mail)

● United remain keen to sign Leicester City's England midfielder James Maddison, 23. (Star)

● Southampton's 24-year-old Denmark midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg is Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti's top transfer target. (Star)

● Chelsea are set to miss out on Dynamo Zagreb's Spain winger Dani Olmo, 21. (Express)

● The Blues and Barcelona are chasing Grasshopper's 21-year-old Swiss left-back Alan Arigoni. (Blick - in German)

● Shakhtar Donetsk are asking for £30m from Arsenal for Ukraine defender Mykola Matviyenko, 23. (Sky Sports)

THREE LOCAL TEAMS FOR SA CYCLING COMPETITIONS

By Jongile Xuba

CYCLING - Three local cycling teams NewComm Wheels, 4ver Cycling and Kusekhaya Cycling Club will be taking part in the Barberton XCM 2020 Mountain Bike Race and The Mid Vaal Fast One Cycle Challenge.

NewComm Wheels and 4ver Cycling Clubs will be both competing in the Barberton MTB race this morning whilst Ekhaya Kusekhaya Cycling Club will join the Mid Vaal Fast One Cycle in Gauteng. NewComm Wheels Principal Mbusi Motsa and Kusekhaya Principal Mduduzi Kaudi both confirmed the trips when contacted yesterday.

Kaudi said they were looking forward to the annual road races.

"The race is one of the fastest in the region and is a good tester of fitness coming from the holiday season. The team will be made up of thirteen (13) cyclists which comprises of Four Women. The



READY: Cyclists during a recent race.

most exciting about this race is that we have a couple of members who will be doing their first international race and are really looking forward to it," Kaudi Said.

Invitations

The relationship that Kusekhaya is having with international organisers cannot go unnoticed as they continue getting invitations to

international races. "This year promises to be a good year for development, and we will be doing a lot to make sure that more women and children take up the sport and anyone interested can email cycling@kusekhaya.com to get more information," Kaudi added.

4Ever Cycling club principal Clint McNamara, who said they were sending a team of five cyclists to the annual international mountain bike challenge. "We are heading to Barberton tomorrow morning for the MTB race and we are sending a strong team comprising of William Kelly Sihawu Dlamini, myself and two youngsters in Malik McNamara and Makepeace Bailey," he said.

Ashihara Eswatini to hold Sheba Breast Hike

By Jongile Xuba

KARATE - Ashihara Eswatini will hold the Sheba Breast Hike involving the local community and the association members as part of their team's building exercise.

This was revealed by Eswatini Ashihara President Sensei Abdul Khaaliq Dlamini, who said the event was important in building relations between the association and the nation.

"We will have our hike this weekend at Sheba Breast as part of community work and team building exercise.

"The hike also encourages parents and pupils to spend time together bonding and falls under our student-parent sessions that we have now and again," he said.

Dlamini further said they chose Sheba's Breast as it is one of the strenuous hiking trails, which will help push all the participants.

"We are building our student's

self-confidence and want them to develop a never say die mentality, which is what the hike will do. The hike will also help keep all families present fit and active something we have been advocating to all our members," he said.

The hike is expected to start at 7am and it will cost about E40 for anyone interested in being part of the walk. Dlamini encouraged all those coming to get there as early as possible to ensure they started on time.

Draw for Night Pool Tournament today

By Melusi Mlotse

PPOOL - The draw for the inaugural Manzini Regional All Night Pool Tournament will be conducted this morning at Manzini Pool Club.

The much-awaited inaugural tournament is billed for tonight at Manzini Club starting from 10am and it will come to an end tomorrow morning. The champion will walk away with E2 000.

The tournament Coordinator, Vusi Masilela confirmed the draw and urged the registered players to keep time. "We shall be conducting a draw at 9 a.m. and we urge pool players to keep time so that we can finish the entire proceedings on time," he said.

Masilela added that over 48 pool players had registered for the tournament.

Masilela said they would also host their end of year party on the same day, which will be graced by some Members of Parliament. Meanwhile, Eddie Mkhonta will be crowned 2019 Black Ball Open Pool Singles tomorrow after he finished the league with 72 points.

Mkhonta will take home E3 500, trophy and medal. Runner up, Flag Nxumalo will walk away with E2000 while third place finisher Sifiso Dlamini will be presented with E1500 and a bronze medal. The league was sponsored by Solo Investment to a tune of E15 000.

I WANT TO PLAY IN EUROPE - BUILD IT WINNER

By Jongile Xuba

SOCCER - Build It E10 000 bursary winner and National Championships Player of the Tournament Andiswa Malaza says he wants to play in Europe.

The 13-year-old Lobamba Lomdzala High School pupil made the comments during the prize presentation held at Build It Mbabane Branch on Tuesday.

Malaza dazzled with his skills during the 2018/2019 edition of the development competition, where he played for Matsapha pick team.

"Firstly, I am very grateful for getting the chance to play and for being awarded the prize by Build It. My dream is to continue playing football after school and hopefully go to Europe and find a team there," he said.

He further said the bursary would help his family in that his parents could now use the money intended for him to help his siblings, who also need new items for school.

Andiswa's father Robert Malaza thanked Build It as well as the Eswatini



ALL SMILES: Build It Mbabane Branch Assistant Manager Eugene Mayer, Build It U13 National player of the tournament Andiswa next to his father Robert Malaza and EFA's Bhekisisa Mkhonta during the prize presentation at Build It Mbabane branch recently. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)

Football Association for their generous gesture.

Support

Build It Mbabane Branch Assistant Manager Eugene Mayer said as a company they felt it was important to support this initiative as it keeps the youth out of trouble.

"This was our 16th edition and we

are happy that it went well once again and congratulate Andiswa for his achievement. We fully intend supporting the initiative, which will help give the youngsters more options apart from just school," he said.

Malaza was the second recipient of the E10 000 bursary after Mangaliso Dube won the first installment.

'FASH', ABAH ON TRANSFER

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER - Hub giants Manzini Wanderers have placed top striker Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze on transfer.

The former Mbabane Highlanders and Mbabane Swallows player has been offloaded alongside Cameroonian striker Laurent Abah following his two weeks absence from the team.

Other players who have been shown the exit are former Royal Leopard winger John 'Juries' Gama and Nathie Mkhonta.

Meanwhile, Green Mamba development product Mthobisi Vilakati has also parted ways with the team after tendering his resignation recently.

Abah, who joined Manzini Wanderers from Moneni Pirates during at the beginning of the season, saw less game time under the

tutelage of Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe. The team's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini confirmed the developments and thanked the players for their services.

"It's true that we have offloaded the players. We thank them for their services and wish them good luck in their future endeavours," he said.

Dlamini added that they were working around the clock to sign new players before the registration window closes. Ndzimandze sounded shocked when called about the transfer. He said he wasn't aware of the issue.

"That's news to me. No one informed me about the transfer, I am just hearing this for the first time," he said.

The 'Weslians' recently completed the signing of former Mbabane Swallows and Jomo Cosmos defend-



CONFIRMED: Manzini Wanderers Chief Executive Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini.

er Stanley Umukoro. Wanderers at the Mavuso Sports Centre in an MTN Premier League match.



MOVES ON: Takesure Chiyangwi.

Chiyangwi dumps Peacemakers for Ngezi Platinum

By Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER - Mhlume Peacemakers Zimbabwean born coach Takesure Chiyangwi is set to join Ngezi Platinum Stars.

Ngezi Platinum is a team owned by Jeremiah Gasteni competing in the Zimbabwean top flight league.

According to classified information from Zimbabwe, Chiyangwi has reunited with former Mhlume Peacemakers coach Rodwell Dhlakama who is in charge of Platinum.

Chiyangwi has been conspicuously missing from Mhlume Peacemakers in the second round of the MTN League. In fact, he didn't return to the team after the festive holidays.

Stand-in coach Sipiwo Nxumalo is keeping the fires burning in the absence of the Zimbabwean born coach.

When sought for comment, Peacemakers Public Relations Officer (PRO) Bhika Magagula said as far as they were concerned their coach is indisposed and would return once he fully recovers.

"I will treat this as a rumour. Our coach is on sick leave and we released him to recover from home. He will come back once he fully recovers," he said. Peacemakers will welcome Tambuti FC tomorrow at Tambankulu Stadium in the MTN Premier League without the services of the coach.

The sugar belt side is currently perched at position 11 with 13 points in the log standings.

MTN looking to grow sponsorship packages

By Jongile Xuba

SPORTS - MTN Eswatini looking at improving its sponsorship packages for all sporting codes under its banner as they want to improve Eswatini Sport.

This was revealed by MTN Eswatini Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sibusiso Nhleko during the launch of the #WeAreGoodTogether campaign at Mahlalekhukwini House in Ezulwini yesterday.

MTN currently sponsor the Premier League and National First Division leagues, Eswatini National Basketball League (ENBL), Golf Monthly Masters and Khemani Cycling Club.

"These sporting codes make us all 'Good Together' in the sense that they are gender inclusive.

However, participation remains low and we strongly believe that a little push, in the form of sponsorship, will help improve participation," he said.

In the past 15 years, MTN have contributed about E43 million to date, making it a



WE ARE GOOD: MTN Eswatini acting CEO Sibusiso Nhleko making his remarks as Senior Manager Consumer Meshack Maseko listens during the launch of the #WeAreGoodTogether campaign at Mahlalekhukwini House in Ezulwini yesterday. (Pic: Jongile Xuba).

job creation avenue, which now enables many to put food on the table.

In 2013 they partnered with Khemani Cycling Club and this partnership gave birth to the first MTN Khemani Road Classic in September of that year.

Generated

Funds generated are directed to care points where the

race is held and to also support Mankayane Government Hospital. Nhleko further outlined MTN Eswatini's contribution to the growth of arts and sports, noting that together with their partners, they gradually arrived at the conclusion that it may just be the greatest love of all times and were looking forward to the continued partnership.



Birds reject Palma

Stories by Melusi Mlotso

SOCCER - Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows have reportedly rejected central defender Mandla Palma.

This comes after the former Sihlangu player returned to the team recently after he parted ways with hub giants Manzini Wanderers.

The 2017/18 MTN Player of the Year was also on the verge of signing for ABC Motsepe outfit Mbombela City recently. However, the deal collapsed at the 11th hour.

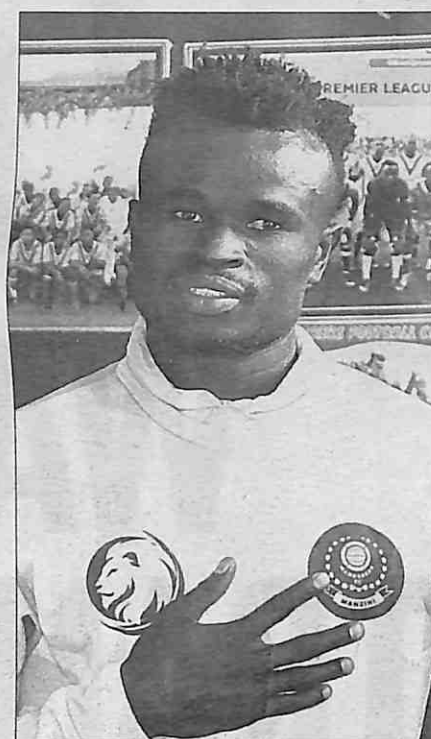
A source close to the matter asserted that the towering defender failed to impress the Swallows technical bench headed by Zambian mentor Honour Janza.

"The technical team decided not to sign the player due to his low work rate, hence they released him," said the source.

Swallows Head of Marketing and Communications Officer Manqoba Mabuza said the team would soon call a press conference to address issues of players.

The strong defender's career was hampered by a recurring injury in the past season.

This emanated from 2018 while doing duty for Mbabane Swallows in the Champions League against Desportivo Agosto where Swallows won 2-1.



...BIRDS TO RELEASE FOUR PLAYERS

SOCCER - Mbabane Swallows are set to off-load four players before the January window closes.

The players are, namely strong defender Siboniso Ndzabandzaba, winger William Kunene, goalkeeper Ntokozo Shabangu and left back Sakhile Shongwe.

The former Tambuti FC player Ndzabandzaba joined the red and white glamour side during the beginning of last season.

On the other hand, the red and white glamour side is working around the clock to sign former Mbombela United goalkeeper Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza, Allen Mabuza and left back Sanele Mkhweli.

Swallows Manqoba Mabuza said all now signings would be announced at a press conference soon when reached for comment.

Swallows will face Denver Sundowns tomorrow at Somhlolo National Stadium in the MTN Premier league.

RESULTS

Yesterday

Cape Town City 1-0 Black Leopards
SuperSport United 3-0 Chippa United

FIXTURES

Today
FA CUP - FOURTH ROUND

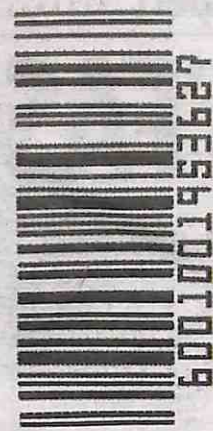
14:45 Brentford vs Leicester City
17:00 Southampton vs Tottenham
17:00 Newcastle vs Oxford United
17:00 Millwall vs Sheffield United
17:00 Burnley vs Norwich City
17:00 Reading vs Cardiff City
17:00 Portsmouth vs Barnsley
17:00 West Ham vs West Brom
19:30 Hull City vs Chelsea

ABSA Premiership

15:30 Stellenbosch vs Polokwane City
15:30 Golden Arrows vs Kaizer Chiefs
16:00 Orlando Pirates vs AmaZulu FC

YOUR DEDICATED SPORTS FEED

SPORT



January 25, 2020



WANDERERS TRANSFER 'FASH'

Page: 43

Popular striker shown exit door alongside Laurent Abah

DISCARDED:

BIRDS REJECT PALMA



PAGE 43

DITCHES:

CHIYANGWI DUMPS PEACEMAKERS

PAGE 43

SPREADING WINGS:

THREE CYCLING TEAMS OFF TO SA RACES

PAGE 42

PRETORIA - A brace from Bradley Grobler inspired SuperSport United to an impressive 3-0 win over Chippa United at the Lucas Moripe Stadium last night.

Matsatsantsa made four changes, as Teboho Mokoena returned from suspension alongside Thamsanqa Gabuza and Ghampani Lungu while Ugandan midfielder Moses Waiswa made his debut in the absence of Dean Furman.

SuperSport carved out the first chance of the match in the ninth minute after Luke Fleurs headed a free-kick at the far post back to the dangerous area but Gabuza's outstretched shot was saved by Chippa

SuperSport thump resurgent Chippa

goalkeeper Veli Mothwa.

The Chilli Boys also came close to breaking the deadlock in the 26th minute from a set-piece as Sandile Mthethwa's header missed slightly wide from a corner-kick.

Kaitano Tembo's charges finally found the breakthrough with five minutes remaining of the first stanza after they were awarded a penalty for a handball inside the area, Bradley Grobler took the responsibility and fired an unstoppable strike the other side of Mothwa towards the far corner.

SuperSport were forceful in attack coming from the break and they nearly doubled their lead on the hour-mark after Lungu picked out Gabuza in the centre of the box with a cross but his free header was saved by Mothwa.

However, Grobler eventually made it 2-0 for the hosts and grabbed his brace with a powerful low strike from the edge of the box that caught Mothwa flat-footed at the near post.

SuperSport made it 3-0 with 16 minutes remaining after Fleurs beat the offside trap and Mothwa in the

air to Mokoena's cross alone at the far post and guided a header to the back of a gaping net.

Sipho Mbule came close to making it 4-0 for Matsatsantsa with seven minutes remaining with a dipping strike from range that was tipped over the bar by Mothwa.



Chidi Kwem had a chance to net a consolation goal in the last five minutes after going clear in the centre of the box but he guided a low shot wide, one-on-one with SuperSport goalkeeper Ronwen Williams.

Norman Mapeza's men were offered a chance to get the consolation after they were awarded a penalty in stoppage time for a handball inside the box but Boikanyo Komane could not capitalise, as his spot-kick was saved by Williams as the hosts held on for a 3-0 victory.

Soccer Laduma