

**EEC  
EMPLOYEES  
TO BE PAID  
BONUS THIS  
WEEK**

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## KING RECEIVES UGANDAN SPECIAL ENVOY

**BAYETHE:** His Majesty King Mswati III yesterday met Ugandan Special Envoy the King of Toro Kingdom, Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV at Hlane Royal Residence. In the picture, His Majesty receives a gift from the Toro King. (Pic: State Photographer Leonard Mohale) **MORE ON PAGE 4**



## FORMER EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT DIES AT 91

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**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:**

## RUSSIAN POLICE RAID HOMES, BUSINESSES

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**HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER PRINCESS LINDIWE ORDERED...**

# STOP 'MIRACLE' SELLING CHURCHES

STORY  
ON  
PAGE 3

- MPs accuse them of taking advantage of vulnerable citizens, promising them promotions and employment breakthroughs
- Also accuses churches of defrauding the nation, being involved in money laundering

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# EEC EMPLOYEES TO BE PAID BONUSES THIS WEEK

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

ESWATINI Electricity Company (EEC) employees will be smiling all the way to the bank this week as they will be paid their performance bonuses.

This is contained in a communiqué dated February 24, 2020 sent by the company's General Manager for Corporate Services Noncedo Mamba to all staff members.

The memo stated that following another com-

muniqué issued by EEC's management to employees in November 2019 regarding the performance bonus for 2018/19 financial year, the management resolved to grant the employees same. The communiqué further stated that all eligible employees will be paid by Friday this week, as all due processes are already underway.

Currently, EEC has 793 employees.

However, the bad news conveyed by the same message was that employees who are members of the Swaziland Electricity Supply Maintenance and Allied Workers Union (SES-

MAWU) will not be paid a dime since they had participated in a strike action that was deemed unlawful by the High Court.

The court issued an order directing the union's members to desist from participating in the unlawful strike action and return to work. Some of these heeded the order while others continued nonetheless. The push factor that led the employees to downing their tools and striking was that for two years they had been waiting for adjustments in their salaries as was promised through the call for the aligning of their salaries.

Led by SESMAWU, which represents those

who are unionised, the employees had been calling for the effecting of their salary alignment, something which was prescribed by Circular No. 3 of 2016.

When sought for comment on the matter, EEC's Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications Khaya Mavuso declined to comment on the matter, citing that it was between the employer and employees.

Similarly, SESMAWU's Secretary General Maureen Nkambule could not be reached for comment as her phone was unavailable on the network.

## 'FREEZE NHLANGANO-SICUNUSA ROAD BUDGET'

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI  
Lobamba

MEMBERS of Parliament have vowed to freeze the E80 million budget allocation for the completion of Nhlango-Sicunusa road (MR 13) construction pending finalisation of the forensic audit.

The MPs felt it will be unsound to continue to pump money into the project before establishing where the estimated E800 million report-

...MPs vow to freeze the E80 million budget allocation for the completion of Nhlango-Sicunusa road (MR 13) construction pending finalisation of the forensic audit

edly already spent on the road had been used seeing as the road was still incomplete.

This was after the Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Ndlehlulaza Ndawandwe in his preamble of the annual performance report had also raised concern on the state of unfinished roads across the country.

"The ministry is concerned about the state of

incomplete major projects and these include Nhlango-Sicunusa road and section of the MR3 between Mafutseni and Mbadlane (Lot 2)," he said.

MPs Robert Magongo, Musa Ngcobo and Mabulala Maseko seconded each other that the budget for the road be frozen pending finalisation of the audit.



PARKED: Heavy plant parked in Gege.



## MPs threaten to cut works' budget over E1 billion civil aviation allocation

ON the other hand, the MPs threatened to cut the budget for the ministry of public works and transport after discovering that almost half of the ministry's budget goes to civil aviation.

The lawmakers have given the minister of works and public transport 48 hours to give an explanation justifying why the civil aviation receives an allocation which is almost half of the ministry's budget, leaving other departments to share the remainder.

First to raise a concern was Lobamba Lomdzala Member of Parliament Marwick Khumalo who pointed out that the total allocation that goes to the civil aviation amounted to close a billion when the ministry had a budget of E2.4 billion.

"This ministry is all about or exists for the civil aviation, when you look at the book of estimates

on page 169, the civil aviation gets E459 059 139. Again on page 170 you will notice under head 53 that the civil aviation authority will get E135 million while the subvention to the Royal Swazi Airways amounts to E322 560 000, almost E1 billion goes to the civil aviation alone yet we do not have aircrafts but only one. If you can only share E100 million of that amount and use it to fix the roads and the plants it can have meaningful results in the communities," he said.

MP Khumalo said the budget for the ministry was skewed and needed to be reviewed or the minister had to justify it.

Similarly, Motshane MP Robert Magongo who chairs the committee said they may be forced to cut the civil aviation budget if the ministry did not give convincing responses.

Magongo wanted to know how many Emaswati

were employed by the civil aviation to justify the allocation.

The legislators then gave the ministry two days to come with responses to the questions that were posed by the politicians.

**"This ministry is all about or exists for the civil aviation, when you look at the book of estimates on page 169, the civil aviation gets E459 059 139."**

covered about 30 per cent of the targeted road length in the current phase and all weather accessibility has improved in the areas that have benefited," he said. The MPs, on the other hand, wondered if other contractors would be engaged to speed the programme as they pointed out that the current contractor seems inadequate, emphasising that the country's roads were in a bad state, especially in rural areas.

## Lutsango grateful for gifts from Their Majesties

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Lobamba

LUBOMBO MP Lorraine Nxumalo has thanked Their Majesties for the gifts handed to Lutsango during the Baganu Festival.

Following a successful event, Their Majesties showered Lutsango with gifts which included emahiya, body lotion as well as soaps, to mention a few. "We are profoundly grateful as Lutsango for the gifts we received from Their Majesties," she said. She stated that they enjoyed the event as they came together from different corners of the country for the significant cultural event. Nxumalo, however, pointed out to the ministry of home affairs that not all the members of the Lutsango regiment were satisfied with the distribution of the gifts as some members went home empty handed. She said the distribution of the gifts was a nightmare and requested the ministry to address the matter going forward and ensured that all the members of the regiment received the gifts as it was a form of encouragement for them to attend. Sithobelweni MP Bhokitje Dlamini also thanked Their Majesties for a successful event. He also requested the ministry to reconsider transporting the regiment in trucks as it was not comfortable for them. Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe welcomed the MPs submissions and said moving forward, the ministry would address the matter. She thanked Their Majesties for the kind gesture and acknowledged that as a ministry they were aware of the concerns and moving forward, they would make sure that all members of Lutsango who attended the event would receive their gifts.

## MPs concerned Baganu ceremony being ridiculed on social media

MTSAMBAMA MP Simosonkhe Shongwe has urged the ministry of home affairs to protect the image of the Baganu Festival, which was being ridiculed on social media.

The MP made this request during the House of Assembly portfolio committee debate of the ministry of home affairs annual budget performance yesterday. Shongwe said it was concerning that such a significant cultural event was being turned into a joke on social media as people posted discriminatory pictures and videos of individuals in compromising situations.

He said this was not good for the image of the country and the ministry should consider invoking a law that would guard against such bad publicity for the cultural event.

Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo said the brew was the country's refreshment of choice and was pivotal in bringing people together.

However, he echoed Shongwe's sentiments in that the event was being treated as a joke and the ministry needed to do something about the social media comments as it was a cause for concern.

He also advised the public to respect the event and refrain from unbecoming behaviour.

## CONCERNS OVER PRO-BASE'S SNAIL PACE

LEGISLATORS expressed concern on the pace at which the pro-base programme phase one had been rolled out as they suspect it may not be completed within the specified three years which lapse next year.

This was after the minister had announced that

implementation was at 30 per cent.

"Improvements on the country's roads network as this was regarded as key infrastructure for improving economic activity by connecting various areas within the country across the borders is essential. Pro-base programme has just



# STOP CHURCHES 'SELLING' PRAYERS - MPs

...they accuse them of taking advantage of vulnerable citizens, promising them promotions and employment breakthroughs

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Lobamba

MEMBERS of Parliament have expressed displeasure with the growing trend of churches seemingly selling breakthroughs and blessings in the name of God.

As the custodian ministry for religious activities, the ministry of home affairs has been tasked with addressing the issue, as these churches have been accused of taking advantage of vulnerable Emaswati.

This was revealed yesterday during the debate in the House of Assembly for the ministry of home affairs' annual budget performance report.

## Business

While making his submissions, Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini reminded Minister Princess Lindiwe of her pledge made to His Majesty the King that if she was given the chance to be the minister of home affairs, she promised to sort out the issue of churches being run as businesses.

"Since you have been in office for some time, are you happy about what is going on in most of the churches around the country, which are being run as private businesses," enquired Dlamini. He said there were a number of questionable things happening in the churches around the country.

He said there was something wrong with the manner in which churches were being run, and he was concerned that it was no longer according to the Bible.

The MP said a number of these churches were taking advantage of the country's citizens, as there was a high prevalence of unemployment and promised them breakthroughs, as well as promotions.

"Nowadays' churches freely adver-



**STOP IT:** A few congregants being made to eat grass at a church in South Africa with the promise of having breakthroughs. (File pic)

tise and state that if people wanted to have breakthroughs and find employment as well as promotions, they should come to them. I seriously do not think this is according to the Bible," he said.

He further stated that a new breed of men of God were seemingly in business as they were collecting considerable amounts of money through offerings and pledges with the promise of securing employment for members.

## Promise

MP Dlamini also stated that there was a serious concern of money laundering taking place in these churches, as they were not taxed nor audited.

He added that Emaswati as a nation were becoming gullible since a majority of them were desperate as they were unemployed. He said when such churches call them, they would come running to them. Dlamini said there was also a concern regarding where members of the public were supposed to report these churches after they have offered their hard earned money and did not get what they were promised.

Manzini North MP Macford Nsibandze seconded Dlamini and said of late, Christianity was the most confused reli-

gion. He said there was a need to protect the religion as history indicated that people died for this religion and now it was being made to look like a joke.

"This religion has come a long way and there were a lot of bad periods where people were killed for their beliefs," he said.

He stated that nowadays there were a lot of born again thugs, who were using the Word of God for their own gain, as any lazy person with a suit could now open a church. He also requested the minister to address the matter as things were now getting out of hand.

The Ndzingeni MP requested the minister to embark on a background check of all the churches in the country to determine which churches were still true to the Word of God, so that the public would be aware of which churches they needed to avoid.

He also requested the minister to provide Parliament with a detailed report of the right churches which still preached the true Word of God, as well as the private businesses posing as houses of God and allegedly involved in defrauding the nation and promoting money laundering.

## Speed up 24-hour border operation - MPs

MEMBERS of Parliament have requested the ministry of home affairs to speed up negotiations for the 24-hour operation of the Ngwenya Border Gate.

The legislators have requested the ministry of home affairs to provide them with an update regarding the meeting they had with South Department of Home Affairs regarding the 24-hour border operation. They also requested the minister to consider requesting for opening the border at 5am, while in the process of the negotiations.

MP Prince Mfanawemakhosi enquired what the delay in the negotiations was as the border gate was the busiest port of entry in the country, and the need for its 24-hour operation was important.

In her response, the Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe said the delay was not caused by them as a ministry. She said following the negotiations, both countries decided to select a committee comprising members from both countries.

She, however mentioned that the South African government decided to establish 10, one-stop border gates and the Ngwenya border gate was included in the list, which has resulted in the delay in effecting the 24 hour operation.

He however said the two countries were currently in the process of negotiating for opening the border gate at 6am, while waiting for the finalisation of the one-stop border gate which would also result in the 24 hour operation of the border.

On another matter, MP Nokuthula Dlamini requested the ministry to finalise the settlement of overtime claims owed to the immigration

staff which was long overdue. She also requested the ministry to consider reviewing the immigration staff's salaries, as they worked even on the weekends yet they were at the same scale as other employees.

She also said the ministry needed to finalise the payment of overtime hours dating back to 2010 for truck drivers who worked during national events.

"There was also a need to consider the rotation of staff so that the immigration personnel would also enjoy the benefits of not working during holidays and on weekends," she said. She added that the immigration staff was working under duress, as they have not been provided with uniforms for a considerable period.

In her responses, the minister said as a ministry they were not happy about the non-payment of the employees overtime. She stated that they included the invoice for settling salary arrears in the ongoing process under the ministry of health to settle all government arrears and they were hopeful that once the process was complete, they would settle the owed overtime claims for the ministry's staff.

There was also a need to consider the rotation of the staff so that the immigration personnel would also enjoy the benefits of not working during holidays and on weekends

## Need to establish a critical skills assessment board - MP Nsibandze

THE ministry of home affairs has been urged to establish a critical skills assessment board to reserve local job opportunities for qualifying Emaswati.

Manzini North MP Macford Nsibandze has noted that there was a serious issue of qualified local young people, who were struggling to find employment, while positions such as teachers and psychotherapists were occupied by foreign nationals.

This was during the debate of the annual budget performance report of the ministry of home affairs by the House of Assembly portfolio committee yesterday.

The MP revealed that it was not easy for Emaswati to secure employment in other neighbouring countries, for instance South Africa, where there was a need for an aspiring job applicant to have a unique skill that was in short supply in that country.

He said it was not easy for locals to attain jobs such as bricklaying, teaching as they were reserved for qualifying locals, yet in the kingdom these jobs were mainly occupied by foreign individuals, especially in private schools.



**NOTED:** Manzini MP Macford Nsibandze.

"It was okay in the past when we did not have qualified personnel but not now where there are qualified personnel that should be prioritised for the available jobs," he said. He also stated that the local youth had the skills to combat unemployment, and urged the ministry to prioritise the establishment of the board to protect the available jobs for the locals.

## Former Egyptian President Mubarak dies aged 91

CAIRO - Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak - ousted by the military in 2011 - has died in Cairo at the age of 91.

Mubarak spent three decades in office before a popular uprising swept Egypt.

He was found guilty of complicity in the killing of protesters during the revolution. That conviction was overturned and was freed in March 2017.

His death was confirmed by Egyptian state news yesterday. Earlier in the day, the Al-Watan website reported that he died at a military hospital.

Mubarak underwent surgery in late January and was photographed with his grandson as he recovered.

On Saturday, however, Mubarak's son, Alaa said the former president remained in intensive care.

Born in 1928, Mubarak entered the air force as a teenager and went on to play a key role in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

He became president less than a decade later, following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat, and played a



**REST IN PEACE:** Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

key role in the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

But despite the billions of dollars in military aid Egypt received during his time in office, unemployment, poverty and corruption continued to grow.

Discontent boiled over in January 2011, after similar protests in Tunisia led to the overthrow of the president there. Mubarak was forced to step down 18 days later.

Just over a year after Mubarak's overthrow, Mohamed Morsi, an Islamist politician, won Egypt's first democratic presidential election.

The new president lasted less than a year in office. Amid mass protests, he was ousted in a military coup led by General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Gen. al-Sisi went on to win two presidential elections. Morsi died in prison in 2019.

In 2012, Mubarak was sentenced to life imprisonment over the deaths of some of the 900 protesters who were killed by security forces during the uprising a year earlier.

Both he and his two sons were also convicted of corruption.

But the more serious charges against Mubarak were later overturned and he was released in 2017.

News24





**BAYETHE:** His Majesty King Mswati III with the Ugandan Special Envoy the King of Toro Kingdom, Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV with his delegation before receiving a special gift from the envoy at Hlane Royal Residence yesterday.

## HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES UGANDAN SPECIAL ENVOY

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Mbabane

HIS Majesty King Mswati III met Special Envoy the King of Toro Kingdom, Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV at Hlane Royal Residence yesterday.

The special envoy and his delegation arrived in the country through the Ngwenya Border Gate with a special message for His Majesty the King on Monday.

Toured

He toured the King Mswati III International Airport, Matsapha Industrial Site and the International Convention Centre and the Five Star Hotel that is currently under construction.

He came in his capacity to discuss developmental issues with His Majesty in consultation with



Ugandan President, His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni.

The special envoy is expected to leave today for the Kingdom of Lesotho, enroute to Morocco.

### Delegation List

1. His Majesty King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi
2. Her Royal Highness Kemigisa Olimi Best
3. Honourable Else Joan Aydeeri Kantu - Minister of Tourism, Toro Kingdom
4. Honourable Tim Lwanga - Senior Presidential Adviser
5. Tobias Kamugisha - Honorary

### Consul

6. Baguma Jonathan - Principal Private Secretary to the King
7. Sarah Nakamya - Counselor Uganda High Commission Pretoria
8. Engandu Moses Michael - Technical Advisor to the King
9. Servwagi Habiibu - Protocol officer for the King



## STILL NO SALARIES FOR RFM EMPLOYEES

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Manzini

**SIX days past their pay-day the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital staff have not received their salaries.**

The issue of unpaid salaries has left the employees fuming after they were told that their salaries would be delayed. This matter is not new to the health institution as it has occurred in the past, with employees getting paid way after pay-day. Initially, this was attributed to problems at the hospital.

According to Chairperson of a tripartite, which includes the Swaziland Health Institutions and Allied Workers Union (SHIAWU) Geina Tsela, the employees had still not received their salary payment as of yesterday.

Tsela added that days later manage-

ment issued a memorandum summoning all heads of department to a meeting to address the matter.

He mentioned that they were told that the institution not have any money as all accounts had been frozen due to being-highly in debt.

He went on to mention that it did not seem like they were going to reach an amicable agreement with management when it came to the issue. He said the problem was that the management was not transparent with the staff members and failed to communicate such matters on time.

He said instead they waited until after payday before trying to address it.

"We are now used to the way they operate as they then flood us with memorandums hoping that we would comply with what they want to say to us," he said. He said no explanation what-

soever was offered to them. He said as a union, they wanted to know what the reasons behind delaying employees' salaries were.

Worth noting is that when RFM Chief Executive Officer Ben Simelane was called for comment but he said he would have a word with the employees.

He promised that the salaries would be paid with immediate effect.

The publication further called Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula, who stated that they were aware of the problems taking place at RFM.

"The problem is that the subvention that the institution receives from government is not enough to sustain all its problems," he said.

Magagula added that the problem would be sorted in no time, as they were currently working towards addressing it.



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# BACK TO THE CROSS CRUSADE STARTS ON HIGH NOTE



**LUNGS OUT:** Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule joined by his wife Zanele Mbokazi as they lead the congregation in song. This was during the second day of the Back To The Cross Crusade held at Ambassadors House Church at Makholokholo in Sidvwashini. The fourth instalment of the crusade started on Sunday and will end on March 1. Bishop Nash Shongwe, Reverend SD Gumbi, Bishop TE Thwala and Prophet Goodnews will minister the Word of God during the services. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

**BIG GUNS:** Bishop Nkambule and his wife joined by Pastor Gambusha and resident Pastor Isaac Magagula.



**RELAX:** Pastor Isaac Magagula and his wife Molly were also in attendance.



**PRAISE TEAM:** Back To The Cross Crusade praise team ready for the start.



**PRESENT:** A section of the packed tent as brethren came from near and far to be part of the service.



**AMEN:** Part of the Christians following the sermon of the day.



**HALLELUJAH:** A section of brethren who attended the service.



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

## SA man found dead by roadside

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

A South African man was found dead by the side of the road at Mafutseni.

He was found by a passer-by next to the road currently under construction between Mafutseni Police Station and Total Filling Station last Thursday.

Information gathered was to the effect that when found, the man was found lying on the ground facing up with his head on a rock as if to cushion it.

He reportedly had no wounds or bruises to show whether he was assaulted, strangled or stabbed, save for some blood that was coming out of his mouth.

Since none of the people who were at the scene seemed to recognise him, the identity of the man was unveiled by the Mafutseni police who searched his pockets and found a South African driver's licence bearing the man's name. Five days later, the man's family followed leads of his disappearance and they ended up in Eswatini, where they were informed that he had been found dead. Sources claimed that the family was expected to report to the Mafutseni Police Station yesterday afternoon. It was further disclosed that a post-mortem to determine the cause, mode and manner of death or to evaluate any disease will be conducted before the end of this week. When sought for comment, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the discovery of the South African man's body. She also mentioned that the man's family was located and informed about the matter.

### LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the 18th March 2020 starting at 10.30am.

#### Region LUBOMBO

1. MTHUNZ KUNENE, P.O. Box 13 MSAHWENI grant of a BOTTLE STORE Liquor Licence situated at NDLALAMBI known as EMANTIMANDZE BOTTLE STORE.

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD  
P.O. BOX 451  
MBABANE

# Man killed, dumped in forest

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Manzini

A body of an unknown man was found dumped in a forest at Nhlambeni area.

The body, which was already in a decomposing state, was discovered by residents passing by the place where it had been dumped.

One of the residents said judging by the state of the body, it was evi-

dent that it had been there for a number of days.

According to the residents of the area, the face of the man is not familiar to them, thus giving credence to speculation that he was not from the area. The deceased wore brown pants and was found without shoes and a top. Residents said the body was placed in an open space on purpose for it to be found by passers-by. The body looked to have bruises all over which suggests that he

was beaten before meeting his death.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter, saying there was not much information they had at the moment regarding the identity of the deceased.

Vilakati said the deceased did not have any form of identification on him; hence it was difficult to know who he was, his age and where he came from.

"There was nothing that gave us any lead like an identification document that can help us," she said.

She mentioned that the police were still investigating the matter and were hoping to get leads soon.

Vilakati added that anyone who might have been looking for a missing male relative should not hesitate to call Regional Crime Branch Officer Thabo Hlophe on 7605 3042 or Sidvokodvo Desk Officer Zanele Dlamini on 7607 9239 or 999/9999.

## Eswatini Mobile warns of fake online competition

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

ESWATINI Mobile users should be wary of a fake online competition which pops up on the user's device and as per the requirements asks for the user's information, including their bank details.

The bogus online competition pops up on any Eswatini Mobile user's device whilst they are surfing the internet.

It further urges the user to answer all the questions in four minutes and 49 seconds and then give their banking details to claim their lucky gift.

A couple of users reacted on the issue yesterday afternoon, with many of them expressing their rage at the mobile communications company for 'owing' them their smartphones, such as Samsung Galaxy S10, Apple iPhone XS or Samsung Galaxy S9.

"I don't believe Eswatini Mobile would play us like this. I really thought I had won myself a Samsung Galaxy

S10, but I guess it's an early April Fool's," said one user. Some users, on the other hand, said they noted that something was off with the competition the moment it requested for bank details as the final step to claiming the lucrative smartphone.

"I immediately smelt a rat the moment it told me about paying 1\$ to claim my Apple XS which I won by being 'randomly' chosen by Eswatini Mobile.

People should honestly beware of such by now. I just didn't think this type of crime was to such levels in

our country," said another user.

When contacted, Eswatini Mobile Corporate Communications Manager Nosipho Shongwe said the company received complaints from the public and made it clear that the competition was bogus and warned users not to fall prey. "We have been receiving complaints since last week from the public about these pop-ups and we warn our customers to not even fall for it. It is fake; and we plead with Eswatini Mobile customers to not give off their information. The last competition we ran was through SMS and it is done," she said.



**DISASTER:** The four-room flat that was burnt by a 20-year-old man in Mahebedla over the weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



**DESTROYED:** The situation inside the four-room flat after the incident.

## SON (20) BURNS FAMILY HOME 'AFTER HEARING VOICES'

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mahebedla

A family of seven is homeless after their two-bedroom house was burnt to ashes on Saturday morning.

The unfortunate incident that left the Sikhondze family with nothing occurred around 8am. Fikelephi Sikhondze said she was in Durban when her family home was burnt by her 20-year-old son. At the time, the 20-year-old was alone at home.

The young man used petrol and matches to burn the house.

When asked by the family why he burnt the house, he told them that he was following an instruction from voices. The young man used five litres petrol that his mother had purchased to cut grass. He took the petrol and sprinkled it inside the house and on all furniture. He then lit up the whole house and left the homestead. Nothing was saved from the house because by the time the neighbours noticed, the fire had burnt everything. The damage is estimated to be over E200 000. Narrating the incident, Sikhondze's son Sinethemba Dladla said last Friday morning he heard strong voices telling him to burn the family house. At first the young man said he saw three people who want-



**IN THE DARK:** Fikelephi Sikhondze speaking during an interview inside the burnt house.

ed to kill him.

He said the voices followed him everywhere he went.

The last straw was when the voices came through a dressing table mirror. The young man according to her mother, who was also narrating the story, broke the mirror which her son said it happened after seeing images of three men who wanted to kill him.

On Saturday morning, the day of the incident, Sikhondze said her brother came home to fetch her five-year-old son along with her other two sons. However, the 20-year-old refused to go with his uncle. "He said there were voices that told him that his uncle wanted to kill him," she said.

After his uncle left, the son threw some shoes in a toilet. He said the voices told him that the people who wanted him dead would use the shoes to get to him. After he threw the shoes into the toilet, the young man said the voices told him to burn the family home. Sikhondze said her son proceeded to burn the house. She said amongst the items destroyed included food, clothes and furniture and identity documents. "Currently, we are staying with our neighbours since we cannot use the house," she said.

The young man that burnt the house was also at home and he stated that after burning the house he did not hear any voices since then.

### FAMILY PLEADS FOR HELP FOLLOWING the fire incident, the Sikhondze family is pleading for assistance from the public.

The family was found at Mahebedla in Mbuluzi. Fikelephi Sikhondze urged the public to assist them since they do not have a home, food and clothes. Sikhondze said she would appreciate if they could also be assisted with building material. This is because they would be unable to rebuild the walls as they are badly damaged, along with the roofing. She also pleaded for clothes as everything inside was burnt to ashes. Members of the family include 41-year-old Fikelephi, her two brothers and her three sons aged 20, 18 and five. She also pleaded with the public to assist her son. She said she does not feel safe at home anymore following the incident. She fears for everyone, including her son. She asked anyone who might have knowledge of the illness that engulfed her son to assist him. Sikhondze said she had suspected in the past that her son had mental challenges but after Saturday she realised that he needed help. "The only problem I have is that I do not know where to seek help for my son," she said. She added that her son also smokes dagga, which might be a major contributor to the mental episodes.





# MANZINI NEWS

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## Property valuation:

# COUNCIL EXTENDS OBJECTIONS DEADLINE

THE Municipal Council of Manzini has extended the deadline for viewing of the draft general Valuation Roll and lodging of objections (if any) to Friday 13th March 2020.

The initial deadline was last Thursday (20th February 2020). Being a municipality that cares for its stakeholders, council decided to shift the deadline in order to give property owners more time to inspect the draft Valuation Roll before having it endorsed by her parent ministry, the ministry of housing and urban development. Once endorsed, it will be impossible (as per the Rating Act, 1995) to carry-out any alterations. Council would like to state that, due to reasons beyond her control, delays were experienced in posting the valuation notices in the post office hence some property owners did not find them when they went there to access them. Property owners are informed that the glitches have been rectified and all valuation



**A CALL TO ALL MANZINI PROPERTY OWNERS: If you own property in Manzini please get hold of your Valuation Notice soonest. Deadline is 13th March 2020.**

notices are now accessible at the post office. Those who have changed their postal addresses but forgot to update their account details with council are advised to approach council's Finance Department as soon as possible and shall be duly

assisted. In terms of the Rating Act, 1995, Council is required to carry-out a valuation of all properties within the urban area every five years. This is referred to as a general valuation and, since property value appreciates, the purpose

is to assess the current value of the properties in order to examine whether or not the city is growing in value terms. It also helps during determination of property taxes (rates) payable by property owners.

## ...Why it's important that you view the valuation roll

The following are some of the reasons it is important for property owners to get hold of their valuation notices...

- It helps the property owner ascertain accuracy of their details such as name, contact details and location of the property.

- It helps ascertain that sub-divisions effected on the property (if any) have been correctly captured by the Valuers and are accurate on the Valuation Roll.

- It also helps ascertain that the zoning (for example, residential, commercial, semi-commercial) of the property is accurate.

This helps avoid instances whereby a residential property is charged rates at commercial scale or vice-versa.

- It gives the property owner an opportunity to object to the new valuation in the event that they feel it is over-valued or under-valued. An objection form is attached to the valuation notice and must be returned to Council on or before the 13th March 2020. After the deadline has passed, Council compiles a list of all objections and requests the Minister of Housing and Urban Development to set up a Valuation Court for final determination of all the cases. The objecting property owner is invited to present their case before the Valuation Court before a ruling is made.



**ANOTHER FLEA MARKET THIS SATURDAY: Over 70 traders gather on one of the streets in Manzini every after three months for trade purposes in what is called a flea market. Register for the next flea market.**

## ...FLEA MARKET THIS SATURDAY, REGISTRATION OPENS TOMORROW

AS part of her strategic objective to ensure inclusive socio-economic development in the Manzini urban area, the Municipal Council of Manzini will on Saturday once again hold its quarterly flea market.

The venue is the usual 'flea market street' (Louw Street), between the Bhunu Mall and EswatiniBank. The activity will start as early as 8am and

end at 5pm.

Those interested in selling items of any kind (but not illegal ones) are invited to register with council tomorrow morning at 9am.

### Urged

Approximately 100 stalls are available at a fee of E250 for sole traders, E400 for Small and Medium Enterprises and E700 for corporates/companies.

Members of the public are also urged to attend the flea market and spoil themselves to a variety of reasonably priced yet exciting items that will be on display.

Council further pleads with motorists to use alternative routes to their destinations as the portion of Louw Street between Ngwane and Nkoseluhlaza streets will be closed to traffic.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### STREET VENDING WITHOUT COUNCIL'S PERMIT IS A CRIME

Regulated street vending is allowed within the urban area, but it is strictly restricted to the designated areas. A vendor must have a valid trading permit obtainable from council and should only conduct trade at the place permitted to conduct business. Trading outside the allocated area is a violation of council's regulations. The vendor must only sell the goods/wares specified when applying for the permit. The vendor is not allowed to relocate from one vending site to another without Council's permission.

### DON'T ALLOW YOUR PET TO ROAM THE STREETS

No person shall keep an animal which is a nuisance or annoyance to other residents within the neighbourhood. If an animal becomes a nuisance to other residents and members of the public, its owner shall have to voluntarily remove it from their

property or council shall be forced to remove it. These may include dogs, cats and other domestic animals.

### MANZINI CITY ANO-GO-AREA FOR CATTLE

No person shall cause any animal to graze within the urban boundary unless they have been permitted by council.

Animals are also not to be allowed to roam the streets. Any cow, goat or donkey found roaming the city streets (even in the neighbourhoods) will be impounded in the municipal pound and released upon payment of a hefty release fee.

### YOU WILL BE FINED E50 FOR LITTERING

No person shall deposit any litter or refuse anywhere except at areas designated by Council. A person caught dumping litter at any other place other than a receptacle (garbage bin) shall be fined E50. Failure to pay will result in prosecution. Please deposit litter inside a receptacle NOT near it.



## 241 caught abusing govt cars, trucks abused daily

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**GOVERNMENT** Vehicle Inspectorate (Anti-Abuse Unit) nabbed 241 civil servants abusing government vehicles last year and collected a paltry E70 030 as fines for misuse.

Government trucks, on the other hand, have become a headache for the Anti-Abuse Unit as they are reportedly abused daily while the state continues to buy trucks even though there is little construction works by government.

The unit believes more civil servants could have been caught for abuse had it not been understaffed or if government had developed a control system for car rentals. It also cites the Road Traffic Act of 2007 as being a stumbling block as it does not give police powers to monitor or curb misuse of government vehicles.

The unit only has four vehicle inspectors, one deployed in each region and four assistant vehicle inspectors deployed in three regions while Shiselweni region has no assistant inspector which means only the inspector is responsible for the entire region.

This is according to the ministry of public works and transport's 2019/2020 annual performance report that has been submitted to Parliament.

While government continues to procure vehicles, the unit believes that government fleet is quite large, much against government transport requirement and thus keeping the extra vehicles results in financial losses.

The unit recommends that government should conduct a fleet survey to enhance the allocation of plant and vehicles to the different ministries.

### Losses

"The longer government continues to keep the vehicles more than needed, the more financial losses will be incurred," reads the report. The lack of controls and close supervision of the rented vehicles continues increasing financial losses to government.

"The big challenge that the unit reports is that it is facing difficulties in monitoring the use of rented vehicles as information on these vehicles is not shared for identification purposes.

"It is critical that rented vehicles be monitored because they are paid for by government and also draw fuel from the government bowsters. The issue of government trucks is a headache to the Anti-Abuse Unit as it has been mentioned. Not a day passes by without inspectors having to impound a government truck. It is not unusual to see even ministries which have no construction mandate allocated tipper trucks," further reads the report.

The unit also observed that there is an increase in the abuse of vehicles for sporting activities, which the unit feels can only be solved by government.

In an effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Anti-Abuse Unit, it has embarked in four initiatives. These include: cooperation with the police, merging the Anti-Abuse Unit with the transportation department inspectorate division, data management and outreach campaigns.

The engagement between the ministry and the police is work in progress.

# DPM TOLD TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY

STORIES BY ZWELETHU  
DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**NDZINGENI** Member of Parliament Lutfo Dlamini has told Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku to forget about carrying out studies.

He felt that the money intended for studies could be used to create employment opportunities and alleviate poverty.

This was after the DPM revealed in his preamble that his office had

concluded the vulnerability assessment and analysis which projected that 232 000 people will be food insecure this year.

He said a study on the root causes of violence was launched during the year 2019, which aimed at profiling perpetrators of violence and victims with the aim of providing possible solutions.

The Ndzingeni legislator, on the other hand, opined that the main causes of violence were frustration and poverty which could be addressed by even distribution of wealth or resources such that it

reached the people along the streets or rural areas.

"Forget about studies; violence is perpetrated by the high unemployment rate and poverty in the country. People are hungry and frustrated, hence they are violent; address these two and you will see the difference.

The money for these studies could be used in creating opportunities of employment. Our major concern is how is the E24 billion failing to improve the lives of such a small population, this money should reach the ordinary Liswati," said

Dlamini.

On another note, the MP advised the DPM to switch the payment of the elderly grants to Mobile Money platforms which he said would be better than the current method.

He cited that remote communities did not have offices yet when the money was sent through Mobile Money, it would be affordable and convenient.

He also said service providers had promised free gadgets for the elderly people should government decide to use Mobile Money platforms.

## SODVA implementation leads to male suicides - 'Gawuzela'

**SIPHOFANENI** Member of Parliament Mduduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane has opined that the implementation of the SODV Act has a negative effect in society as it leads to depression and suicide by men.

Simelane said the Act was also used by married women to deprive their husbands conjugal rights and called for more education and provision of counselling of people to accept effective use of the law.

"There is misuse of this Act and thus its implementation is having



Siphofaneni MP Mduduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane.

a very negative impact on the ground. I hereby urge your office

to be a bit more vigilant in trying to penetrate the minds of Emaswati. It is like we are infusing another culture upon the Swazi culture, there are no more conflict resolutions using dialogue but people rush to invoke the SODV Act," he argued.

### Frustrated

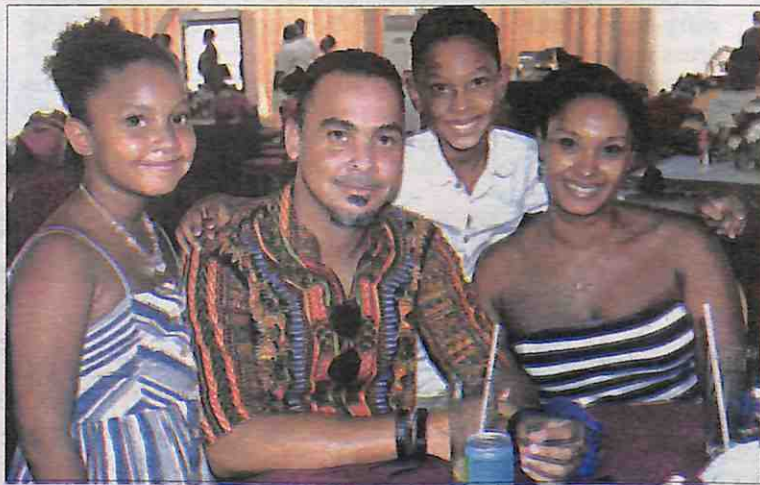
Simelane said at times married women deprive their husbands conjugal rights and men will be frustrated because they are afraid to persuade them due to fear of being charged with the SODVA.

He said the Act appeared to be harsh even on the very people it is supposed to protect.

He said there was need for the psychological preparation of the citizens on the Act.

He made an example of a man from his community who he believes committed suicide after he was charged with the SODV Act.

The next time his wife angered him, he decided to take his life allegedly because arguing with his wife would have resulted in him being charged again.



Tour operator Fausia Gonsalves (R) poses with her husband Mauro and her children.



Lionelo Lucas (C) poses with some of the tourists he brought for the Buganu Ceremony.

## Moza tour operator to open offices in Eswatini

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE  
Mbabane

**MOZA** Masaii Travel, a Mozambican tour operator, has announced that they would be extending their operation to Eswatini by opening an office in the kingdom.

This was said by Moza Masaii Travel owner Leonelo Lucas during the Buganu Festival in Hlane last Saturday.

Lucas said it was expensive to book hotels and make payments in Eswatini because they did not have an office in the country.

"Our logistical costs were ballooning on a daily basis, thus we need a base in Eswatini so we can

plan more tours with tourists from Mozambique, especially for the culture and adventure itineraries," he said.

The tour operator also mentioned that they would be returning to Eswatini next month for another tour.

They will also introduce packages for the Tri-land, inclusive of Mozambique and South Africa.

### Offerings

"We each have different offerings, thus packages for southern Africa are much needed and we need physical presence in all three countries," he said.

The Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) held activations in Mozambique last week and that was where Lucas promised to bring

100 tourists for the Buganu Festival. Lucas had brought with him 115 tourists from the Republic of Mozambique for the festival held from Friday to Saturday.

"We came in five buses, bringing the total to 115 tourists," he said.

He added that Eswatini had been great, even though they had been in the country for a few hours.

### Indulged

"We enjoyed an open braai at the Simunye Country Club where we indulged in Sibebe Beer, chakalaka and some of us drank the marula beer for the first time," he said.

Meanwhile, another tour operator Fausia Gonsalves, who had travelled with her family, mentioned that they were also studying the country with the hope of designing

and selling accommodation and transport packages.

"Coming to Eswatini was not easy because this was our first time, but we will definitely be forging relationships so we start selling packages," she said.

She added that her company Pfixela had come with only six people for this trip.

On the other hand, the tourists from Mozambique said they were impressed with the culture of Eswatini.

Esta Gimo said she loved the atmosphere of happiness, especially through the dancing.

"We are happy to see so much love and happiness. We just arrived here and got gifts from the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) who gave us emahiya," said Gimo.



# Eswatini has adopted most disaster management agendas

STORIES BY KHETSIWE  
KHUMALO  
Mbabane

**ESWATINI has adopted most of the noted agendas outlined at the disaster risk management meeting held in Tanzania last week.**

This was revealed by National Disaster Management Agency Chief Executive Officer Russell Dlamini, who spoke on behalf of the deputy prime minister.

"While there, we came to the realisation that Eswatini has adopted a lot of the decisions that have been taken; some of which we are way ahead and the other countries will learn from us," said Dlamini.

The meeting was for committee ministers responsible for disaster risk management from the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

It was attended by 13 SADC member states, including Eswatini.

Dlamini stated that the meeting was held in view of the unprecedented number of disasters that the region continues to face, which include drought, cyclones, floods that have led to loss of lives, livelihoods, damage to property and destruction of infrastructure across the region.

He said one of the adopted frame-

works mentioned in the meeting was to consider and approve the draft regional resilience framework 2020-2030, to enhance the capability of the SADC Climate Services Centre to undertake highly downscaled climate projections to effectively contribute in the planning of regional adaptation and mitigation measures.

According to Dlamini, ministers discussed ways of improving the necessary technical and financing capacities when member states faced droughts and floods such that people are resilient to disasters.

"We are now referring to everything as disaster risk management and the committee too has changed from disaster management to disaster risk committee of ministers responsible for disaster risk management," he said.

Some countries were asked to pledge to support the management the humanitarian team at regional level, something which the country is yet to also look into.

He further mentioned that they spoke about review of disaster preparedness and response strategy and fund, which means the SADC states have been asked to review these such that they are aligned with the Sendai Framework as approved by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

"We try to follow through with the



**ADOPTED: DPM Themba Masuku with other SADC members at the disaster risk management meeting at the United Republic of Tanzania last week.**

stated frameworks as NDMA but they also asked that economic and planning and other ministries be involved in projects and that countries develop an adaptation plan," said the CEO.

He stated that all countries were asked to develop an adaptation plan for climate change which the country had already started working on under the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs.

Green Climate Fund (GCF) is where countries around the world were given the chance to get funding to mitigate and reduce the emissions and contributors to global warming.

"Climate change contributors a lot to the disasters. SADC is interested in becoming an accredited enti-

ty which means SADC can ask GCF for funds. However, member states need to write a letter for no objection and NDMA was happy to hear that. Unfortunately, the country had not written that letter but the DPM promised to follow up on that and allow the country to access funds under SADC," said Dlamini.

The objective of the meeting was to lessen diversion of budgets planned for implementation of development projects to funding programmes in areas devastated by droughts or floods.

It also gave a platform for learning how the Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe coped after they were hit by Idai and Kenneth Cyclones in 2019 that left the countries in devastation.

## Southern Africa at risk

**AFTER taking a look into the disasters affecting the world, it was concluded that disasters will intensify and hit the region harder.**

National Disaster Management Agency Chief Executive Officer Russell Dlamini stated that countries were asked to build resilience from the disasters. This includes forging a different way of living such that people build strong houses that will be less affected during disasters.

The agricultural sector was also asked to be ready to accept that rainfall patterns have changed and it will not rain as much as it did before. The states were asked to do more research on how they can protect themselves through this, which involves risk transfer.

"This means if there is a way countries can take insurance as another way to prevent the country from being hard hit by disasters. SADC will do that study and give opinions and advice to countries on what can be done better," said Dlamini.

### Coronavirus update:

● Still at the meeting, ministers were also invited to note that on the 31st of December 2019, a new coronavirus outbreak was reported in Mainland China.

● Ministers were further invited to note that although confirmed cases of the new coronavirus have not been reported in the SADC region a preparedness assessment done early February by the World Health Organisation, member states revealed that most of them were not fully prepared for an eventual outbreak.

● It was agreed that more efforts need to be done to reach the required level of preparedness sufficient to control an outbreak of this magnitude.



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### DECLARED DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SWAZILAND EMPOWERMENT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a final dividend of E 18, 026, 400.00 (Eighteen million, twenty-six thousand, four hundred Emalangeni) comprising 97.44 (nine seven point four-four) cents per share, has been declared to ordinary shareholders registered as such in the Company's share register at the close of business on or before 10 March 2020.

Payment of dividend is expected to be no later than 13 March 2020. Normal and withholding tax will be deducted from dividends paid to local shareholders and non-resident shareholder respectively where applicable.

By order of the board

11 February 2020

#### COMPANY SECRETARY

M Mhlana  
PricewaterhouseCoopers Services (Pty) Ltd  
Kal Grant Street  
P.O. Box 569  
Mbabane

#### AUDITORS

KPMG Chartered Accountants  
Umkhwa House  
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## Man charged with attempted murder for cracking father's skull

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

**POLICE have arrested and charged the man who hacked his father with an axe over boiled chicken at Mkhuzweni.**

The arrest took place last Monday at their homestead near Buhleni.

The name of the arrested individual will not be revealed due to the fact that police are still investigating the matter.

Speaking to this publication sources said the accused was hiding at a nearby relative's homestead.

"Police have managed to locate and arrest the individual, who was found at a relative's homestead. The young man committed the violent attack on his father, while being intoxicated on Sunday evening.

"Police believe that the young man attacked his father because the senior allowed his wife to slaughter and boil a free range chicken, which allegedly belonged to the accused. "After committing the attack, the accused then escaped to a nearby relative's homestead. Once at the homestead, the accused called his siblings to enquire about his father's condition and he was told that their father was hospitalised," said a source.

Afterwards, he tried to visit his father in hospital before handing himself to the police. However, before the accused could visit the Pigg's Peak Government hospital, he was arrested.

During his arrest, the accused kept asking about his father's health and he was informed by police that his father was recuperating at the Mbabane Government Hospital," added the source.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the arrest.

## Man (27) held for murder at Somnjalose

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A 27-year-old man has been arrested and charged with murder, an offence said to have occurred at Somnjalose over the weekend.**

Sanele Shongwe was arrested in connection with the murder of Sabelo Dlamini, who was said to have been stabbed with a sharp object in his shoulder and ribs. The numerous stab wounds resulted in Dlamini's demise.

Shongwe has since appeared before the Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded into custody pending his committal to the High Court of Eswatini.

According to court records, Shongwe was charged with murder, when he allegedly stabbed Dlamini with a sharp object, twice in his shoulder and ribs.

Appearing before Acting Magistrate Simo Simelane, Shongwe was advised to, if he so wished, to move his bail application at the High Court, as the offense he was charged with carried a capital penalty. Shongwe was further remanded into custody until March 6, 2020 pending his committal to the High Court.

# VOLUME CRIME INCREASES BY 9.9%

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**ROYAL Eswatini Police Service (REPS) records have indicated an increase in the volume of crime in the country last year.**

This is according to the REPS annual performance report on recurrent and capital expenditure and other allied police administrative and operational activities for the period from April 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020.

The report the period under review, reflected that volume crime was on an upward trend when compared to the same period in the previous year. Volume crime for the previ-

ous parallel period stood at 39 625 versus 43 544 for the current year reflecting an increase of 9.9 per cent.

The increase in volume crime was attributed to activities of police proactiveness, which were characterised by targeted raids and swoops resulting in the arrest of offenders for crimes such as trading without licence, the contravention of immigration laws, drug trafficking and dealing as well as trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

### Review

During the period under review, a total of 2 324 cases under this category were recorded with contravention of the Immigration Act on the lead by 23.4 per cent followed

by drug trafficking and dealing at 12 per cent. Suffice to note that the arrests linked to these crimes were critical to the reduction of violent crimes such as murder, armed robberies and rapes.

The police also reported that the drug trafficking and dealings remained a perennial problem in the country, especially the cannabis effect which now manifested in what was referred to as drug wars and has been a source of violent crime in the dagga infested areas.

During the period under review, there were five murder cases related to drug wars.

The report further indicated that there have also been incidents of attempted murder, arson and rob-

beries under this category and 2 702 suspects were arrested for the aforementioned cases.

Out of the suspects, 2 257 were males and 445 were females. 147 suspects were foreign nationals from South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

### Stated

The REPS also stated that the issue of dagga was a challenge in that the youth including those of school going age were involved either as growers, traffickers or dealers as well as users of the drug.

The police advised that young people should be shielded from such shenanigans as they were the embodiment of the country's future.

## Tourism minister impressed with Montigny

STORIES BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE  
Mbabane

**MINISTER of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati has said he was impressed with the role played by Montigny in conserving the environment.**

Vilakati was speaking during a tour of the factory and farms at Montigny Investment Limited on Friday.

He said as a ministry responsible for the welfare of nature, they were impressed by the way the company ensured that nature is conserved through the planting of trees.

The minister said he had learnt that the company plants at least seven million trees per year. He said he was adamant that those trees were going to play a vital role in conserving the soil from erosion.

Vilakati said the fight against climate change will go a long way if companies like Montigny grew trees. He said there were programmes that will be specifically designed to engage people from the communities so that they can take planting of trees seriously.

Vilakati said in the government's Strategic Roadmap, forestry was among the key sectors that was earmarked for economic growth.

He said most forests are getting



**THANK YOU: Minister Moses Vilakati receiving a present from Montigny Technical Manager Lee Cunningham after the tour on Friday. (Pics: Bongumusa Simelane)**

extinct and it was high time that man-made forests were fostered so that climate change will be minimised.

"We want the culture of planting trees to be taken to the communities because there most of the places are now suffering from soil erosion. People need to understand the importance of trees nowadays as they have multiple benefits to the envi-

ronment and to the economy," Vilakati said.

### Modern

He said modern forestry generally embraced a broad range of concerns, in what was known as multiple-use management, including the provision of timber, fuel wood, wildlife habitat, natural water quality management, recreation, landscape and community protection,



**TOUR: The minister being taken through the processing of timber at Montigny's factory.**

employment, biodiversity management, watershed management, erosion control and preserving forests as sinks for atmospheric carbon dioxide.

He added that forest ecosystems had come to be seen as the most important component of the biosphere and forestry has emerged as a vital applied science, craft and technology.

## Minister vouches for ECOT, VOCTIM students

**MINISTER Moses Vilakati has vouched for students from Eswatini College of Technology and Gwamile Voctim at one of Montigny contracted companies, Jabulani Bafana Timbers.**

Vilakati urged Jabulani Bafana's General Manager Barin Steenkamp to attach more students from the two institutions so that they could learn more about the machinery that is used by the company.

He said the students can have an opportunity to practice what they learnt from their colleges and apply it there.

Vilakati said he was worried by the number of students that enrol in these institutions who find themselves without proper training after graduating.

The minister said he believed the institutions provided the finest students in the mechanical engineering fields and attaching more students would really help the company to save costs in the near future when servicing and fixing the machines that are used for harvesting the trees at Montigny. "I'm really worried about the money that the company sends out of the country when trying to fix

the machinery while we have students from ECOT and Gwamile Voctim who have the necessary skills to do that," he said.

Meanwhile, Steenkamp said they would really appreciate if the minister could create the linkages between the company and the two institutions so that they could train them about the machinery that they use. Steenkamp said as Contracted company, they were very passionate about training and capacitating their employees because they believed in them.

He said sometimes they had to wait

for many days for the machinery to be fixed when they developed mechanical faults because they had to wait for specialists from South Africa.

"We are affected in our operations while we are waiting for the specialists from South Africa as we have to stop working for a number of days," he said.

Steenkamp pointed out that as the first company to have a fully mechanised operations, they had employed over 400 people and most of them were Eswatini. He said they invested more in training their staff so they can adapt well to the working environment and to the changing landscape of the forestry industry.



# MPs WANT PIGG'S PEAK HOTEL LEASED TO PRIVATE SECTOR

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Lobamba

**MEMBERS of Parliament have urged government to hand over the Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino to the private sector.**

Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini advised the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs to seriously consider handing over the management of the establishment to business people who had experience in the industry as government was making a loss in running the hotel.

This was during the debate of the ministry's annual performance report. In the ministry's annual report, the minister indicated that the average occupancy rate at the end of December 2019 stood at 29.02 per cent, which indicated a decrease of 12.46 per cent, from the 2018/2019 average occupancy rate of 41.48 per cent.

The minister also indicated that during the period under review, the hotel's business made a loss of E586 489, which indicated a declining trend from the E125 825 profits made the previous year.

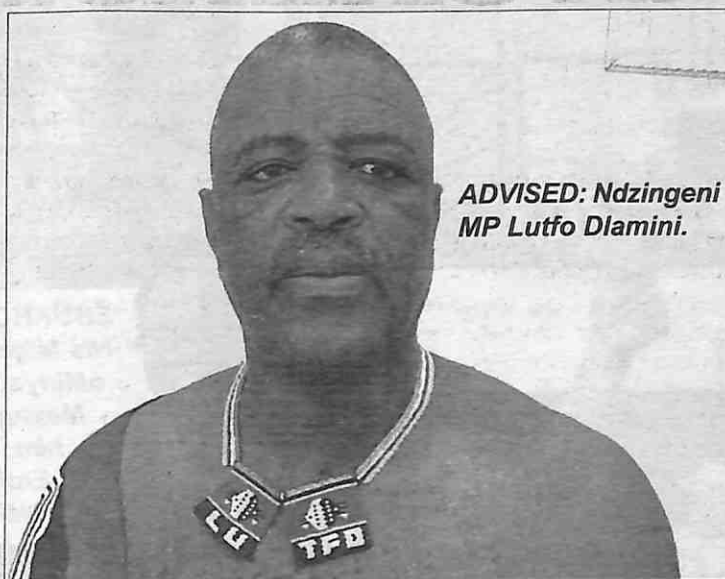
The minister also reported that the casino business incurred a loss of E155 689 which indicated a decrease when compared to the loss of E460 383.33 incurred last year.

## Stated

The minister also stated that overall, the establishment continued to make efforts to perform well however the financial performance of the hotel was still not good.

"The overall net loss increased by 39 per cent from E451 111 in 2018/2019 to E742 145 incurred this current financial year. The major contributing factor to the increase in losses was due to the decrease in the occupancy rate," he said.

MP Lutfo said it was concerning that the establishment has been run-



ADVISED: Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini.

ning at a loss. He said the establishment was a business and should be run as such.

"We need to trust that local people are capable of operating such businesses instead of depending on individuals from outside the coun-

try," he said.

Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo echoed Dlamini's sentiments and said businesses had to be run by the private sector. "Government has no business in running businesses," he said.

## UNESWA appreciates 11 donors for road rehabilitation project

BY BAHLE GAMA  
Mbabane

**THE University of Eswatini (UNESWA) Foundation has handed appreciation certificates to 11 donors who contributed to the road rehabilitation project at Kwaluseni Campus.**

The donor appreciation event took place at the campus.

These are namely, E.D Simelane & Associates, Ngwenya Wonfor and Associates, MA Dlamini Consulting Engineers, A.G Thomas, Inyatsi Construction, Afrisam, and C.M Concrete. The corporate partners are MTN Eswatini, Matsapha Municipality, Galp and Tisuka TakaNgwane.

The first phase of the project which was completed in 2016 cost E2 million. UNESWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Justice Thwala said the road rehabilitation project was a product of strategic collaboration between the UNESWA Foundation and partners in the construction industry, corporate sector, alumni, friends and staff of UNESWA.

"The main objective of the pro-



POSE: UNESWA Foundation trustees, management, and project collaborating partners posing for a group picture. (Courtesy pic)

ject was uplifting the condition of the Kwaluseni Campus' road network. The initial phase of the project saw close to a kilometre of road being resurfaced. The entrance was also upgraded to a dual carriage system," he said.

He further stated that the improved road conditions served to create a conducive environment for students, staff and other stakeholders. Vehicles now experience reduced wear and tear as a result of the resurfaced road. "This also goes a long way in ensuring that this national university is ranked amongst the best on the continent and around the world.

Going forward, we trust that our

partners will continue to support the university with respect to such projects, and specifically the second phase of the road rehabilitation project," he said.

He also mentioned that discussions between the UNESWA Foundation and project consultants were already on-going for the upgrading of the remainder of the road network at the campus.

"As such, I call upon all our collaborating partners to place your best foot forward and support the institution once again and move the country forward," he added.

Meanwhile, UNESWA Foundation Vice-Chairperson of the Board of

Trustees Issabela Katamzi said since the inception of the project in 2014, they have received immeasurable support from leaders in the construction industry. "We are also grateful for the unending support demonstrated by our corporate partners. We should also not forget the alumni, staff and friends of UNESWA who have through the years made generous contributions to the UNESWA Foundation," he said.

She stated that such philanthropic gestures from their partners would ensure that the UNESWA Foundation delivers on its mandate, which is to ensure that UNESWA becomes the university of choice in Africa.

## Man on trial for rape of minor

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A man is facing rape charges after he was alleged to have raped a minor aged 10.**

According to evidence submitted by Zenzi\*'s former class teacher, she was beyond shocked when Zenzi relayed her horrific ordeal to her.

"I walked into Zenzi's classroom, and found a large group of pupils with her. What I noticed was that Zenzi was in tears so I decided to take her away from the group and find out what was wrong. Before I could even ask her what was wrong, she told me that she had seen her rapist," the teacher recalled.

Zenzi's teacher recalled that Zenzi told her that she was raped by a man widely known in her community, on the day that schools were to close for the year. "She told me that she was walking home with her friends when they came across a guava fruit tree, where they duly picked the guava fruit to their heart's content.

## Picked

Zenzi stated that as they picked the fruit, a man appeared. She said the man gave chase, and they ran away from him as they were not sure of his intentions.

Unfortunately for Zenzi, she was unable to get away fast enough as the man tripped her and she fell, and he took advantage of that," she relayed. According to Zenzi, the man in question ordered her to lie on the ground and lift up her uniform, after which he proceeded to rape her. "Zenzi stated that the man threatened her with a knife throughout the ordeal, to the extent of threatening to kill her if she confided in anyone.

She told me that now she had confided in me, she was fearful of her life as she was constantly reminded of the threats the man made to her that day. This ordeal has greatly affected her academic performance. Zenzi has had to repeat Grade Three for a second time and her demeanour has immensely changed due to the ordeal," Zenzi's teacher informed the court.

Zenzi's teacher was paraded as the seventh witness in the state's case, which saw Judas\* defending himself against the charges levelled against him.

**Zenzi's teacher recalled that Zenzi told her that she was raped by a man widely known in her community, on the day that schools were to close for the year.**

## Teacher arrested after killing two pedestrians

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**THE cunning ways of a teacher did not save him from the law as he was arrested and charged with two counts of culpable homicide.**

Sibusiso Goodwill Dlamini, a teacher at Mkhondvo Primary, was charged with the two offences after he tried to play a Good Samaritan who had taken an injured man to hospital.

Sibusiso rushed one Celumusa Themba Nxumalo of Mankayane to hospital after he knocked him and a friend Joshua Nhlanhla Mayisela on Saturday evening

at Mabovini, Mankayane.

Information from reliable sources was to the effect that Nxumalo and Mayisela were from watching a soccer match at Sondelani Bar at around 6pm when they were involved in the accident.

## Knocked

It is alleged that when the teacher knocked the two men, Mayisela died on the spot, and in an effort to conceal what had happened, Sibusiso dragged him off the road and hid his body in a ditch close by.

Thereafter, he tried to save Nxumalo's life by rushing him to Mankayane Government Hospital. However, he is alleged to have concealed that he was

the one who knocked him with his car. Instead, the teacher allegedly told health practitioners that he found Nxumalo already injured while near a church known as AEC.

This, according to well-placed sources, is too far from the actual accident scene. Unfortunately, Nxumalo later died while undergoing medical treatment in hospital.

Things are said to have taken a twist when some friends who were watching soccer with the two men at the bar got wind of the news that Nxumalo was in hospital. They reportedly wondered where Mayisela was because he had left with Nxumalo the previous evening.

The friends then involved the police in the matter.

Since news travel fast, other acquaintances from the area reportedly came forward with information that they had thought was trivial.

One of them stated that he saws flip-flops similar to the ones worn by Mayisela the previous day.

When a party went to where the resident had seen the flops, they found it to be true. It was then that they searched the area until they found Mayisela's body in a ditch.

## Questioned

When the teacher was questioned about Mayisela's death, he allegedly denied knowledge of the subject matter. He allegedly maintained that he had found Nxumalo far from where Mayisela's

body was discovered, meaning he did not even see Mayisela on the said day.

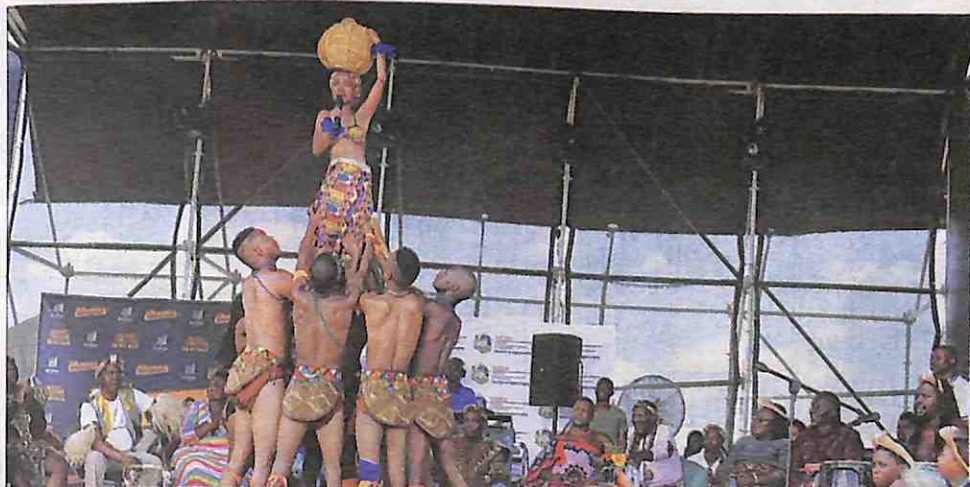
However, his cunning ways did not save him as an investigation by the police yielded that he was connected to the matter as other residents had seen him driving his car in the area close to where the accident had happened.

His state of sobriety during the time of the accident could not be ascertained as he had not reported the misfortune to the police.

Sibusiso had appeared before Senior Magistrate Simangele Mbatha at the Manzini Magistrate's Court on Monday. Sibusiso was remanded in custody until February 28, 2020 where his matter will be heard at the Mankayane Circuit Court.

He was, nonetheless, admitted to E5 000 bail.





**AWESOME:** AmaThonga African group Impilo left the audience in awe with their traditional dances.



**MASKANDI:** Award-winning maskandi artist Ntwencane won the hearts of many music lovers with his performance.



**TINCWASIMENDE:** A group Oswenka walking around the arena displaying their expensive outfits.

## UMTHAYI MARULA



**EBUKHOSINI:** Inkosi Mabhudu Tembe signing a document while His Majesty King Mswati III's Representative Prince Guduza, oMinya Senior Prince Mshiyeni, Arts and Culture MEC Hlengiwe Mavimbela and Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zungu flank him. This was during Umthayi Marula Festival held at Emfihlweni Royal Residence, KaTembe on Saturday. (Pics: Nokuzola Thwala)



**NGILEKELELENI:** Dladla Mshunqisi rendering a performance with his dancers, who thrilled the crowd with their moves.



**PRAYING IN SONG:** oMinya Senior Prince Mshiyeni leading other leaders, Emakhosi while praying for the well-being of Inkosi Tembe.



**LUTSANGO:** Phindile Dlamini, Phumzile Dlamini, Dumsile Magongo, Lungile Mnisi, Dudu Dlamini and Temhlanga Sihlongonyane.

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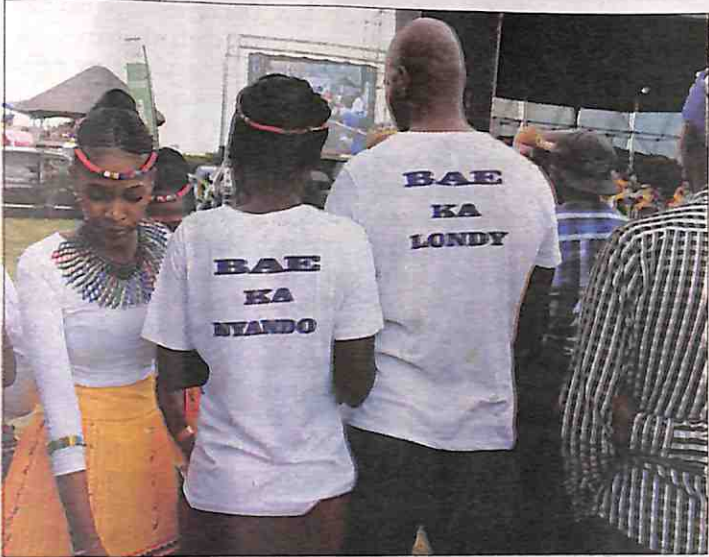
# FESTIVAL 2020



**ENTREPRENEURS:** Business was booming for small and medium entrepreneurs as people bought their items.



**HIGH TABLE:** Some members of the Border Restoration Committee who were part of the delegation from Eswatini.



**LOVE LIVES HERE:** This couple Nyando and Londy Buthelezi clad in their personalised T-shirts.



**KIYOOOO:** Sagila SeMnikati in action while pleasing the audience.



**WELEWELEWELE:** Home Affairs' employees were also represented. (L-R) Zodwa Dlamini, Thulile Matsebula, Annah Dlamini and Fanisile Ntshalintshali.



**EMKHOSIKATI:** Wives to the various leaders following proceedings.



## UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

"The University of Choice in Africa"

### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION, 2020

The University will, with effect from August 2020, launch two new programmes: the Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (**Science Specialisation**) to be offered through the **Institute of Distance Education (IDE)**, and the Bachelor of Education Secondary in Humanities (**French Specialisation**), offered by the Faculty of Education on a Part-Time basis. The latter programme (B.Ed-French) will be open to Primary Teachers' Diploma holders and Secondary Teachers' Diploma holders who have French as one of their major subjects.

Application forms may be obtained from any of the University's three campuses (Kwaluseni, Luyengo and Mbabane) or downloaded from:

**Undergraduate**  
Application form  
<http://www.uniswa.sz/sites/default/files/admissions/undergraduate 2020.pdf>

**Prospectus**  
<http://www.uniswa.sz/sites/default/files/admissions/Undergrad 2020.pdf>

Applicants are encouraged to download both the application form and the prospectus from the University of Eswatini Website.

Applicants are encouraged to email scanned application material and a clear proof of payment as outlined in the application form,

to [applications@uniswa.sz](mailto:applications@uniswa.sz) or mail to the Admission's Secretary, Private Bag 4, Kwaluseni.

The closing date for submission of applications is **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.**

**DR. S.S. SIMELANE**  
REGISTRAR



## NORTHERN HHOHHO NEWS

...With

Sizwe Dlamini



# Pigg's Peak businesses support local steam bucket entrepreneur

**AFTER** selling more than 3 000 steam buckets in Northern Hhohho since 2017, entrepreneur Jabulani Hlanze is supported by major businesses like Buy Cash Hardware and Pick Yours Supermarket in Pigg's Peak.

Hlanze, who created his bucket company Jay and Sons in March 2017, was initially interviewed by this publication three weeks ago, after he managed to sell 200 specially designed five litre tap buckets used at the 2020 Baganu Festival at Buhleni.

The aforementioned tap buckets were clear and possessed sanitary taps which were equipped with a built-in sieve and clear lid.

However, after the first leg of the festival, he reverted to his source of living by re-focusing on his popular steam buckets.

Hlanze said he was grateful that Buy Cash Hardware and Pick Yours Supermarket had stocked his new improved steam buckets which came in all shapes and sizes.

"I am so happy with the support received from major outlets like Buy Cash Hardware and Pick Yours Supermarket. The two aforementioned organisations now stock and sell my home assembled steam buckets to members of the public.

In addition to selling the buckets, they display my popular items on the store shelves, allowing me to get the much needed exposure.

Due to this act of kindness, my business Jay and Sons has sold more than 3 000 steam buckets in total since 2017. It is important to mention that both these stores partnered with me late last year. The partnership is still at its infancy stages, however, I believe that everything will prosper because I am committed to deliv-



**Steam bucket entrepreneur Jabulani Hlanze is being supported by major Pigg's Peak businesses.**  
(Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

ering good quality products," he said.

Hlanze added that he assembles all the buckets overnight at his home in Pigg's Peak. "As I had mentioned, I was repairing kettle in early 2017 when one day while working on a kettle my customers told me that they were using their kettle to steam.

Their challenges was that the kettle were always malfunctioning. I then conceived an idea of buying various sized plastic buckets in bulk from suppliers.

I would convert the buckets by cutting out a hole at the bottom before thread-

ing in a non-exposed kettle heat element which I attached to the bottom of each bucket. This allowed customers to plug the element into the wall socket and steam safely using the buckets not the kettle. Initially, there were a few problems with the quality but over the months the quality improved as I now spend a few hours every evening assembling the buckets before selling them," he added.

Meanwhile, Precious Tsabedze at Buy Cash Hardware confirmed that Jay and Sons' buckets were sold at their shop in Pigg's Peak.

## Samu's Take Aways continues to grow

**AFTER** tickling the taste buds of Pigg's Peak residents by introducing delicious dishes, Samu's Take Aways has expanded its menu to include pizza.

The aforementioned eatery began operations late 2018 and is located next to the Pigg's Peak Post Office where they operate out of a large white food container.

After humble beginnings, the eatery has quickly become a favourite place for Pigg's Peak locals to enjoy common meals that have been enriched with the use of multiple spices, home-made condiments and various cooking techniques all pioneered by the establishment's two experienced chefs.

The eatery sells a multitude of dishes at reasonable prices ranging from just E15 all the way up to E35 per serving.

Dishes available for purchase at the eatery include two types of sweet or chilly beef curries, three types of beef and chicken stews, fried potato chips in white sauce, beef and cheese burgers as well as garlic glazed grilled chicken, which is served with a healthy portion of rice or porridge.

Manager Muzi Nene said that the eatery also serves hamburgers and

pizza. "We are very happy to be receiving so much positive feedback from our many customers. We believe in selling the best tasty meals at reasonable prices to suit every budget. Our organisation has two experienced chefs who prepare the fresh meals using only the best ingredients and seasonings.

The support from the public has been so overwhelming that we are even thinking about opening a fully-fledged restaurant to cope with the demand. Many customers really enjoyed our meals which are sold with rice or porridge submerged in deep rich stews. Most meals are sold out as we can only cook a few servings a day" he said.

He said in December, they introduced grilled Portuguese chicken that was grilled or stewed.

The meal was full of flavour, not similar to their famous garlic chicken. "We have added stewed turkey and grilled sausages dipped in garlic sauce to our menu. Our chefs even added sweet chilly pork. Now we have added two different sized pizzas with a choice of five toppings. The small pizza costs E50 and the large one costs E100 both are available for only a limited time," he added.



## Man flees into Shoprite, refuses to leave for 20 minutes

**IN** a desperate attempt to escape from two First Action security personnel, a man who was accused of passing water in public, ran into Shoprite and refused to leave the supermarket for 20 minutes on Friday.

The man, believed to be from Timphisini, eventually exited the store accompanied by two Pigg's Peak policemen.

According to a source, the man had been relieving himself in public only to be spotted by the two security guards.

"The two First Action security guards spotted the accused while passing water in public behind the Pigg's Peak bus rank. "The securi-

ty guards then approached the man, who ran into the KK Building. "A few minutes later the security guards who had followed the man managed to apprehend him but he became violent and the security guards used a pepper spray.

As a result, he ran across the road into Shoprite where he stood behind the manager begging the security guards to leave him alone.

After about five minutes, the manager called the police who removed the accused 20 minutes later. We are not too sure what happened next," they said.

The incident was confirmed by Managing Director (MD) of First Action Security Lindokuhle Dlamini.

## First Action Security guards apprehend five for public indecency

**FIRST** Action Security guards apprehended five men for public indecency over the weekend.

The individuals were apprehended for passing water in public outside the various bars in the small town over the weekend. Speaking to this publication, sources said all men were Pigg's Peak residents who were aware of the law.

"First Action Security company is responsible for securing Pigg's Peak town under authority of the Pigg's Peak Town Council, dispatched security guards to patrol the town every night.

But over the weekend five men were apprehended for relieving themselves

in public. The main perpetrators of this indecency are the bar patrons.

It is no secret that the town of Pigg's Peak is littered with bars that have many patrons.

### Stumble

Unfortunately, the patrons become intoxicated and forget to use the bathrooms inside the bars. The patrons then stumble out of the bars and find a secluded area to pass water.

If enough patrons relieve themselves at the same spot that spot smells of urine the next morning; making Pigg's Peak smelly and filthy," they said.

The sources added that First Action

has been patrolling Pigg's Peak every night since 2018.

"First Action Security guards often patrol outside the bars. During these patrols, bar patrons are often apprehended with their pants down in the literal sense. Due to the fact that the incidents occur during the night, the perpetrators are taken to the Pigg's Peak Police Station. Usually the patrons pay E60 admission of guilt fine," the guards said.

Managing Director (MD) at First Action security Lindokuhle Dlamini confirmed that five patrons were apprehended for public indecency.



# MASEYISINI FOLK EXPRESS FEAR OVER RECENT STORMS

BY STARSKY MKHONTA  
Nhlalanga

**RESIDENTS** under Maseyisini Inkhundla are afraid that the frequent disasters in the area are caused by the seven headed snake known as *Inyoka makhandakhanda*.

Some of the residents suspect that the monster was responsible for the destruction of homesteads.

Last Thursday afternoon, several families had their homes left roofless after strong winds accompanied by hailstorm blew away the roofing in a number of homesteads. Some residents, it is said now want something done to remove or destroy a nearby dam, which they say could be the source of trouble.

"Some of the people think the seven headed monster is provoked, hence the reaction in this fashion. We are now living in fear as each time the weather changes, we have to be ready to get tormented by the creature believed to be staying in the dam. We also don't know who will not have roofing by the end of the storm," said Mfene Dlamini, one of the residents.

## Demolished

Other residents are even considering approaching the relevant authorities to have the dam demolished or emptied as its presence has become a threat.

Maseyisini Indvuna Yenkhundla Sisho Khumalo said he also heard that other residents were not happy with the dam, as they felt it was where the monster was staying. "We are not

sure what causes the disaster but people have now started speculating. They feel we are cursed as a constituency, and others feel there is a monster in the dam somewhere, hence such incidents have become the order of the day.

It is indeed worrying as to why this is happening here and why us. We are the only constituency experiencing this in a short space of time," said Khumalo.

Last week's recent storm devastation was the second in two weeks, which has prompted residents to speculate on the real cause of the natural disasters, especially targeting the Maseyisini Inkhundla.

The previous storm saw schools and a clinic damaged, with roofing blown away.

## Police want govt to regulate insecticides

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

**SOME** police officers have urged government to regulate the sale of a popular insecticide which is responsible for the escalation of suicides committed by the youth in the Northern Hhohho region.

This comes after three female minors committed suicides in the last five weeks around Pigg's Peak, Timphisini and Buhleni respectively. Each of the aforementioned suicides involved female minors, who all consumed a very potent insecticide that is easy to purchase in Eswatini.

For ethical reasons, the name of the insecticide will not be named. Speaking to this publication, the police officers who preferred to remain anonymous said government can regulate the sale of insecticides. "Over the last few weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of suicides being committed by the youth. This trend is growing rapidly and it will be wrong for us to ignore the situation. One thing

we have noticed is all the suicides have a common denominator and this is a certain that it is easy to purchase insecticide that is being used by farmers. It is no secret that Northern Hhohho has an abundance of farmers, both legal and illegal," they said. The police added that they believe if government can intervene, then the situation can be mitigated. "We firmly believe that the suicides can be reduced if Government regulates the sale of this popular insecticide. This can be done by telling shops to screen the farmer before handing him/her a bag of the insecticide. Also it is important to mention that other insecticides like weevil tablets are still being sold in large numbers to members of the public. This practise is wrong as it places these potent chemicals in the hands of the youth," they added. Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the police were aware about the suicides and were working with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister (DPMO) to mitigate the situation.

## Man stabs friend after church

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

**SITHEMBISO** Matfonsi was denied bail after he allegedly stabbed Sibusiso Dlamini in the lung with an Okapi knife at Mpofu after church on Sunday.

The cause of the stabbing is believed to be dagga. Speaking to this publication, sources said both men were close friends before the incident.

"Both men were close friends at Mpofu, however it seems an altercation allegedly involving dagga occurred. Information we have suggests that Dlamini was the individual who was wielding the Okapi only to be assaulted by Matfonsi with fists. The punches caused Dlamini to drop the knife.

Matfonsi then picked up the same knife and stabbed Dlamini once under the rib cage through the lower lung," said a source.

The sources added that Matfonsi fled the scene while a bystander phoned the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to rush the injured Dlamini to the Mkhuzweni Health Centre.

"Dlamini is lucky to be alive and he was rushed to Mkhuzweni for treatment, meanwhile police managed to arrest Matfonsi a few hours later," added the source. Appearing inside the Pigg's Peak Magistrates Court on Monday, Matfonsi asked to be admitted to bail, however his request was turned down by Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe, who said the court needed to know the condition of the victim Dlamini first.

## Man obstructs justice as cop arrests wife

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A man** was arrested for obstruction of justice when he became aggressive against a police officer, who was effecting arrest on his wife.

Musa Masina was a passenger in a vehicle driven by his wife, when a police officer ordered for them to stop.

"The police officer stated that he was going to arrest my wife for undisclosed reasons, and he started using disrespectful words to talk to my wife.

"I could no longer handle it, so I decided to defend my wife's honour. Unfortunately, that meant I had to become aggressive, however I did not lay hands on the police officer.

"Instead, when I called 999 for assistance, I was advised to approach the police station in order to lay charges against the officer," Masina said.

Masina recalled that when he arrived at the police station, he discovered that the police officer had called ahead and had instructed the officers at the police station to apprehend him for obstructing the hands of justice.

"Instead, the police officer was the

one who insulted me, along with my wife, to the extent that he put his hands on me and grabbed my clothing in an aggressive manner. I would not have resorted to violence if the police officer had not conducted himself in such an aggressive manner," he stated.

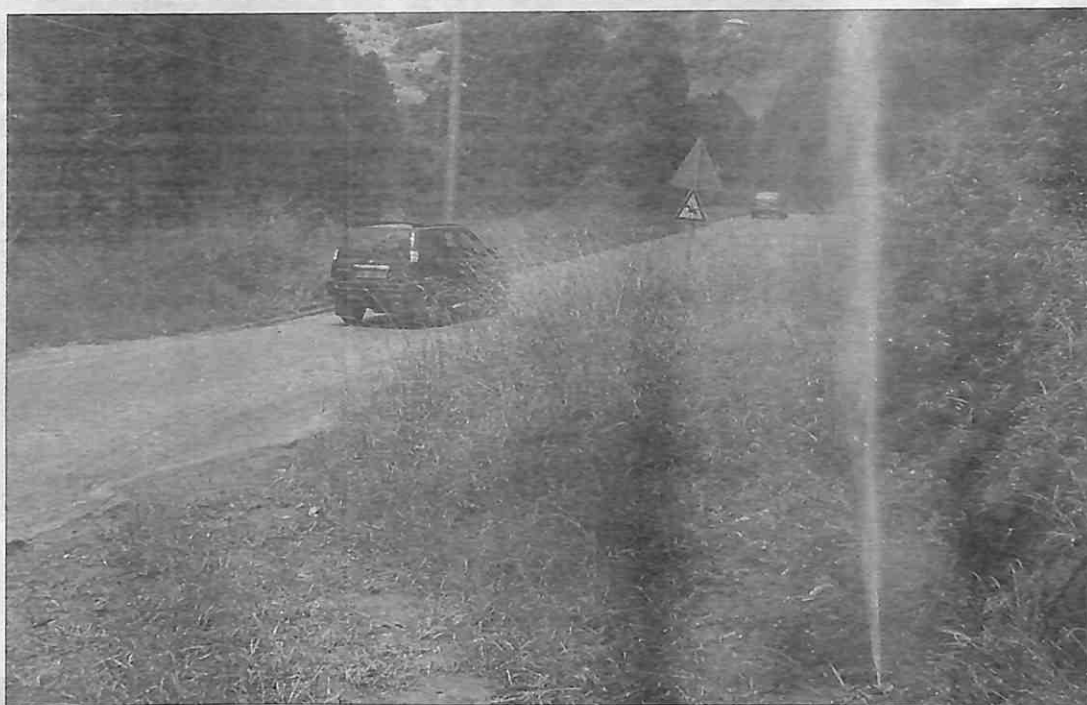
Acting Magistrate Simo Simelane warned police officers against being disrespectful when interacting with clients, as they were human beings at the end of the day.

## Respectful

"Police officers need to be respectful as well. Behind their uniforms, they are humans, and all humans have the right to the preservation of their integrity. "In as much as this incident appeared to have been out of hand, you had no business obstructing justice, even if it was your wife. I urge all police officers to conduct themselves in a respectful manner, when going about their business," the judicial officer warned.

After hearing his mitigation, the court sentenced Masina to serve eight months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 000. Half of his sentence was suspended for a period of one year; on condition he was not to commit a similar offence during this time.

## ATTENTION EWSC



KUVUTAPHI: Motorists drive past a burst water pipe at Pine Valley along the Mbabane-Mbuluzi road yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## Man charged with SODV after fondling woman's breasts

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

**A man** of Moyeni is facing the wrath of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2018 after he allegedly fondled a woman's breasts without her consent.

Obrie Ndlangamandla (27) appeared before Acting Magistrate Lungile Shongwe, where he faced a charge of contravening section 5 of the said act.

According to the charge sheet, the accused person did wrongfully and unlawfully commit a sexual violation upon a 19-year-old woman by fondling her breasts without her consent. He is alleged to have further strangled the woman.

During his appearance before the court, the accused person was informed of his right to legal representation, and he elected to conduct his own

defence.

He was, however not asked to plead to the charge as the Crown filed for postponement of the matter. The matter is expected back in court on Friday for setting before Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula.

Meanwhile, on another matter, Colani Maziya also faced a similar charge of contravening section 3 of the SODV act.

He was said to have committed an unlawful sexual act upon a woman aged in her late 20s.

The charge was accompanied with aggravating factors, which included that the accused person inflicted the complainant with a lifetime trauma by forcing

her to the act.

He was further said to have threatened to stab the complainant with a knife if she resisted to the act. The accused person was not asked to plead to the charge.

The matter was postponed to a later date pending setting of a date of trial before the principal magistrate.

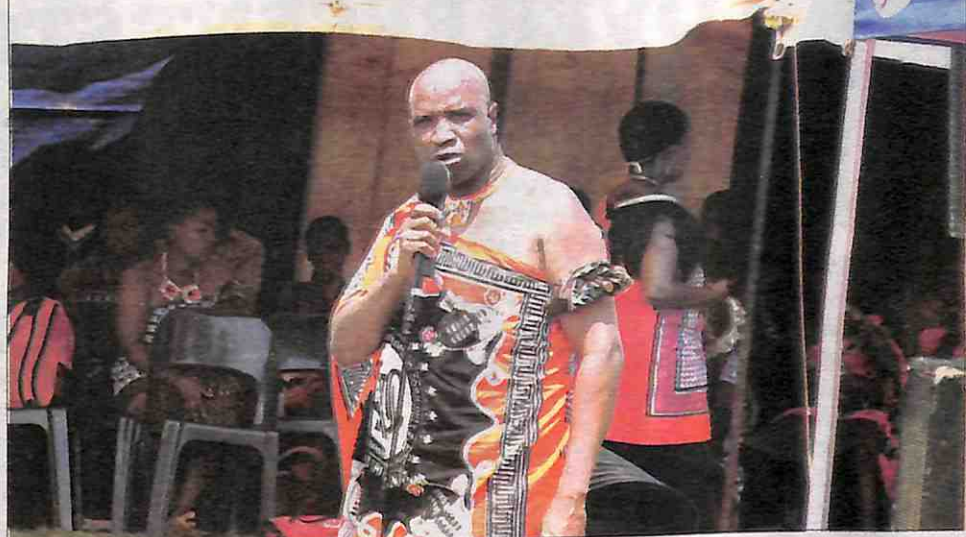




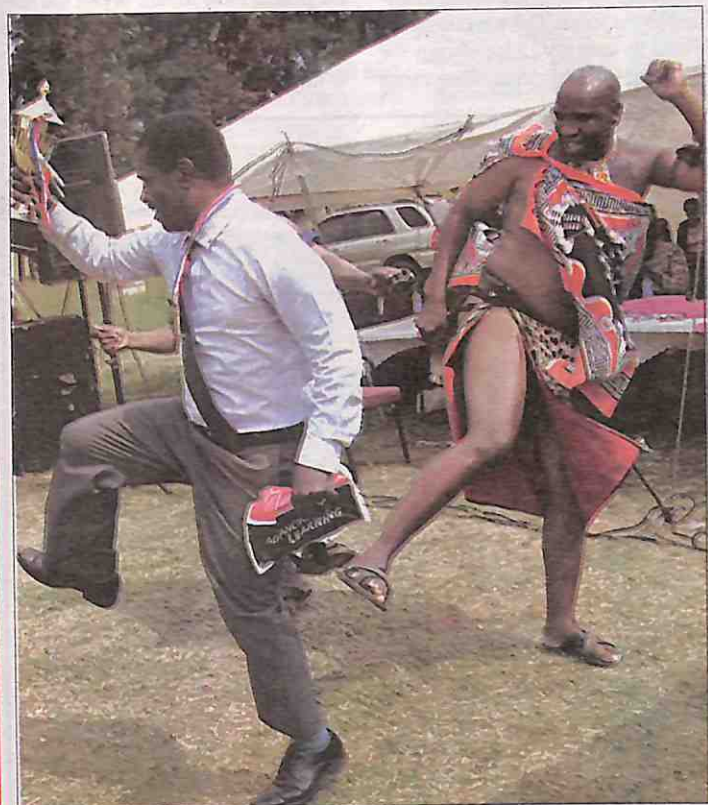
# MASEYISINI SCHOOLS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Majahonkhe Simelane from the Shiselweni Regional Education Office represented Minister of Education Lady Howard-Mabuza during the Maseyisini Schools Academic Excellence Awards held at the inkhundla on Thursday.



**SPEECH:** Maseyisini MP Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini making his remarks during the event.



**TOP MEN:** MP Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini and Nzongomane High Principal Esau Dlamini dancing after the school topped the high schools category under the Maseyisini Constituency.



**1 AND 2:** 'Small Joe' and Indvuna Yenkhundla Sishosonkhe Khumalo dancing to the popular song 'Sizojikizinto Thula Mntanami'.



**AWARDED:** Nurse Dlamini receives an award on behalf of Nyamane High School from the minister's representative.



**BRAINS:** Thabani Mayisela and Mbali Mliilo, pupils from Tfokotani Primary who did exceptionally well in the 2019 Standard Five results. (Pics: Starsky Mkhonta)



**INDLUNKHULU:** Evusweni Umphakatsi Indvuna Titus Mabuza also had something to say.



**SARAFINA:** Ngwane Practising Primary African dance group performing at the event.

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What's in Your Mind

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# Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

## MY AMBITIOUS PLAN TO BRING USAIN BOLT



AFTER bringing top South African celebrities in the country as minister, through 'The Visit Swaziland' campaign and the 'East Three Route,' I was looking for some bigger fish to profile the country.

I nearly brought musician Akon at the pinnacle of his career.

You see, there are two types of ministers; those who wait for officials to conceive plans and then ride on the wave and those who conceive the plans. I was one of those who put their mind to plans and bounce them off with officials.

### GHANA SOCCER TEAM

In my 10-day visit to Ghana where I was always in the news, the son of vice president, now president, who loved and worshipped the ground I walked on parachuted me to the FA offices through the minister of sport.

### FROM ACCRA WITH LOVE

My proposal was simple; bring your national soccer team to Eswatini. I loved the Ghana team so much I even met almost all the players. I was obsessed with jersey No. 3 Asamoah Gyan and jersey No. 11 Sulley Muntari.

Excited; from Accra, I called Times Sports Editor, Lwazi Dlamini and informed him that I was bringing the whole Ghana soccer national team to the country.

Momentarily, it slipped my mind that I was talking to a journalist.

It dawned on me when he asked if he should write it as a story and I said, "NO...NO I was telling you as a friend."

**“**You see, there are two types of ministers; those who wait for officials to conceive plans and then ride on the wave and those who conceive the plans. I was one of those who put their mind to plans and bounce them off with officials.**”**



It is now history that the team came to the country. I believe they thought just like in Accra I will be with them.

As fate would have it; I never met them let alone went to the stadium. Maybe I was in London? No! I was in my house sleeping.

Politics! Oh I love it, like I love an over-spiced stew. Politics is sexy I tell you.

### USAIN BOLT

I was in Korea for the World Tourism Conference in 2011 where I made an impressive presentation. Strategically, just like in London, I was the first to take the floor.

It's a trick so that you become a reference point. My presentation drew so many accolades and new friends that included SA's most successful Minister of Tourism, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk.

And I found myself closer to Jamaican minister whom I asked one thing; USAIN BOLT LIVE IN SWAZILAND! I told him that there were things I wanted to achieve before I leave office.

Things that would be iconic and synonymously me; the vibe, the energy and the creativity that should describe me long after exiting office.

That was my plea to a friend because my strength is creating relations.

I'm writing this from Zambia, there are 16 SADC members but I am the only one invited.

It is about building relations and what you do when given the stage.

In Taj Pamodza Hotel I bumped into Zambian soccer legend Kalusha Bwalya and strong ties were forged. Ties are DNA Mac!

### STRATEGY

Back to the Jamaican minister, we strategised on him inviting me to Jamaica to present a paper

on 'Neighbourhood Tourism.' A letter of invitation was written there and there. (Some ministers!)

SA was going to fund the project as they were partners. They always funded me anyway. But we were warned that IT WAS EASY TO MEET THE PRESIDENT IN JAMAICA THAN USAIN BOLT!

### QUICK

My friend minister quickly called the minister of sports to make arrangements. He told us Bolt was always in America and his programme was full for the year.

But promised he would put word for us. To SA, Bolt was more important in that he would profile them as a sporting nation that had successfully hosted the World Cup.

### ITINERARY

As we discussed the itinerary something came into my mind like a flash! Why not use the opportunity to bolster cultural heritage?

Jamaica is the birth country of Bob Marley and Peter Tosh; two brilliant musicians; all late; who used their talents to market their country to global audiences.

I discussed with the minister that even if we didn't meet Bolt, I will come with Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) CEO who will then domesticate it to our cultural context.

I wanted to change the outlook of our museum to be inclusive of ordinary local heroes as the Jamaicans do, contrary to the status quo.

### BOB MARLEY MUSEUM

The new arrangement was that the 10-day trip would include a visit to the Bob Marley's museum, meet his wife, Rita and son, Ziggy.

And we would visit Peter Tosh's home, meet his wife Andrea and his son, Andrew.

Part of the programme was meeting musicians Jimmy Cliff, Bunny Wailer and by chance, Winston Rodney of Burning Spear whom, they told us, was then staying in New York.

I was to be leader of delegation. We were very ambitious, weren't we?

### ALL SYSTEMS GO

It was all systems go and we couldn't wait and Mozambique had shown interest. More than Bolt, the Mozambican minister saw an opportunity to bring top musicians from Jamaica as Mozambique had a huge Reggae following.

I was proud to have been the concept hatcher and think-tank among my colleagues. How things change; the idea of Bolt was put at the back of our minds and replaced by cultural heritage.

### 'KILL MAC' CAMPAIGN

But fate and destiny had horror goodies for us. The 'kill Mac' campaign had begun. It was more vicious than Quentin Tarantino's 'Kill Bill' because the media was used to justify my ferocious murder.

The media stifled my voice and never gave me an opportunity to exhale. I was helpless; like a lamb ready for the slaughter.

Meanwhile, the minister in Jamaica was telling me that all was set and there were strong possibilities that we would meet Bolt. On the other hand, South Africa and Mozambique were assuring me of their readiness.

### 92 DAYS OF HELL

What the ministers did not know was that they were talking to a cold corpse in the morgue waiting for burial. I was suspended but kept it under wraps. It's not like I had hope that I would escape the hangman. No! I had none! I could see my end.

For 92 days it was a baptism of fire. EARTH, WIND AND FIRE! I was roasted in the braai stand of hate; insulted, dehumanised, demonised, traumatised, tortured, mocked like Christ on His way to Golgotha.

As prophesied by prophets, long time ago, that the son of Mary would shine and would be surgically removed; the trigger was pulled and I was fired; a vicious fall from grace.

### CUE

As if on cue the minister from Jamaica called me the next day to brief me on the trip. I told him of the Shakespearian tragedy.

There were no words to say. I never heard what he said, I had lost my mental fitness. I only remember him saying, 'really?'

I updated the other two ministers on my sudden predicament. They were paralysed with shock and disbelief!

Since everything was built on me, it all crumbled and crushed!

The Jamaican dream became a nightmare. It happened so fast even Usain Bolt would not have outpaced it! He couldn't. It was load-shedding stage 7!



## ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 26

1930 - New York City installed traffic lights.

1933 - A ground-breaking ceremony was held at Crissy Field for the Golden Gate Bridge.

1945 - In the US, a nationwide midnight curfew went into effect.

1952 - British Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed an atomic bomb.

1957 - The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award was established by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

1979 - "Flatbush" debuted on CBS-TV.

1986 - Corazon Aquino was inaugurated president of the Philippines. Long time President Ferdinand Marcos went into exile.

1987 - The Tower Commission rebuked US President Reagan for failing to control his national security staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

1987 - The US SR conducted its first nuclear weapons test after a 19-month moratorium period.

1991 - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced on Baghdad Radio that Iraqi troops were being withdrawn from Kuwait.

1993 - Six people were killed and more than a thousand injured when a van exploded in the parking garage beneath the World Trade Center in New York City. The bomb had been built by Islamic extremists.

1995 - Barings PLC collapsed after a securities dealer lost more than \$1.4 billion by gambling on Tokyo stock prices. The company was Britain's oldest investment banking firm.

1998 - A Texas jury rejected an \$11 million lawsuit by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey for price drop after on-air comment about mad-cow disease.

1998 - In Oregon, a health panel rules that taxpayers must help to pay for doctor-assisted suicides.

2001 - A UN tribunal convicted Bosnian Croat political leader Dario Kordic and military commander Mario Cerkez of war crimes. They had ordered the systematic murder and persecution of Muslim civilians during the Bosnian war.

2002 - In Rome, Italy, a bomb exploded near the Interior Ministry. No injuries were reported.

2009 - Former Serbian president Milan Milutinovic was acquitted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia regarding war crimes during the Kosovo War.

2009 - The Pentagon reversed its 18-year policy of not allowing media to cover returning war dead. The reversal allowed some media coverage with family approval.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



**Darius Marcell** -  
TV actor February  
26, 2003, 17 Years  
Old



**Erykah Badu** -  
R&B singer  
February 26, 1971,  
49 Years Old

TIVE  
LEADERSHIP  
CENTER

... With

**Kholwaphi  
Mdziniso**

Guest Writer

**THE world is changing at an ever-increasing rate, consumers are becoming more sophisticated and technology is part of our everyday lives.**

In order to be successful a business needs to be able respond to changes by assessing the opportunities and threats posed by the external environment as well as its own internal strengths and weaknesses.

Such a demand of the business environment need that leaders develop resiliency. The demand for resiliency is not only for the private sector but other economic sectors such as the public and the civic sector are seeing changes too.

For instance, in 2016 Eswatini experienced climate change first hand. We experienced water crisis to such levels we had to deal with water rationing. In 2011, government was hit hard by fiscal challenges, and that situation reoccurs now and again.

The ability to stay resilient is now a critical new competency for leaders. Resiliency is important for any leader that needs to be effective.

As the environment changes daily, stress and difficulty affects productivity. It is a given that leaders know that one cannot eliminate all the stress or erase the difficulties that arise from the many demands posed by the business environment, hence there is a need to cultivate leadership resiliency.

Resiliency is the ability to bounce back from setbacks and challenges. Leaders who are resilient view challenges as part of living and not paralyzing events. They are more effective in maintaining perspective. They do not drift into catastrophic thinking in times of crisis.

## BEING A RESILIENT LEADER

A resilient leader is a person who sees set-backs as temporary. He maintains a positive attitude and a strong sense of opportunity during periods of turbulence. When faced with ambiguity, a resilient leader finds ways to move forward and avoids getting stuck.

Many studies have indicated the importance of resilience as both an individual and leadership trait.

**Developing and demonstrating resiliency**  
Folkman J (2018) shares insight in developing resiliency. He asserts that the demand for developing resiliency on business leaders is a must for all 21st century leaders. To develop resilience, leaders need to:

• **Communicate powerfully:** Some individuals will often act individually and not inform

DEVELOPING  
RESILIENCE

others about what they are trying to do. When driving down the freeway, we always appreciate it when people signal before they change lanes.

Signalling lets others know your intentions. The most resilient leaders are effective at communicating their intentions to others. They were willing to help others understand a new strategy or direction. Effective communication helps others understand changes, expectations and new directions.

• **Receiving feedback:** Resilient leaders are open to feedback and often ask others for feedback. Once feedback is given they also demonstrate a real effort to improve. They have a strong desire to continuously improve their skills and abilities.

Though the trend of improving work well with the younger generation but many people become less coachable as they age. The most resilient leaders, however, continue to ask for feedback throughout their careers.

• **Build positive trusting relationships:** Resilient leadership occurs when people can bring others along. By building trust and being open to differences, these leaders are able to create strong teams by building positive relationship.

An individual may be willing to make a dramatic change, but it requires positive relationships to get others to support change.

• **Bold risk taking:** Resilient individuals are willing to take bold risks and try new ideas. It is easy for most individuals to be stuck in a rut

in which they continue to conduct work in the same way from year to year.

That approach works well until the world changes, requiring organisations to change or die. Resilient leaders are not afraid to take risks and make bold changes.

• **Develop others:** The most resilient leaders were not only interested in their own development but they are concerned about the development of others. Resiliency is needed when we encounter failure.

Developing others helps everyone to learn from their mistakes. We continue to find that leaders who want feedback for themselves are more likely to give productive feedback and coaching to others, because they want honest feedback as well.

• **Champion change:** Resilient leaders are willing to change and able to provide the leadership to ensure that the organisation will also change. Change takes courage and requires a vision about where the organisation is going. Resilient leaders embrace change and also encourage others to change.

• **Are decisive:** Making decisions is always difficult because no person has all the data or understands all eventualities. But organisations cannot move forward until a decision gets made. The most resilient leaders are effective at making decisions and moving forward. If they make the wrong decision, they are quick to make a different decision and move in another direction. The proverb by Cato "Swift and resolute action leads to success; self-doubt is a prelude to disaster" fits well here.

## OPEN LETTER TO BHEKI CELE, RICA VICTIM

**AS minister of police, today you are in the Constitutional Court seeking to block a major reform to the state's spying powers - the case of amaBhungane vs the spies, which will determine the constitutionality of South Africa's main surveillance law, RICA.**

You know the back story.

The state's spying powers are meant to be tightly regulated and only used to combat the most serious crimes and threats to national security - but these spying powers have been turned to all kinds of corrupt purposes: To spy on journalists, whistle blowers,



political operatives, government watchdogs, and others.

Getting proof was always the problem. That changed a few years ago when evidence came to light that

government spies had secretly listened in on the private calls and messages of a journalist named Sam Sole.

They used the law called RICA, but Sam was not suspected of any of the grand crimes that such spying powers are meant to be reserved for; the only danger he posed was to a few individuals who wanted to keep their corrupt dealings off the front pages.

So last year, a judge in the High Court heard all this evidence and decided that there was a problem with RICA. The judge agreed with amaBhungane and advocacy groups

that a law that would enable such an abuse must be at odds with the constitutional rights to privacy, freedom of expression (and of the media), and an open and just democracy.

And that is why, in September 2019, the High Court of Gauteng struck down key parts of RICA as being unconstitutional, ordering a swath of reforms to boost transparency and oversight over these spying powers, and to limit how they can be used in the future.



# 1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION

**WOMEN are under-represented in decision-making positions worldwide.**

However, gender equality and diversity are recognised to have beneficial effects on organisations, institutions and the overall economy.

This article provides evidence that removing the glass ceiling – the invisible barriers which prevent women from reaching upper-level positions – may produce not only more equality but also substantial efficiency gains.

According to the World Economic Forum in 2016, only 59 per cent of the gender gap in economic opportunities has been closed around the world. At the current rate of change, it will take another 170 years to close it.

Policies to accelerate the process towards economic gender equality and to promote women's empowerment are at the centre of the debate in many countries around the world.

Gender equality is a top priority, not only because equality between men and women is itself an important development goal, but also because women economic participation is 'a part of the growth and stability equation'.

As women represent over half of the population, and have talent, human capital and productivity equal to men, the global economy would benefit from boosting women's participation in the labour force.

The absence of women from positions of leadership is at odds with the strategy of exploiting talent to promote business and performance.

## WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

In developing countries like Eswatini, gender equality and development are intertwined: more gender equality creates the conditions to boost economic development and contributes to economic growth, while more development leads to more gender equality.

In developed countries, women are typically more educated than men, they represent a crucial positive value for the economy and they contribute substantially to economic growth.

More women in the labour market translates into a substantial increase in GDP. Moreover, a virtuous circle may begin when more women work: the demand for services causes consumption to increase, leading to the creation of more jobs, for both men and women.

Finally, women's participation in the labour market may play a positive role with regard to fertility and household well-being.

When we move from labour market participation to women's representation in decision-making positions, the gender gaps are worsened. Even in countries in which women participate in the labour market in high numbers, only a minority make it to the highest positions.

However, the beneficial effects of gender equality and diversity are even clearer when we concentrate on decision-making positions.

**Much of the past literature has concentrated on the benefits of diversity:**

having both men and women involved in decision-making broadens the perspectives, increases creativity and innovation, diversifies the pool of talents and competences, reduces conflicts, improves the process of decision-making, and may better represent the firm's various shareholders. Moreover, a better corporate image emerges when the leadership is gender balanced.



**The female leadership style also contributes to the benefits of diversity:**

women are better able to deal with difficult personal relationships, they pay closer attention to people's needs, they are inclined towards the prevention and solution of conflicts, they more readily share views with other people and make efforts to reach agreements, and they monitor and give feedback more intensively.

There are efficiency gains from removing gender gaps and promoting gender equality in decision-making positions.

### Promoting

First, promoting women into top positions would represent a dramatic change to the status quo dominated by male representatives. As competent and talented women are abundant, this change would produce a better selection process, yielding positive effects on the quality of representatives.

Evidence of this mechanism will be provided below, both in the context of business and politics. Second, women contribute to better outcomes and improved performance of institutions and organisations. The relationship between gender and economic performance is a controver-

sial one, and inconclusive. Causal studies will be discussed below which show that including women in decision-making is associated with better economic performance. Third, women in decision-making positions may contribute to the definition of a new agenda for the organisation, including items which are typically neglected by men.

For companies this can include a shift towards less risky decisions, or towards sustainability and environmental policies with longer time horizons. For policy-makers this can mean more investment in education and social needs.

Gender equality in decision-making has positive economic consequences. Not only is diversity beneficial in itself, but when women are highly qualified, more responsible and less corruptible than men, this causes efficiency gains to emerge.

The result is higher quality institutions and organisations, a positive effect on economic outcomes and performance, and a new policy agenda. Measures which reduce discrimination help to increase efficiency. As causal effects of gender equality on efficiency are not easy to identify, more research is needed in this direction. (*sihanet.com*).

## Wit and Wisdom

● "I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."  
— *Marilyn Monroe*

● "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."  
— *Oscar Wilde*

● "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."  
— *Albert Einstein*

● "So many books, so little time."  
— *Frank Zappa*

● "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."  
— *Bernard M. Baruch*

● "A room without books is like a body without a soul."  
— *Marcus Tullius Cicero*

● "You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth."  
— *William W. Purkey*

● "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."  
— *Dr. Seuss*

● "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."  
— *Mae West*

● "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."  
— *Mahatma Gandhi*

● "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."  
— *Robert Frost*

● "If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals."  
— *J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

● "Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow. Don't walk behind me... I may not lead. Walk beside me... just be my friend"  
— *Albert Camus*

● "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."  
— *Eleanor Roosevelt, This is My Story*

● "Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another 'What! You too? I thought that no one but myself ...'"  
— *C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves*

● "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."  
— *Mark Twain*

● "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."  
— *Maya Angelou*

● "A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you."  
— *Elbert Hubbard*

● "Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."  
— *Oscar Wilde*



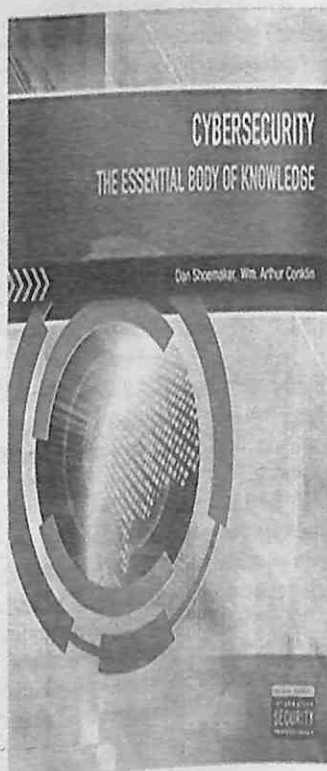
## BIG BEND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

### CYBER SECURITY: THE ESSENTIAL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE BY DAN SCHUMAKER

**THE** book provides a comprehensive, trustworthy framework of practices for assuring information security.

This book is organised to help readers understand how the various roles and functions within cyber security practice can be combined and leveraged to produce a secure organisation.

In this unique book, concepts are not presented as stagnant theory; instead, the content is interwoven in a real world adventure story that runs throughout. In the story, a fictional company experiences numerous pitfalls of cyber security and the reader is immersed in the everyday practice of securing the company through various characters' efforts. This approach grabs learners' attention and assists them in visualizing the application of the content to real-world issues that they will face in their professional life. Derived from the Department of Homeland Security's Essential Body of Knowledge (EBK) for IT Security, this book is an indispensable resource dedicated to understanding the framework, roles, and competencies involved with information security.



### ENGINEERING MECHANICS: STATICS AND DYNAMICS-BY R. HIBBELER

**THE** book excels in providing a clear and thorough presentation of the theory and application of engineering mechanics. It empowers students to succeed by drawing upon Professor.

Hibbeler's everyday classroom experience and his knowledge of how students learn. This text is shaped by the comments and suggestions of hundreds of reviewers in the teaching profession, as well as many of the author's students. It includes new Preliminary Problems, which are intended to help students develop conceptual understanding and build problem-solving skills.





# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

## CONTACTS

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Fax: 2404 5 503 / 2404 6463

## VITALS

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

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 25 FEB 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	15.0612	15.1112
British Pound / SZL	19.4794	19.5441
Japanese Yen / SZL	7.3277	7.3500
Swiss Franc / SZL	15.3733	15.4180
Botswana Pula / SZL	1.3615	1.3691
Australian Dollar / SZL	9.9539	9.9945
Canadian Dollar / SZL	11.3370	11.3712
Euro / SZL	16.3406	16.3949
Gold	1,641.1858	
Oil	57.03	

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**Standard Bank**

# COMPANY IDENTITY NUMBERS FOR ALL TRANSACTIONS

BY BAHLE GAMA

**COMPANIES will now use identity numbers for all their transactions.**

The ministry of commerce, industry and trade, through the Registrar of Companies department has introduced Company Identity Numbers (CIN) that will be used for all company transactions.

This will be with effect from Monday.

Registrar of Companies Msebe Malinga said the use of CINs was in line with the use of the electronic company registration services namely registration, file updates and



**CIN: Registrar of Companies Msebe Malinga.**

company annual statutory returns.

"With the introduction of the online services, a company identity number can be used to unique-

ly identify all companies and businesses legally registered in the country. It is compatible with all systems, where company transaction services are made," he said.

He further urged owners, members and subscribers of companies registered in Eswatini under the Swaziland Companies Act No.8 2009 to familiarise themselves with their company identity numbers.

"Stakeholders and all relevant institutions are also advised to use the CIN for transacting instead of the R7/ reference number that they have been using," he said.

He added that the R7/ number was an internal code used for filing purposes and should not be

used as it does not uniquely identify a company or business and cannot be validated in all other systems.

### ABOUT A CIN

A company identity number is an automated unique number allocated to all registered companies at registration. It is a 15-digit number made up of characters which include;

- Date of incorporation (year, month and day)
- Type of company
- System generated number
- Digit that validates the number as a unique identifier

## TOTAL REVENUE FOR 2019/20 PROJECTED AT E17.3 BILLION

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

**TOTAL** revenue collection in the fiscal year 2019/20 is projected at E17.36 billion, which indicates a less than one per cent under collection compared to the annual budget.

Collection in the year under review is expected to improve, compared to the 2018/19, by 14 per cent, which is due partly to a full impact of the one percent of Value Added Tax (VAT) and introduction of a motor vehicle both implemented in August and being experienced in 2019/20.

According to ministry of finance annual performance report for the financial year 2019/20, which has been tabled in Parliament, the positive revenue performance expected in the financial year is also due to the implementation of the alcohol and Tobacco Levy Act 2019 and Finance Act 2019 legislations which, though implemented in the third and fourth quarter, are expected to have a positive impact on revenue collection.

An increase of eight percent in SACU revenue has also contributed to the increase in total revenue compared to the fiscal year 2018/19.

According to the report the Fiscal and Monetary Department in the ministry is targeting two performance areas in which to carry out its mandate effectively, efficiently towards meeting the National Vision 2022.

The two areas are Revenue Efficiency and Sustainability and Regional Economic Integration



Initiatives that are supportive of Economic growth.

The report also highlighted that collection from income taxes was expected to amount E5.7 billion, which is 99 per cent collection of the annual budget of E5.74 billion.

The collection reflects a nine percent increase compared to the fiscal year 2018/19.

### Performance

The improved performance is mainly attributed to a E1.5 percent increase in corporate taxes and eight percent increase in individual taxes.

"This is a result of an increased in compliance and improvement in the administration of these taxes. During the year, the Eswatini Revenue Authority initiated a voluntary compliance incentive which contributed positively to compliance," read part of report.

Company taxes on the other hand are expected to E55 million. It is

expected that the reporting period will exceed target by 43 per cent. The same amount is expected to be collected in taxes on property.

The report also highlights that total taxes on goods and services are expected to amount to E10.7 billion, which is 98 per cent collection of the annual budget.

Compared to 2018/19, performance improved by 11 per cent which is mainly due to the increase of VAT by 13 per cent, road toll by 71 per cent, SACU receipts, fuel tax by 18 percent and the introduction of alcohol and tobacco levy.

In the third quarter of the 2019/20, fuel tax rate was increased by 85 cents hence a significant increase compared to the last fiscal year.

Meanwhile Non tax revenue expected in the year under review amounted to E823 million, which exceeded annual budget by 24 per cent.

## Govt Tender Board awards over E4bn jobs

**THE Eswatini Government Tender Board has in the financial year 2019/20 awarded tenders worth over E4.8 billion.**

The exact amount of tenders awarded was E4 813 billion of which E2 198 billion was for pharmaceutical and other medical supplies, E2 615 billion for education, goods and services for various government ministries.

According to the ministry of finance annual performance report, as part of the measures to control expenditure sitting for pressing needs continued to be sanctioned by Cabinet, the award of tenders has only been limited to urgent and priority expenditure.

The report further mentioned that the controls on the award of tenders would continue to ensure that commitments are contained within available sources.

The ministry stated that the training of line ministries and departments on the procurement legal framework was continuing.

"During this financial year, officials from government ministries and parastatals have been trained to ensure capacity is being developed and will lead to sustainability on public procurement issues," it said.

It was also reported that one tenderer was suspended for two years following a violation of the Public Procurement Act 2011.



# ESWATINI LAGGING BEHIND IN QUALITY STANDARDS

BY BAHLE GAMA

**ESWATINI is lagging behind in quality standards.**

This has led to the inability to meet systematic and internationally accepted standards which remains one of the major challenges for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with regards to penetration or access to international markets for their products.

## Challenges

Responding to a question on the reasons for the inability to meet systematic and internationally accepted quality standards by MSMEs with regards to penetration or access to international market for their products, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Communications Officer Thabile Mdluli said Eswatini was partly lagging behind due to a general lack of commitment from MSMEs as they perceived the

adoption of quality management systems/standards as a costly exercise.

"There's also a poor quality culture in that some MSMEs still don't see the implementation of quality standards as a tool that can help them in delivering quality goods and services," she said.

She further stated that the ministry through the Eswatini Standards Authority (SWASA) and the department of regulatory and quality infrastructure development (RQID), remained committed to capacitating MSMEs to comply with quality standards.

"We have a capacity building programme that is tailor-made for MSMEs, including those in the informal sector such as craft producers, amongst others.

Through this programme we hope to help the MSMEs understand the importance of these quality standards, especially where the growth of their respective businesses is concerned," she added.

*"...MSMEs still don't see the implementation of quality standards as a tool that can help them in delivering quality goods and services"*



**COMMITTED:** Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Communications Officer Thabile Mdluli.

## E0.7 million decline in SSELGS funds

BY BAHLE GAMA

**THE performance status of the Small Scale Enterprise Loan Guarantee Scheme (SSELGS) shows a decrease from E28.9 million in September 2019 to E28.2 million in December.**

The E0.7 million decline is primarily due to a claim of E678 837 that was paid to Eswatini Development and Savings Bank.

According to the ministry of commerce, industry and trade 'Eswatini is open for Business' February 2020 Parliament report, the performance of the SSELGS continued to show some growth as the total cumulative loans disbursed increased from 1 313, amounting to E125.4 million in September 2019, to 1 327 valued at E128.1 million in December 2019, indicating an increase of 14 fresh loans valued at E2.7 million during the quarter.

Out of the total loans issued, those which were either fully repaid or cancelled increased from 1 112 amounting to E90.8 million in September 2019 to 1 119 valued at E93.4 million in December 2019. This being a net change of seven loans valued at E2.6 million being

fully repaid or cancelled during the quarter.

It was also highlighted that the SSELGS commitment to financial institutions increased from 201 guaranteed valued at E30.1 million in September 2019 to 208 guarantees valued at E30.2 million in December 2019.

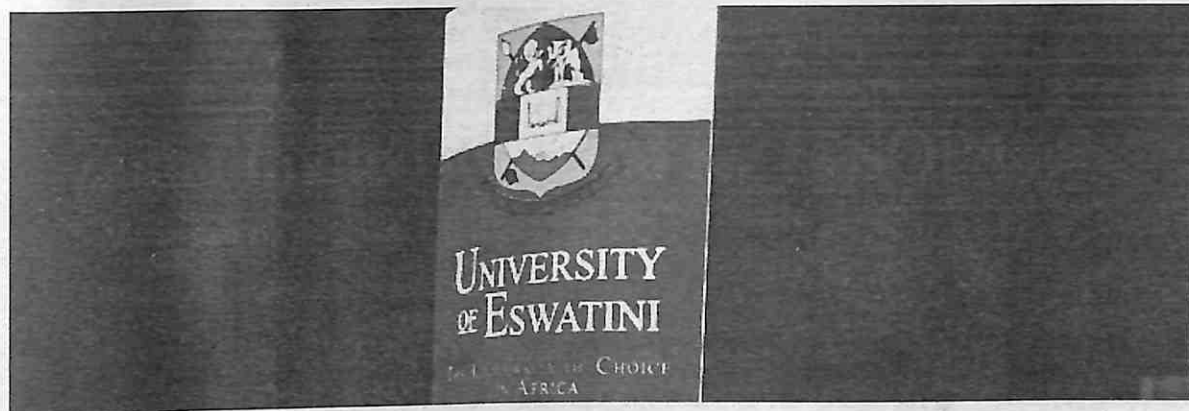
At the end of December 2019, a cumulative total of E6.3 million due to defaults was written off as a loss by the scheme and an increase from the E5.6 million reported on September 2019 due to the claims paid to EswatiniBank amounting to E0.7 million.

This resulted in the cumulative default rate increasing from 6.03 per cent to 6.61 per cent over the quarter.

Worth noting in the performance of the SSELGS is the leverage ratio that stood at 1.05 times of the total fund balance in December 2019, showing a slight improvement from 1.04 times reported at the end of September 2019.

However, this is still far below the approved leverage ratio of five times.

The SSELGS had an excess guaranteeing capacity of E113.8 million.



## 'University should improve quality content'

STORIES BY BAHLE GAMA

*...to produce ideal accountants and auditors*

**CHARTERED Accountant and Standard Bank Chief Executive Mvuselelo Fakudze says the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) needs to improve the quality and content of their degrees in order to produce ideal accountants and auditors.**

Fakudze was reacting to an observation by the Auditor General Timothy Matsebula who recently revealed that in the country there was a deficit of 80 per cent auditors and accountants.

Speaking to the Business Desk yesterday, Fakudze said it all began with ratios, whereby the number of accountants in developed countries to the population and to the number of companies audited determined if there were sufficient accountants or not. "I think there is a lot we can do at our university level to ensure our students get degrees that would easily qualify them to write and pass the board exams needed to qualify for this profession.

I also think that more students need to get the opportunity to go abroad and study and then come back to practice, only then can we close the gap.

The reality is that we are not short of accountants but the shortage of people who have experience in auditing and



**Standard Bank CE Mvuselelo Fakudze.**

have professional qualifications to become accountants," he said.

He added every year, a lot of Bcom students graduate but disappear in other fields they have not studied for.

"The university produces a lot of Bcom graduates every year, so the question is where do they disappear to. Most of them end up being book keepers or semi-accountants because unless they are qualified, they are not recognised

as accountants," he said. He also mentioned that another problem faced by Eswatini was the shortage of firms. "I think the problem we have as Eswatini is that we only have two international firms instead of four. We had them before and are down to two now. This shows that the rate in which we wish to produce accountants will not grow rapidly due to some of these challenges," he said.

## Accounting, auditing not gateway to higher positions - Engelbrecht

**KPMG Chief Ethics Officer Dr Schalk Engelbrecht has warned against beliefs that being an accountant or auditor is a gateway to a chief executive officer (CEO) or chief financial officer (CFO) position.**

Engelbrecht said most people decided on a career in accounting and auditing because they thought it was a gate way or a spring board to other positions, instead of seeing the value and the purpose they can fulfil by doing the job as an accountant or auditor.

"This shows that we have not been focusing sufficiently on the public interest.

My view here is that we need to do a lot more work in studying and that as soon as one joins a firm, they should focus on the public interest they need to serve.

We need people to understand that the purpose of becoming an accountant or auditor is not a gateway to being a CEO or CFO," he said.

He also mentioned that the industry was lacking in this profession because a lot of accountants and auditors have found themselves in trouble in the past.

"What I have noted, especially in South Africa, is that more people find this profession risky and the status is not as desirable as it was in the past.

So, some of the people who decide to become a doctor or an attorney instead of an auditor or accountant is because they have seen a lot of scandals, resulting in them being less interested in



**KPMG Chief Ethics Officer Dr Schalk Engelbrecht.**

the profession," he said.

He added that once people become qualified and experienced enough to add value as accountants and auditors, other opportunities might open up for them and they might move into those opportunities.

"What needs to be done is those people who are doing the job now must share more with the aspiring and upcoming accountants. Even arrange or organise events whereby the younger professionals can be taught and be advised.

It is important that they see how accountants in the public sector space are doing.

Maybe if more people are inspired, the industry will not lack accountants and auditors," he closed.





## COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & TRADE ESWATINI



AS we conclude our export series, we will look at the flow of goods and funds, which are both activated by documents which must be presented at various points along the export supply chain.

Upon receipt and acceptance of a bona fide export order, it is the duty of the seller (exporter) to organise his business so that the goods are ready for dispatch to the customer. At the same time, the seller should start arranging the necessary documentation to ensure smooth passage of the goods across the borders.

### These include:

- The enquiry that invites the exporter to quote in respect of the supply of a particular quantity of specified products.

- The quotation is the exporter's response to the enquiry once he/she has examined the feasibility of supplying the goods concerned and often takes the form of a pro-forma invoice.

- The proforma invoice (which replicates the commercial invoice) contains all the terms and conditions of sale for inclusion in an irrevocable letter of credit. It is also often a prerequisite for the issue of an import permit in the importer's country.

- The importer draws up a purchase order in which he/she formally states his/her intention to purchase specified products subject to certain terms and conditions.

- The import licence authorises the importation of the goods concerned and is required by foreign customs at the port of entry for the purposes of import clearance.

- The order confirmation by the exporter brings the contract of sale into being.

- The contract of sale, when embodied in a stand-alone document, has usually been drawn up by a lawyer to cover large, recurring and/or complex transactions. The document is intended to protect each party in the event of non-performance by the other and consequently spells out every agreed detail pertaining to the sale of the goods including how any dispute should be handled and which country's law should govern the contract.

- An application for export facilities (Form CE 185) must be completed and submitted to the relevant government authority (Eswatini Revenue Authority).

- The freight transit order issued by Eswatini Railway as a receipt for goods consigned by her to a port or other destination

- A credit insurance certificate evidence cover of a specific transaction under a credit insurance policy.

- A marine/cargo insurance policy/certificate evidences that a particular consignment is covered against loss or damage attributed to specified risks during transit.

- Special certificates (e.g. sanitary, inspection) refer to those certificates required for the export of specific products subject to export control, e.g. fresh meat, poultry, cut flowers, and vegetables. They are issued by the relevant government department.

- A certificate of origin/verifies the origin of a product in accordance with specific rules relating to origin and in the case of a certificate of value and origin, also specifies that the product pricing fairly reflects its value.

- Which is verified (legalised) by a consulate of the importing country situated in or near the exporting country.

- The commercial invoice provides the contract details of the exporter and importer, a precise description of the products sold, the prices and currency of the transaction, the terms of delivery and payment, and other conditions of sale.

- The packing list details the various items and their quantities conveyed in each pack so

# THE FLOW OF GOODS, FUNDS IN EXPORT VALUE CHAIN



**Supply Chain and Logistics Trends that Could be Begin 2020 pick-orders.**

that the contents of missing or damaged packs can be easily identified and customs officials know where to locate specific items which they may wish to inspect.

- The bill of exchange or draft is a negotiable financial instrument which on signature legally binds an importer to effecting payment on due date.

- The export permit permits the export of goods which are subject to export control.

- The customs declaration form (SAD 500) is a multi-purpose customs declaration on which the types, volumes and values of goods leaving and entering the country are specified. This enables customs officials to compile trade statistics and monitor adherence to export and import controls.

- The internal works order instructs warehouse or production personnel to produce certain quantities of goods according to specification by a particular date.

- The forwarding instruction provides the freight forwarder with all the consignment information he is likely to need to effect delivery of the goods to a particular place by a specified time.

- The letter of credit indicates the terms and conditions of payment by the issuing bank, compliance with which must be confirmed by the information provided in certain documents, e.g. the bill of lading, cargo insurance policy, commercial invoice, inspection certificate, certificate of origin and packing list.

- The container terminal order (CTO) instructs a terminal (in this case inland) to deliver an empty container to appoint within a prescribed area for stuffing, and to collect the packed and sealed container and return it to the terminal for onward conveyance by unit train to a port or other inland terminal. (In South Africa today, the CTO mostly takes the form of a pre-announcement EDI message dispatched to a terminal via an on-line web facility.)

- The Transnet National Ports Authority export cargo dues order evidences the pay-

ment of cargo dues levied for the use of port equipment.

- The bill of lading is an ocean transport document which evidences receipt of the goods by the vessel captain/shipping line, the contract of carriage and title to the goods.

- The Balance of Payments Form (Outward Payment Flows) is an application to purchase foreign currency from the bank.

- The Balance of Payments form (Inward Payment Flows) is an offer to sell foreign currency to a bank. This form cancels the obligation of the exporter to repatriate export proceeds.

In conclusion, let's remind you about the bilateral agreements that Eswatini has and the size of the markets.

- 1. Southern African Customs Union (SACU)**

**Market Size:** 55 million population, with South Africa as major trading partner

**Benefit:** Allows for free movement of goods within the customs union.

- 2. Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

**Market size:** 238 million population  
**Benefit:** Free trade area with preferential market access for goods and further integrating to customs union.

- 3. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**

**Market size:** 374 million population  
**Benefit:** Free trade area with preferential market access further integrating to a customs union. Eswatini is the only SACU member state currently in COMESA.

- 4. Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)**

**Market size:** Over 600 million population  
**Benefit:** The Kingdom of Eswatini as a beneficiary country enjoys preferential market access. The scheme enables developing coun-

tries to access markets of industrialised countries.

- 5. African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA)**

**Market size:** 300 million population  
**Benefit:** Duty free and quota free market access for over 1600 tariff lines

- 6. Economic Partnership Agreement (SADC-EU EPAs)**

**Market size:** 500 million population  
**Benefit:** Duty free entry for Eswatini products to the European Union

- 7. SACU-European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**

**Market size:** 12.8 million population  
**Benefit:** Preferential market access for Eswatini products.

- 8. SACU-Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement**

**Market size:** 285 million population  
**Benefit:** Preferential (and sometimes duty-free) market access for Eswatini products

- 9. The Economic Cooperation Agreement between Taiwan and Eswatini**

To ensure sustainable development that seeks to protect and preserve the environment and to explore new areas of economic, trade and investment through various methods, such as engaging in cooperation and personnel exchanges and other types of cooperation as provided in this Agreement or agreed by the Parties.

The Republic of Taiwan will eliminate tariffs on listed products except for Sugar from Eswatini.

*For more information about market access, check out the International Trade Department's website [www.itdswaziland.org](http://www.itdswaziland.org) or Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority's website [www.investeswatini.org.sz](http://www.investeswatini.org.sz) or drop an email to our Communication Officer Thabile Mdluli at [jehovaunani@gmail.com](mailto:jehovaunani@gmail.com). You can also call 2404 3201/2/3 or visit our offices at the Inter-Ministerial Building or ITD's offices at the DPM's Office Building in Mbabane.*

“

The proforma invoice (which replicates the commercial invoice) contains all the terms and conditions of sale for inclusion in an irrevocable letter of credit. It is also often a prerequisite for the issue of an import permit in the importer's country.

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# Coronavirus outbreak hurts Zimbabwean tourism

**PRETORIA** – The restriction of movements to and from China in the wake of the outbreak of COVID-19, caused by the coronavirus, has negatively impacted Zimbabwe's tourism industry and small to medium enterprises, local media reported yesterday.

The Herald newspaper said due to the outbreak, entrepreneurs could not travel to China to import clothes, cell-phones and vehicle spare parts for resale for fear of contracting the deadly virus.

Chinese tourists have also significantly cut down foreign travel to avoid further spreading the virus which has

killed over 2 700 people, mostly in mainland China. Over 79 000 cases have been reported.

Earlier this month, news agency AFP reported that numerous Chinese shop owners in Namibia who had travelled to their country for the year-end break had opted to stay there instead of return-

ing to Windhoek's Chinatown, a vast complex of nearly 200 retail, wholesale, food and electronics outlets. In one block of 90 shops, 20 stores had reportedly not re-opened.

## Embassy

On Monday, Standard Bank donated R750 000 to China through its

embassy in South Africa towards the fight against COVID-19.

"This disease, this epidemic has the ability to affect the entire world so it is in our own interests to ensure the eradication of it. Secondly, and more importantly, as South Africa we believe in showing solidarity... with the Chinese people," the bank's CEO Sim Tshabalala said. "This is not just a Chinese issue, it affects the entire world."

*African News Agency*

## GATES FOUNDATION DONATES \$10M TO FIGHT LOCUST OUTBREAK

**JOHANNESBURG** – The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has applauded a \$10 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fight the upsurge of desert locusts in East Africa and called for more funding to help prevent a humanitarian crisis.

The foundation said its donation would help FAO support governments in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to combat locust infestation which poses a significant threat to food production and livelihoods in the region.

### Outbreak

The outbreak is the worst to strike Ethiopia and Somalia for 25 years and the worst Kenya has experienced in 70 years.

Djibouti and Eritrea are also affected and swarms have spread to the south east of South Sudan and the northern edges of Uganda and Tanzania and as far as the south-west coast of Iran.

The upsurge is threatening people's livelihoods and food security in a region that is already seriously food insecure. FAO has raised its appeal to \$138 million from the initial \$76 million sought a month



**DONATES:** The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has applauded a \$10 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fight the upsurge of desert locusts in East Africa.

ago. "The upsurge is threatening people's livelihoods and food security in a region that is already seriously food insecure," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said. "There is no time to waste." The desert locust is considered the most destructive migratory plant pest in the world and a small swarm covering one square kilo-

metre can eat the same amount of food in one day as 35 000 people. Pasture and croplands have already suffered damage in East Africa and there are potentially severe consequences for the region where millions rely on agriculture and livestock rearing for survival.

*African News Agency*

## JSE All Share Index in its biggest one-day dive

**JOHANNESBURG** – The JSE on Monday suffered its biggest intra-day fall since 2016 as the benchmark index extended its slump to -4.28 per cent, amid fears of increasing coronavirus cases outside China sparked a global trade-off and concerns that Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's Budget might not avert a Moody's downgrade.

The risk hardened as the epidemic spread to more than 30 countries, with South Korea reporting a jump in infections and Italy locking down an area of 50 000 people near Milan.

The rand weakened to as much as R15.18 to the dollar from Friday's close of R15 after the IMF late revised its global and Chinese growth expectations for 2020 lower on Friday to 3.2 per cent year on year from 3.3 and 5.6 per cent from six per cent. The JSE All Share Index eased 4.28 per cent to 54 881.56 points, and the JSE Top 40 took a beating, dragging losses to 4.46 per cent to 49 282.53 points.

"Investors have sold out of shares for five Fridays in a row, because they were unwilling to hold on over the weekend in the likelihood of bad news about the coronavirus," said

London Capital Group head of research Jasper Lawler.

Naspers, which holds about a third of the local bourse value, declined 4.24 per cent, while luxury goods giant Richemont fell 2.77 per cent.

Anglo American lost 8.37 per cent, BHP Billiton fell 5.61 per cent.

Bank stocks slid more than four per cent, the biggest drop in more than eight months, as risk-off sentiment batters the rand.

### Dropped

Standard Bank led the bank losses with a 5.35 per cent drop, Capitec lost 3.23 per cent, while FirstRand dropped 4.03 per cent.

"It seems the risks over the past several weeks have been understated; that's why the US and some European stocks were testing new highs. Investors have been betting on a V-shaped recovery, supported by central bank easing. It now looks like the easy money won't be enough to offset the impact of the virus," said Hussein Sayed, chief market strategist at FXTM.

Economists also pointed to jitters ahead of the budget today, saying that Mboweni may not be able to avert the downgrade fears.

*African News Agency*

## Shoprite interim earnings down 2.6%

**JOHANNESBURG** – Supermarket chain Shoprite yesterday reported a seven per cent increase in the sale of merchandise to R81.2 billion in the six months to December, but its diluted headline earnings per share declined by 2.6 per cent to 372.4 cents.

The retail group said it was managing the risks associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) currently wreaking havoc across the globe and did not foresee a material impact on the business. Despite the current difficult economic climate, Shoprite continued to create new jobs and participate in the Youth Employment Service programme, an initiative between businesses in South Africa, the government, labour, civil society and young people, Chief Executive Officer Pieter Engelbrecht said.

The company's interim earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation increased by 5.3 per cent to R6.8 billion, while trading profit on a reported basis fell 3.9 per cent to R4 billion.

The seven per cent rise in interim merchandise sales was achieved on the back of a 4.4 per cent growth in the volume of products sold and a 2.1 per cent expansion in the number of customers, said Engelbrecht. "Our group strategy to capture a larger share of South Africa's pre-



**NO IMPACT:** Shoprite Chief Executive Officer Pieter Engelbrecht.

mium food retail segment continues to be one of our drivers of growth as reflected particularly in the Checkers brand, together with Hypers, growing sales by 11.2 per cent," he said. Shoprite supermarkets in the non-South African operating segment, comprising operations in 14 countries across the African continent, recorded positive sales growth of 4.8 per cent in constant currency terms. In rand terms, however, sales declined by 3.1 per cent. "Supermarkets Non-RSA's operating environment is expected to remain challenging until

such time as currencies stabilise and consumer affordability catches up," Shoprite said.

"In terms of future strategy we remain committed to operating on the continent but are limiting future expansion whilst we review our options with regards to alternate operating models. Notwithstanding this, we have taken a number of immediate operational actions, all of which are ongoing and include rent reductions, store closures, productivity improvements and de-dollarising costs." *African News Agency*

## CURRO TO INVEST R1BN IN GROWTH PROJECTS

**JOHANNESBURG** – South Africa's largest public-listed independent school group Curro Holdings said yesterday its revenue rose 18 per cent to R2.944 billion in the year to December.

Curro said it planned to invest approximately R1 billion in further growth and development projects in 2020. During the year under review, learner numbers were up 12 per cent to 57 597 and continue to grow during the current year.

### Earnings

Recurring headline earnings however decreased by 15 per cent to R212 million, although earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation added 11 per cent to R693 million.

"Future growth prospects are underpinned by robust cash flow and pleasing growth in learner numbers, which was achieved in arguably the most challenging times," Curro Chief Executive Officer Andries Greyling said.

"I am positive that by focusing

on our efficiencies, increasing occupation of existing school capacity and lowering capital investment, we will improve our profitability."

Greyling said although Curro had just undergone a process of consolidation, it was ready to expand its current offering in a strategic manner and would selectively take advantage of acquisitions and high potential greenfield opportunities, especially in the Curro Academy and DigiEd segments.

*- African News Agency A)*

**I am positive that by focusing on our efficiencies, increasing occupation of existing school capacity and lowering capital investment, we will improve our profitability**



# Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

## 'Malema arrest warrant blown out of proportion'

**JOHANNESBURG** - The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has described the reaction to the warrant of arrest issued for EFF leader Julius Malema by the East London Magistrate's Court for his gun case as being 'blown out of proportion'.

The criminal case of Malema and his co-accused Adriaan Snyman - who face five charges over Malema's discharging of a rifle in Mdantsane in 2018 as the EFF was celebrating its fifth birthday anniversary - briefly proceeded during their absence from court on Monday.

NPA Regional Spokesperson Luxolo Nyali said Malema was not facing imminent arrest as the State was aware that he was not going to attend the case, adding that the court had issued the warrant, which has been stayed until May 8, as part of normal procedure. "Even if an arrangement is made, the court may issue a warrant of arrest which may be stayed. It won't be affected. It is not like there are going to be police running around looking for Julius to arrest him," Tyali said. The matter was postponed in November



**STAYED:** EFF leader Julius Malema.

last year to February 24, for the State to provide the defence with the docket contents and alleged video footage. Tyali said courts issued stayed warrants of arrest daily and very few of the affected individuals actually faced imminent arrest as many could explain the reasons for their non-

attendance. "It is just that these days it is happening to people who are prominent," he said.

Tyali said Malema's lawyers were also aware as early as last year that Malema would be issued with a warrant of arrest.

**IOL**

## MBEKI SENDS UN DOCUMENT TO DE KLERK

**DURBAN** - Former president Thabo Mbeki has stayed true to his word that he would send the country's last apartheid president, FW de Klerk, the UN Convention declaration that apartheid was a crime against humanity.

The Sunday Times reported at the weekend that De Klerk had been served by Mbeki with documentation explaining that the apartheid system had been declared a crime against humanity.

This followed De Klerk's comments earlier this month during an interview with the SABC in which he apologised for apartheid, but also said that it was not a crime against humanity.

Mbeki sent De Klerk the UN Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

This came after De Klerk's remarks to Mbeki when he told him that he was not aware of the convention.

De Klerk's comments were widely condemned across the country by political parties, NGOs, on social media and by the international community. At the State of the Nation Address on February 13, the EFF disrupted the start of President Cyril Ramaphosa's address by more than an hour as they demanded that De Klerk, who they referred to as an apartheid apologist, should leave the public gallery, while also branding him a murderer with blood on his hands. **IOL**

## Furore after Duduzane pledges to finance students tuitions

**JOHANNESBURG** - Former president Jacob Zuma's son, Duduzane has pledged to help financially excluded students and it has left tweeps divided.

In a video shared to the students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Zuma pledged an undisclosed amount for students who were financially excluded after receiving letters asking for financial assistance.

### Students

He also urged students not to resort to damaging property in their protest action.

"To my good brothers at UKZN, let's stop burning our buildings. We're smarter than that. I understand your frustrations, I understand your anger.

"Let's channel our frustrations, let's hone in on our anger and let's make a difference. We will sit down, I will come to you and we will do what needs to be done," said Zuma.

However, not everyone is happy about his aid, as some tweeps were questioning the source of his funds. **IOL**

## Zuma invited to attend KZN SOPA

**DURBAN** - With the opening of the KwaZulu-Natal legislature and the State of the Province Address (SOPA) pencilled in for next Tuesday and Wednesday respectively, the legislature said it had cut costs close to R1million for the two events.

Speaker Nontembeko Boyce confirmed that former president Zuma was among the guests who had been invited to attend both the opening of the legislature and the SOPA.

### Arrived

Zuma arrived back in the country on Saturday after undergoing medical treatment in Cuba. He was welcomed back by scores of supporters at OR Tambo International Airport.

Boyce said that the two events would be held at the Pietermaritzburg Royal Showgrounds due to space constraints and renovations at the legislature precinct, although the construction of the new government precinct was now back on the agenda.

Boyce and her deputy, Mluleki Ndobe, said the two events were expected to draw 1 200 people. In previous years the events have seen as many as 2 800 guests, with this year's significantly lower number of guests representing almost R1m in cost savings, said Boyce.

"We get really concerned when costs escalate,



**INVITED:** Former President Jacob Zuma.

and all avenues and interventions will be the point this year to reduce costs. We are proud that this year we'll be able to cut costs by nearly close to R1m for the opening of the legislature by reducing the number of people invited to attend both events," she said.

"The office of the premier is busy compiling the figures for the SOPA, and we're confident that there will be major savings on their side. We will have saved even more had we hosted the event at the legislature complex, which proved impossible as a result of the renovations," Boyce said.

**Political Bureau**

## SAPS ordered to pay R150k to humiliated, illegally demoted generals

**JOHANNESBURG** - The 'leadership crisis' within the national SAPS has resulted in it being found guilty of unfair labour practice and ordered to pay R150 000 following the illegal demotion of six major-generals.

Last month at the Safety and Security Sectoral Bargaining Council (SSSBC), the SAPS was found to have 'humiliated' Pretoria major-generals by removing them as cluster commanders of several police stations to mere 'overseers' of individual stations in what has been labelled 'a recipe for disaster' in police leadership.

Major-generals Anna Mateisi, Masego Botshelong, Nicholas Sithole, Gily Mbele, Pooblan Subbiah

and Ketlareng Mohajane were each awarded R25 000 by the SSSBC for being unfairly demoted.

This related to a restructuring programme the SAPS embarked on in February last year to deploy senior police managers to local stations to address crime experienced by communities.

However, SSSBC arbitrator advocate PH Kirstein found this process to have been flawed because the six wronged senior officers went from being cluster commanders to being station overseers and were 'stripped of all command and control'.

"The major-generals suffered the humiliation of arriving at stations without knowing who to

report to and without having office space and/or any personnel assigned to them.

"The post of district commissioner into which several of their former equals were promoted are higher up in the hierarchy and report to provincial commissioners, whereas they (the six major-generals), as overseers, had to report to district commissioners," wrote Kirstein in his report.

He added that this constituted an unfair labour practice because the SAPS and national commissioner General Khehla Sitole demoted the officers without consulting them on the process, and announced the changes to the media before the major-generals were informed. **IOL**

## State Capture Inquiry granted final extension until March 2021

**PRETORIA** - Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo's commission of inquiry into state capture has been granted a final extension to complete its work by March next year.

The North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria also reduced the scope of the commission, granting it permission to only investigate state capture complaints directed by the former public protector, advocate Thuli Madonsela.

The ruling by Judge Wendy Hughes further ordered President Cyril Ramaphosa to amend the proclamation signed by former president Jacob Zuma in January 2018, which ordered Judge Zondo to investigate all corruption cases in national, provincial government and all state-owned enterprises, including more than 260 municipalities.

Judge Hughes said Ramaphosa must make these amendments to allow the Hawks, SIU and NPA to investigate 'other general corruption cases' which were initially included in the work of the Zondo Commission by Zuma. Judge Hughes made these rulings after Judge Zondo had submitted, in his application for a 10-month extension to complete his work, that Zuma's proclamation had widened the scope of the commission of the inquiry.

**Political Bureau**



**EXTENSION:** Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.



## FOCUS ON CORONAVIRUS

# RUSSIAN POLICE RAID HOMES, BUSINESSES

MOSCOW - Moscow has ordered police to raid hotels, dorms, apartment buildings and businesses in search of Chinese people as Russia attempts to stem the spread of coronavirus.

Bus, underground and train drivers have also been told to report if a Chinese person boards their vehicle before handing them a questionnaire asking why they are in the country and whether they quarantined themselves after arrival.

An email that leaked over the weekend suggested that police would also be alerted to Chinese nationals on public transport, though authorities claimed it was a fake.

Moscow's mayor has also announced that the city will use facial recognition technology to ensure arrivals from China observe a two-week home quarantine.

Since the outbreak of the new virus that has infected more than 76 000 people and killed more than 2 300 in mainland China, Russia has reported two cases. Both patients, Chinese nationals hospitalised in Siberia, recovered quickly.

Russian authorities nevertheless are going to significant - some argue dis-



**RAIDING:** Moscow has ordered police to raid hotels, dorms, apartment buildings and businesses in search of Chinese people as Russia attempts to stem the spread of coronavirus.

criminatory - lengths to keep the virus from resurfacing and spreading.

Bus drivers in Moscow kept their WhatsApp group chat buzzing with questions this week about what to do if they spotted passengers who might be from China riding with them in the Russian

capital.

"Some Asian-looking (people) have just got on. Probably Chinese. Should I call (the police)?" one driver messaged his peers. "How do I figure out if they're Chinese? Should I ask them?" a colleague wondered. *Daily Mail*

## 1 000 tourists are quarantined

ITALY - A Tenerife Hotel was on lockdown yesterday after an Italian tourist tested positive for coronavirus.

The visitor was found to be infected yesterday after feeling unwell during his stay at the H10 Costa Adeje Palace.

Around 1 000 guests have now been quarantined inside the hotel, Spanish media says, with police reportedly surrounding the complex which is popular with Britons.

The case will spark further fears over the spiralling virus outbreak coming from Italy, amid growing calls for EU chiefs to suspend the Schengen free travel rules.

The Italian tourist was tested for the killer virus after going to a private clinic in Adeje in the south of Tenerife after falling ill. The visitor, who comes from Italy's Lombardy region where several people have died, had reportedly been staying at the hotel for seven days with his wife. A report by Canary Islands newspaper Diario de Avisos said state security forces were stationed at the complex to prevent anyone from entering or leaving. Canary Islands President Angel Victor Torres confirmed on Monday: "This afternoon the coronavirus protocol has been activated for an Italian tourist in the south of Tenerife."

"The result from the first test carried out in the Canaries is positive. Tomorrow new tests will take place in Madrid. The patient has been quarantined."

A spokesman for the regional health authority added: "The protocol states that a second test must take place at the National Microbiology Centre at the Carlos III Health Institute in Madrid."

"The patient has been quarantined and is under the care of health workers."

The Italian's age has not been made public. It is Spain's third coronavirus

case.

A receptionist at the hotel in Tenerife yesterday morning claimed there were "no problems", saying: "Everything is under control. We are working normally here."

Seven deaths and 229 infections in Italy have fanned panic in neighbouring countries and sparked a clamour for governments to impose border checks.

The European Union is under mounting pressure to suspend the passport-free Schengen travel zone to stop coronavirus spreading across the continent.

But despite warning of a 'moderate to high risk' of more clusters sprouting up on European soil, Brussels on Monday confirmed it would

not be freezing Schengen arrangements 'for the moment'.

The 26 Schengen states - including Italy - have abolished border controls.

*Reuters*



**SEEKS FUND:** US President Donald Trump.

## World must prepare for potential pandemic - Chief

INTERNATIONAL - The World Health Organisation chief on Monday warned countries to prepare for a "potential pandemic" of the new coronavirus, calling the sudden increase in cases in Iran, Italy and South Korea "deeply concerning".

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said, however, that a WHO joint mission to China that concluded on Monday found that the virus there "peaked" between January 23 and February 2 "and has been declining steadily since then".

"This virus can be contained. Indeed there are many countries that have done exactly that," he said, crediting the measures taken by China to lock down several cities for helping to prevent an even bigger spread.

The virus, first detected at the end of December, has killed more than 2 600 people so far - mostly in China.

The WHO has declared it a global health emergency but has stopped short of calling it a global pandemic.

ic.

"For the moment we are not witnessing the uncontained global spread of this virus and we are not witnessing large-scale deaths," Tedros told reporters in Geneva.

**Prepare**

He added, however, that countries should be "doing everything they can to prepare for a potential pandemic."

"What we see are epidemics in different parts of the world affecting countries in different ways and requiring a tailored response," he said. Michael Ryan, head of WHO's health emergencies programme, said a WHO team had arrived in Italy on Monday and another was expected in Iran yesterday.

Ryan also cautioned over the apparent high mortality rate in Iran, where the government has reported 64 infections and 12 deaths, saying that "we may only be detecting severe cases".

*AFP*

## Trump's administration seeks R38bn funding to fight coronavirus

WASHINGTON - The Trump administration is asking Congress for \$2.5bn (R38bn) to fight the fast-spreading coronavirus, including more than R15bn for vaccines, the White House said on Monday.

With financial markets falling on concerns that the virus will have a significant impact on the global economy, the Trump administration is eager to show it is prepared to combat the virus despite the limited number of cases so far in the US.

The virus has spread to some 29 countries and territories beyond mainland China, with outbreaks in South Korea, Iran and Italy.

"The Trump administration continues to take the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease very seriously. Today, the administration is transmitting to Congress

a [R38bn] supplemental funding plan to accelerate vaccine development, support preparedness and response activities and to procure much needed equipment and supplies," said Rachel Semmel, a spokesperson for the White House Office of Management and Budget.

The money will be used for therapeutics, vaccine development and the stockpiling of personal protec-

tive equipment such as masks, the White House said.

Of the R38bn request, R22bn represents new funding. The rest would come from funds already budgeted by Congress, such as unused money to fight the Ebola virus. The administration requires congressional approval to redirect that money to fight the coronavirus.

House of Representatives Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, a Democrat, said in a statement the Trump administration's funding request was "woefully insufficient to protect Americans from the deadly coronavirus outbreak."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said late on Monday that the supplemental funding requested by Trump is "undersized" and "completely inadequate to the scale of this emergency".

"The House will swiftly advance a strong, strategic funding package that fully addresses the scale and seriousness of this public health crisis," Pelosi said in a statement.

The US has not seen the virus spread through its communities the way that China and other countries have experienced, but health officials are preparing for the possibility even as Americans affected so far have been quarantined. There have been 53 confirmed US cases of the new coronavirus so far -

14 in people diagnosed in the US and 39 among Americans repatriated from the outbreak's epicentre of Wuhan, China, and from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Japan, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

*Reuters*

## Fourth person from quarantined cruise ship dies

TOKYO - A fourth person has died in Japan after becoming ill aboard a coronavirus-stricken cruise ship, local media reported yesterday, as the government unveiled a new policy to tackle the outbreak.

Nearly 700 people on board the Diamond Princess, which spent two weeks quarantined off Japan, have so far tested positive for the virus.

Four people who were hospitalised after being taken off the ship have died, the latest a man in his 80s, according to local media.

The Yomiuri Shimbun daily said the man had tested positive for the new coronavirus and died of pneumonia. The health ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the reports.

Three others, all Japanese, have so far died after becoming sick on the ship. Two were confirmed to have the new coronavirus, while the health ministry declined to comment on the diagnosis of the third.

Japan has come under increasing pressure over its handling of the ship, particularly after it emerged that some passengers allowed to disembark after testing negative were subsequently diagnosed with the virus.

Some of the disembarking passengers were not even tested during the quarantine period, the health ministry has acknowledged.

Several government officials working on the ship have themselves contracted the infection, but authorities have defended a policy of not uniformly testing those working on the boat. *AFP*



# Focus on World News

Global News

## TRUMP CLAIMS DEMOCRATS WILL STOP SANDERS

**NEW YORK** - US President Donald Trump predicted on Monday that the Democratic Party leadership would prevent front-runner Bernie Sanders from becoming its candidate in the November elections.

Sanders' leftist politics alarm many moderate Democrats, who fear that if he heads the ticket in the election, the party could face sweeping losses.

At the weekend, Sanders cemented his new status as the favourite to win the Democratic nomination with a clear victory in Nevada's primary.

Trump has nicknamed Sanders as 'Crazy Bernie' for his socialist policies, but also claimed that he could be a tough candidate to beat.

"They are going to take it away from 'Crazy Bernie,' they are not going to let him win," the president said during a visit to India.

"I actually think he would be tougher than most of the other candidates because he is like me, but I have a much bigger base."

Though from different ends of the



**CLAIMS:** US President Donald Trump.

political spectrum, both Trump and Sanders have been party outsiders who promote themselves as outspoken individuals standing up to the establishment.

Celebrating his win in Nevada, Sanders said his 'multi-generational, multi-racial

coalition' was 'going to sweep this country'.

Sanders's progressive policies, including universal health care, higher taxes on the wealthy and an increase in the minimum wage, have struck a chord with Democrat voters. **AFP**

## German man drives car into Carnival crowd, injures 30

**BERLIN** - A man intentionally drove a car into a crowd at a Carnival parade in a small town in central Germany, injuring around 30 people including children, officials said Monday.

The driver, a 29-year-old German citizen who lived locally, was arrested at the scene in Volkmarshausen near Kassel, about 280 kilometres (175 miles) southwest of Berlin, prosecutors said. He is being investigated on suspicion of attempted homicide.

A spokesman for Frankfurt prosecutors, Alexander Badle, said in a statement that "about 30 people" were injured, among them children. They were taken to surrounding hospitals, some with life-threatening injuries. The suspect was also injured, said Badle.

"The investigation, especially into the circumstances of the crime, continues," he said. "In particular, no information can yet be provided about a motive. The investigation is explor-

ing all avenues."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel sent her condolences to those injured in the crash, wishing them a speedy and full recovery. She also thanked the police and all medical personnel involved.

Emergency responders set up a makeshift clinic in a town pharmacy to treat casualties with minor injuries, the regional Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper reported.

Witnesses said the car drove around a barrier blocking off traffic from the parade, according to the paper.

Video from the scene showed a silver Mercedes station wagon with local license plates on a sidewalk, its front windshield badly smashed and hood dented, and its hazard lights blinking, while emergency crews walked by. Forensic experts could be seen taking photos and measurements around the crashed car, walking around fragments of Carnival costumes that littered the ground.

**AFP**

## 3 charged after 11-year-old US girl gives birth in bath-tub

**MISSOURI** - Three relatives of an 11-year-old girl who gave birth in the bathtub of her suburban St Louis home are facing criminal charges.

An adult female and adult male are charged with child endangerment. A 17-year-old male is charged with incest as well as statutory rape and statutory sodomy of a child younger than 12. All three live in St Charles.

Police started investigating after the adult male brought an infant to a hospital on February 11. Charging documents said the baby still had the umbilical cord and placenta attached and had a body temperature of just 90 degrees.

The man initially said someone dropped the infant off on his front porch. He later explained that he was a relative. He said he did not know the girl was pregnant or that she was being sexually assaulted until she

gave birth.

During questioning, the teen told police he had sex with the girl about 100 times but did not know she was pregnant, according to charging documents.

The woman, who was charged on Tuesday, is accused of failing to provide the girl medical care when she gave birth.

**Charged**

The man was charged last week and bond was set at US\$10 000 cash only. Charging documents say he entered the country illegally and was previously deported.

Bail also was set at \$10,000 for the woman and US\$25 000 for the teen. No attorneys are listed for them in online court records.

The Associated Press is not identifying the family members to protect the girl's identity.

**AFP**

## 'NASA mathematician Johnson broke barriers as hidden figure'

**NEW YORK** - Former US president Barack Obama has paid tribute to Nasa mathematician Katherine Johnson, who died on Monday morning at the age of 101.

Johnson was one of the black women who played a crucial role in landing Nasa's Apollo 11 to the moon in 1969. She worked at Nasa's Flight Research Division as a mathematician for more than three decades, but remained a hidden figure, reports New York Times.

In 2015, Johnson was awarded a presidential medal of freedom by Obama for her role at the space agency.

The former president shared a picture from the ceremony, saying 'after a lifetime of reaching for the stars, today, Katherine Johnson landed among them'.

The 1969 mission was not the only time Johnson proved herself to be one of the best minds in mathematics. According to BBC, her impeccable calculations helped put US astronaut John Glenn into orbit around the Earth in 1962.

She previously calculated trajectory for the first American in space, Alan Shepard, in 1961.

Had it not been for Johnson, Glenn would not have carried out the 1969 mission, as he refused to fly until she verified the calculations.

Nasa released a statement on Monday, saying: "At Nasa, we will never forget her courage and leadership, and the milestones we could not have reached without her. We will continue building on her legacy and work tirelessly to increase



**Former US President Barack Obama.**

opportunities for everyone who has something to contribute towards the ongoing work of raising the bar of human potential." **AFP**

### BRIEFS

#### Pope appears to give thumbs down to peace plan

**NEW YORK** - Pope Francis on Sunday warned against 'inequitable solutions' to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying they would only be a prelude to new crises, in an apparent reference to US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace proposal. Francis made his comments in the southern Italian port city of Bari, where he travelled to conclude a meeting of bishops from all countries in the Mediterranean basin. "The Mediterranean region is currently threatened by outbreaks of instability and conflict, both in the Middle East and different countries of North Africa, as well as between various ethnic, religious or confessional groups," Francis said. **AFP**

#### Outrage over burning of effigy of gay parents

**CROATIA** - A carnival in Croatia drew outrage on Monday after participants burned an effigy of a gay couple and child, weeks after a court granted same-sex couples the right to foster children. Huge dolls depicting two men kissing and holding a small doll resembling a child were set ablaze in front of a crowd of several hundred people during a carnival in the southern town of Imotski on Sunday.

It came just two weeks after Croatia's top court said that same-sex couples should be able to foster children, an issue that has provoked heated debate in the staunchly Catholic country.

**AFP**

#### Weinstein found guilty of sexual assault, rape

**NEW YORK** - Harvey Weinstein was convicted on Monday of sexual assault and rape but cleared of the most serious predatory sexual assault charges, a partial victory for the #MeToo movement that sparked a cascade of allegations against the disgraced Hollywood mogul. The jury of seven men and five women found the producer guilty of criminal sexual acts in the first degree and rape in the third degree, a measure of vindication for the dozens of women who came out against the one-time all-powerful filmmaker. However, the 67-year-old Oscar-winner who produced films including Shakespeare In Love was found not guilty of first-degree rape and predatory sexual assault charges that could have seen him jailed for life. **Reuters**

#### British boy, (3), drowns at waterpark

**THAILAND** - A three-year-old British boy drowned in front of his horrified parents after falling into a pool at a water park in Thailand. Bobby Watson slipped into the landing area of a flume at the Blue Tree Waterpark in Phuket yesterday afternoon.

Lifeguards dragged the struggling toddler from the water and performed CPR at the poolside but he was later pronounced dead in hospital. Bobby had been at the water park with his older brother Billy, seven, and his parents William and Sumitra, 35.

**Daily Mail**



# Focus on Africa News

## Continental News

### 14 ARRESTED AS POLICE CLAMP DOWN ON 'GAS ATTACKS'

**RUSTENBURG** - Police in Zambia have arrested 14 more people in connection with the mob killings of people suspected of chemical spray attacks, local media reported.

The Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation said eight people were arrested in the Kaoma district of Western Province over the murder of 54-year-old Clifford Nosiku by a mob on Friday after he was accused of being involved in the so-called 'gassing' assaults.

Police spokeswoman Esther Katongo told the broadcaster that those arrested included the deceased's nephew Sitwala Namate, who participated when the mob descended on the victim with sticks and stones, not realising it was his uncle. Other suspects have been identified as Kazhila Mutondo Clearance, Kaingu Sikasiye, Mushiba Mushoke, John Mukamba, Felix Mwinga, Moris Mubiana Mukelebai and Paul Misheki Katongo. Police arrested a further six suspects in

Kabwe, Central Province after another mob justice attack which killed the victim, suspected of a chemical spray attack at Katondo Primary School, Katongo said. Meanwhile, the Catholic Church in Zambia has called on its congregation not to participate in such incidents.

Criminal gangs in the southern African country have allegedly been using a chemical that immobilises their victim by making them dizzy.

ANA

### Nearly 50 rhino killed in Botswana in 10 months

**GABORONE** - At least 46 rhinos have been slaughtered in Botswana in 10 months, a government official said on Monday as the southern African wildlife haven reported a surge in poaching of the endangered species.

The killings - slightly under 10 per cent of Botswana's total rhino population - have occurred in the northern Moremi Game Reserve since April last year.

"Poaching has risen at an alarming rate in this area," Moemi Batshabang, a Deputy Director with the government's wildlife department told AFP.

"I can attest that 46 rhinos have been killed by highly organised poachers between April last year to date," he said.

Botswana is home to 500 rhinos, according to international conservation charity, Save the Rhino.

They are a protected species in Botswana and fall outside the government's recent decision to end a five-year ban on trophy-hunting licences, which is largely targeted at the burgeoning elephant population.

Most of the rhinos roam the grassy plains of the northern Okavango Delta, where Moremi Game Reserve is situated. "The increase in poaching of both the black and white rhino is of concern and unusual," said Batshabang. The unprecedented rate of poaching last year prompted the government to warn that the rhino population could be wiped out in the southern African country by 2021. Thousands of rhinos that once roamed Africa and Asia have been culled by poaching and habitat loss. Very few are found outside national parks and reserves. Poaching is fuelled by a seemingly insatiable demand for rhino horn in Asia, where it is coveted as a traditional medicine or an aphrodisiac, and can fetch up to \$60 000 per kilogramme.

ANA

### HUNGER MAY SEE MORE MIGRANTS MOVING ACROSS SADC BORDERS

**PRETORIA** - The Southern Africa Development Community is besieged with massive food shortages as regional assessments indicate cereal deficits of millions of tons.

Last year, the United Nations said the region was facing the worst drought in decades, affecting around 45 million people in 14 countries.

Experts cite significantly less and late rainfall, coupled with long-term increases in temperatures, as the factors jeopardising the food security and energy supplies of millions of people in the region.

The worst affected nations include Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Political analyst Tino Mambue told African News Agency (ANA) that the current wave of hunger could trigger mass movements of people to economies perceived to be better off, in a region already struggling to cope with mass flows across borders.

"The current drought and poverty in the region will increase the movement of people from countries like Zimbabwe into South Africa. South Africa itself is facing challenges of a broken economy and unemployment," said Mambue.

"The influx of foreign nationals from Zimbabwe will heighten tensions and result in flare ups of xenophobic attacks."

Mambue said food security and economic development had everything to do with good governance, transparency, investment in research, and proper management of resources.

"It all comes down to proper leadership skills, proper management of resources, and research. Zimbabwe has put more than US\$5 billion into 'Command Agriculture' since 2017 but at the moment the citizens are dying of hunger. Over five million Zimbabweans are reported to be at risk." ANA



**STARVING:** Children carry bags of grain they picked up from a truck after it overturned, spilling grain in the forest in Machinga, about 200 kilometres northeast of Blantyre, Malawi. (AP)



**RESIGNS:** Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

### Turmoil in Malaysia as PM Mahathir resigns

**MALAYSIA** - Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad resigned on Monday in a shock move after his political allies sought to bring down the government and block the succession of leader-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim.

It came after months of rising tensions in the 'Pact of Hope' coalition, which stormed to a shock victory in 2018 against a corruption-plagued government that had ruled Malaysia for six decades.

But there were calls for Mahathir, the world's oldest leader at 94, to stay in office from allies who insisted he had not backed the formation of a new government and had quit in disgust at the plot.

The political drama began on Sunday when Anwar's rivals from the ruling coalition and opposition politicians held a series of meetings around Kuala Lumpur, stoking speculation a new alliance was taking shape.

That coalition would reportedly have excluded Anwar, Mahathir's presumptive successor and a former opposition icon who was jailed for years on questionable sodomy charges, blocking his ascent to the premiership.

With the fate of the government still uncertain Monday, Mahathir submitted his resignation to the king. The monarch accepted it, but appointed him interim leader until a new premier is found, according to an official statement. *News24*

### BRIEFS

#### Journalist Kabendera freed after pleading guilty

**TANZANIA** - Tanzanian journalist Erick Kabendera, who was held in jail for seven months in a case that prompted international concern, was freed yesterday after pleading guilty to economic crimes. Kabendera, a reporter for local and international press outlets, was initially detained for questioning over his citizenship before the charges were upgraded to sedition. But both lines of enquiry were dropped, and Kabendera was charged in August with tax evasion, money laundering and organised crime. His detention provoked outrage, with rights groups demanding Kabendera be released and warnings that the case reflected worsening press freedoms under President John Magufuli, who came to power in 2015. *AFP*

#### Mali seeks to negotiate with jihadists

**MALI** - With violence wreaking havoc across the country, authorities in Mali are now looking for new avenues to reach a settlement with Islamist insurgents operating in the northern part of the West African country. Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita recently said that his government was ready to hold talks with the main jihadist leaders in the country. "Why not try to contact those who we know are pulling the strings," Keita told French media last week. "The number of deaths in the Sahel is becoming exponential. It's time for certain avenues to be explored." Mali has been struggling to contain a jihadist rebellion that erupted in the country in 2012.

*All Africa*

#### Frustrated by police, Bobi seeks EC help

**UGANDA** - Kyadondo East MP Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, has petitioned the Electoral Commission to intervene and help him resume his consultation meetings on his 2021 presidential bid, saying police have become a stumbling block. On February 21, Bobi Wine wrote to the EC indicating the 10 issues he wants police to address before he resumes the meetings. "The purpose of this letter is to also request you to convene a meeting with the Uganda Police Force as soon as possible, (preferably between February 24 and February 28) so that our consultations can go on without hindrance," the letter to the EC Chairperson, Justice Simon Byabakama, reads in part. *All Africa*

#### WHO is running out of money

**KINSHASA** - The World Health Organisation is urgently appealing for \$40 million to salvage its operation to bring the Ebola epidemic to an end in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Ebola operation in eastern DR Congo's conflict-ridden North Kivu and Ituri provinces is on financial life-support. The World Health Organisation reports its coffers will be empty at the end of this month. It is urging donors to step up immediately and contribute the money needed to tackle this virulent disease. WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic says failure to support this operation would be tragic as good progress is being made in containing the Ebola virus.

*All Africa*



ESWATINI  
Observer

## ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

ADRIENNE FOO  
WORKING ON  
AMAPIANO TRACK

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

RNB singer Adrienne Foo seems to be riding the wave as she is currently working on an amapiano song.

With the current wave of this music genre, Adrienne refuses to be left behind.

The singer broke into the industry as an RnB artist and has released a number of songs of the genre.

The singer posted a video teasing her fans, singing to an

amapiano beat on her Twitter account.

Born Nomfundo Sibandze, Adrienne Foo in July 2014, made her first full-length performance at Swazi Jive's Hipnotik Festival as an RnB artist.

She recorded music for over a year and released a free seven track project titled 'Imagine' which included the hit song 'Dangerous.'

The Dangerous music video released in 2016 went on to get over 100 000 hits on YouTube, setting her up perfectly for the year 2017.

## Overseas

She has also performed overseas with her 2019 performance in Las Vegas in the United States of America as one of the artists chosen by her former manager after he offered to take a number of artists to the States.

It is worth noting that she is now an independent artist as she parted ways with Swazi Jive.

Adrienne Foo has also dropped a number of projects, including her debut

## DJ Maphorisa interested

ADRIENNE Foo's video has attracted DJ Mphorisa's attention.

As soon as Adrienne Foo tweeted a video teasing her followers on the idea of the song, DJ Maphorisa posted the video and captioned it 'So I must make a plan? Are u guys feeling the vibe.'

The tweet received over one thousand re-tweets in two hours, people commenting that they loved the song. The video has also reached over 99 000 views and over 8 000 likes on Twitter.

This had thousands of Emaswati reposting the video and the deejay's post.

DJ Maphorisa is currently one of Africa's biggest amapiano DJs. With his recent partner Kabza Da Small, they have together managed to record four amapiano EPs in a short period of time.

It will not be the first time Maphorisa worked with a local

artist as he has collaborated with Amanda Mo on the song 'Phula'.

DJ Maphorisa is a platinum-selling DJ and record producer from South Africa. He has worked with musicians all over the world, including Drake, Wizkid and Mlindo the Vocalist. DJ Maphorisa started his career at an early age.

DJ Maphorisa has many hit songs under his belt. He got his first big hit when he was a member of Uhuru. The group featured on Mafikizolo's 2013 smash hit, Khona.

Beyoncé has also given DJ Maphorisa some recognition. Several days after her appearance at the Global Citizen Festival in Johannesburg in December 2018, the singer took to Instagram to share a video with highlights from her show. DJ Maphorisa's 'iWalk ye Phara' was the video's backing track.

album 'In My Head' which is packed with 10 tracks, including 'Divine', 'AdrienneCardiFoo',

'Chocolate Remix', 'Die For Me' and 'All Night Long' to mention a few.



KOKOTA: Adrienne Foo and DJ Maphorisa.



CONCERT: Manzini Choir.

## MANZINI CHOIR RAISING FUNDS TO BUY UNIFORM

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

RENOWNED choral music outfit, Manzini Choir will on Sunday host a music concert.

Dubbed 'Hello 2020', the event is meant to raise funds for Eswatini's veteran choral music outfit.

The music concert will be held at St Theresa's High School Hall starting at 2pm till late.

"We will be involved in several competitions even in 2020 as a choral music group. It's now an open secret that Manzini Choir participates in all competitions not to make numbers but to compete meaningfully. "These choral music competitions will be held locally and regionally. Often the participating fees are steep so this function aims to raise funds for choristers not to miss

out on the forthcoming competitions," Manzini Choir Chairman Dr. Nhlanhla Shongwe said.

On the day, choristers will be performing a variety of music that includes hymns, folk songs, formal compositions, etc.

Tickets retail at E60 presale, E70 at the door while students with IDs will part with E40.

"Buy a ticket and be in line to win a voucher for two from Ocean Basket, Linda Dlamini's new CD and other memorabilia from Manzini Choir. Even if you won't be part of the concert, but buying a ticket would be supporting us as a choral group," Dr. Shongwe added.

Manzini Choir is one of two Eswatini's established choral music groups having been formed in 1976. The other is Asihlabelele Choral Society. Both groups are now 44 years old this year.

## Eswatini Gospel Talent search winner to release EP

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

SEASON One winner of the Eswatini Gospel Music Search Portia Msibi will be releasing her first project next month.

The singer will on March 13 also be officially unveiled as one of Eswatini's official gospel music recording artists.

This was revealed by her manager Sithembiso Dube yesterday.

"Her stage name is Portia Praise, and was born and raised kaZombodze. We want the entire kingdom to know about her," said Dube.

He said she was working on a major launch and unveiling at Swedish Free Church.

She will be collaborating with local artists such as Fakazi Samuel, Bhelekazi, Nondumiso Nhleko, Mngqobi Maseko, Nondumiso Maseko of Spirit of Praise and many more.

"This event shall mark the beginning of great works with Portia Praise, as it will also be a recording of an EP. The project will be packed with four powerful songs that will see the distribution of Portia Praise's content across Eswatini and in South Africa," said Dube.

Dube said after the show she would then tour radio stations in both Eswatini and South Africa.

"South African radio stations have been waiting for her content, hence



NEW OFFERING: Season One winner of the Eswatini Gospel Music Search Portia 'Portia Praise' Msibi.

we will engage in tours around Johannesburg, Mpumalanga, Nelspruit and Durban," he revealed.

Portia Praise's inspiration has always been her love for singing, rendering in church for the longest of times. She said the most exciting part about her musical journey was reading the Bible as it inspires her to write more songs every day.

## Purpose

"More than anything, the heart I have for music, the time spent seeking God's face also inspires me. Music is more than entertainment. It gives me a purpose, a sense of belonging, waking up every morn-

ing looking forward to a new beginnings. It heals me, keeps my sanity and makes me stronger," said the singer. Portia Praise will bring a fresh sound.

"She will produce gospel hits that speak to the heart, soothing to the spirit and bring spiritual uplifting to rejected and marginalised. A perfect combination of a few hymns and songs, also reviving a few other old songs but still communicate the same message," said her manager.

From her EP, fans should expect songs such as, 'Ngokhelekile', 'Loku kukuphila', 'Uyabagcina' and 'Nghlengiwe'.



# Kenyan Youtubers to promote Eswatini

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

**THE West's misconception of Africa has driven three East African Youtubers to travel the continent, whilst promoting its beauty and culture.**

Gertrude Juma, Elvis Odera and Akon Kobina have embarked on a journey to uncover the beauty of each African country, and have since landed on Eswatini's shores where they have been documenting the kingdom as 'Africa's new promise'.

YouTube is a video sharing service where users can watch, like, share, comment and upload their own videos.

Captured shooting near the Queen Gwamile monument in Mbabane yesterday, the trio revealed that their project dubbed 'Africa to the World', was their contribution in changing the face of Africa.

"We each have our own YouTube channels; however, we saw the need to travel together and document the different aspects of the continent. Juma focuses on the travel and lifestyle aspect of the project, Kobina on the history and development of Africa, whereas I focus on the nightlife aspect of the culture of African countries," Odera said.

Odera further revealed that they chose the kingdom as their next pit



**CULTURE:** Gertrude Juma, Elvis Odera and Timele Masina pose in Eswatini traditional regalia. The Youtubers expressed their excitement in showcasing the beautiful kingdom on their YouTube channels. (Pic: Vuyile Dlamini)

stop, as they had heard about the memorable scenic landscape the country was blessed with.

He added that first world countries had a distorted perception of African countries, one which they were intent on altering.

"When the West thinks of Africans and Africa as a whole, they have the idea that the continent is dry and has nothing to offer in terms of tourism. Our aim is to shift that thinking, and have them want to visit African countries in order to enjoy the beauty of the continent.

Each African country has so much potential, and is bursting with oppor-

tunities. We just want to show this beauty to the world," he said.

"We have already visited the national museum at Lobamba, Mantenga Village, where we appreciated the rhythmic cultural dances and learnt more about the Swati culture. We are definitely looking forward to showcasing the country's jewels to the world," Juma added.

The trio stated that their next stop would be to visit the country's biggest granite rock, as they had heard that it promised the most breathtaking views. They were accompanied by Timele Masina, who acted as their tour guide during their stay in the country.

## Matamza offers to share his 'deejaying' skills

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**WITH the experience that he has, DJ Matamza will now host training sessions to help aspiring DJs.**

Matamza is well-known for his amapiano set and is signed under MegaSound Entertainment stable.

Through Matamza Academy, the deejay aims to teach both male and female aspiring deejays.

The deejay said he wanted to focus on converting deejaying and the entertainment industry into a profession. "I want others to be able to differentiate work and entertainment and also changing the perception of the society that entertainment (deejaying) involves drugs and sexual immorality," he said.

Real name Thami Zwane, the spinner said the lessons would be one-on-one and he was looking forward to a large number of people to participate in these sessions.

Furthermore, he wanted to create employment for himself, to earn a living through deejaying.

"We also have other entertainers (artists and deejays) to teach and help our students on how to play instruments," he said.

Matamza said the classes would take place at Mega Lounge.

The sessions would include lessons and practice where interested individuals would pay E1 000 for the lessons and E150 for practice for two hours.

The classes would take place on Mondays.



**WE LIVE TO SHARE:** DJ Matamza.

## ENCAC, UNESCO TO HOST CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**ESWATINI National Council of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Eswatini national commission for UNESCO, will host a convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.**

This was revealed by ENCAC CEO Stanley Dlamini yesterday.

Dlamini said the capacity building workshop would take place today and tomorrow at Eswatini Electricity Company Conference Centre in Manzini.

"The two entities are organising a

multi-stakeholder capacity-building workshop on participatory policy monitoring which aims to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of governmental and civil society actors in monitoring and reshaping Eswatini cultural policies through the elaboration of quadrennial periodic reports (QPR)," he said.

The two-day training workshop is part of the asso-

ciation's yearly plan to capacitate locals in the country.

Dlamini said the aim of this exercise was engaging a multi-stakeholder national team for the purposes of preparing the periodic reports and monitoring implementation of the convention in the kingdom.

"Expected to attend are people from

the following categories; music, audio visual, print and electronic media; performing arts, national statistics, data science, design and economics, publishing, gender activism, government, national arts and culture associations, *emabutfo* and social cohesion," he said.

### Drafting

Dlamini said the focus would be on the structure and objectives of the periodic reports, analysis of case studies, data collection exercises, and participatory drafting processes, including cultural policies and measures, international cooperation for culture sustainable development policies and

measuring cultural contribution to development; and many others.

"The main task will be to elaborate the quadrennial periodic report on the convention in a participatory manner.

### Implementation

"The team will be responsible for collecting, analysing and organising data and information to elaborate a state of the art of the implementation of the convention in the Kingdom of Eswatini level and formulate a series of recommendations for future policy action," he said.

The participation of multi-stakeholders will ensure the empowerment of all actors by providing space for a healthy dialogue with the aim of reshaping the sector in the kingdom.



**REVEALED:** ENCAC CEO Stanley Dlamini.

## Win a Ticket Competition

Answer these two questions correctly and stand a chance to win a ticket to the House Music Fest presented by SwaziBoy Entertainment. Fill in the correct answers and send the cut out to Eswatini Observer Office at Lilunga House Mbabane, P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza

1. Name two international acts lined-up for House Music Festival?

.....

2. Where is the festival going to be hosted?

.....

Name: ..... Cell: .....

**7TH MARCH 2020**  
AT ESIBYENI LODGE

**HOUSE  
MUSIC  
FEST**



\*007\*3\*12#





# Celebville

International Celebrity News



LASHED: Sarah Langa.

## Sarah Langa vents her anger at men

**SANDTON** - Model and influencer Sarah Langa has lashed out against abusive men and women who stay in abusive relationships because their abuser "pays the bills".

She took to Twitter to express her frustration at men who use their status, power and money to support their trashy behaviour.

"Men, stop using money and access to opportunity as a tool to emotionally, sexually and physically abuse women. This place is already hell for us because we have to watch men get the things because they are men. If you wanna take responsibility for a woman, do it with no expectations."

Sarah has had to shut down assumptions that her life was sponsored by her husband in the past by listing her qualifications and all the huge brand endorsements she has.

She went on to reprimand men who felt it was OK to disrespect their women because they held the purse strings.

"Paying the bills doesn't excuse you from treating a lady with respect. Don't think you're more of a man when all you do is take care of financial responsibilities, but back home you're physically, emotionally or sexually abusive."

"Also, ladies, don't accept messy behaviour."

She also took a moment to advise women about the long-term effects of letting a man abuse them in the name of money.

"I hope while y'all ladies are fixated on this 'pay the bill' topic you don't forget the most important thing is to protect your space."

There are some bills that will stick with you for the rest of your life and no man will ever be able to pay them. It's not worth it!"

*Times Live*

## TREVOR NOAH WAS ON ELLEN'S SHOW

**HOLLYWOOD** - Two weeks after playing tennis with partner Rafael Nadal in a celebrity doubles encounter against Roger Federer and Bill Gates in SA, comedian Trevor Noah has recounted to television star Ellen DeGeneres how he prepped for the match.

Appearing as a guest on Ellen's talk show on Monday, Trevor spoke about the challenges of learning how to play tennis and how he trained for two months for the Match in Africa charity event that took place in Cape Town on 7 February.

"The Daily Show" host told Ellen how his coach found it hard to teach him tennis and how his coach was scared on his behalf that he was playing with big names.

"People think tennis is easy. I could not hit the ball to where I was trying to hit the ball, and then I panicked. I then got a tennis coach."

Given two months to learn how to play tennis, Trevor said his coach initially thought he had some sort of experience on the court, and didn't know how he was going to coach Trevor.

"I played every single day for two and a half hours, just learning how to play tennis. What



REFLECTS: Trevor Noah.

was wild was that I get this tennis coach. The Roger Federer people called the tennis coach and they got hey, this guy needs a coach, they think I'm a professional, so they go oh, we've got the right person.

"This guy trains professionals but I need to be trained like a child. I don't know how to play the game. So, I get there and he's like, 'you ready to play some tennis', and I'm like 'yeah'."

After his coach realised that Trevor had trouble on his hands because he didn't know how to play tennis, he was taught from scratch how to play the game.

"So, now he doesn't know how to coach me so he hits the ball but he doesn't know how

to teach me because I'm just useless."

He hits the ball to me and it goes in a different direction and then he says, "just keep going, brush the ball, Trevor, just brushhhh it."

Reflecting on the match, Trevor took to Twitter: "To say tonight was a dream come true is an understatement. We helped raise more than US\$3 million (nearly R45m) to help spur education in Africa."

The match organisers confirmed the crowd of 50 154 broke the world record attendance figure for a tennis match set in November last year, beating a match held in Mexico City in front of 42 517 fans.

*Sowetan Live*

## 'Somizi says he's sorry for hurting my feelings'

**SANDTON** - Somizi and Lasizwe buried the hatchet this past weekend while attending an MTV Base event at Altitude Beach Club in Fourways, north of Johannesburg.

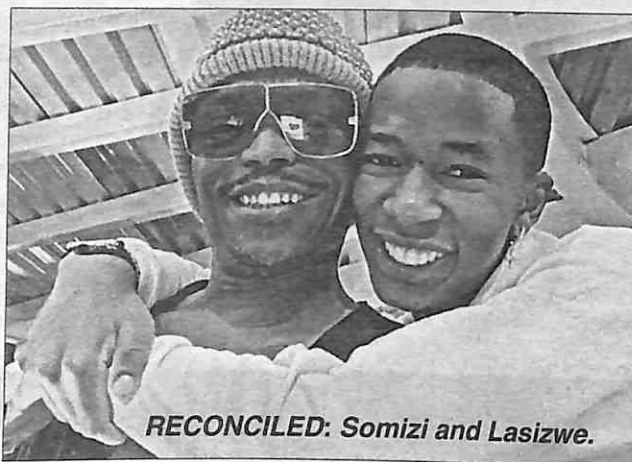
Lasizwe said their fallout was one of the most emotional situations he had gone through.

Lasizwe told Tshisa Live he was left disappointed by the reasons why he and Somizi stopped speaking to each other.

"I found out the rift between us was caused by people who kept interfering in the relationship I had with Somizi. People were giving opinions about me and it was also about the house thing, which I think disappointed him that I was lying about having bought a home in Sandton when in fact I was renting it."

"I heard he was also hurt by it and that's when I was like, okay, let me keep my distance. I just respected him so much that I didn't want to be in his space."

Lasizwe explained that short-



RECONCILED: Somizi and Lasizwe.

ly after a making a guest appearance on Tshisa Live's podcast last week, where he opened up about not being invited to Somizi and Mohale's recent white wedding, he decided it was time to put the past to rest.

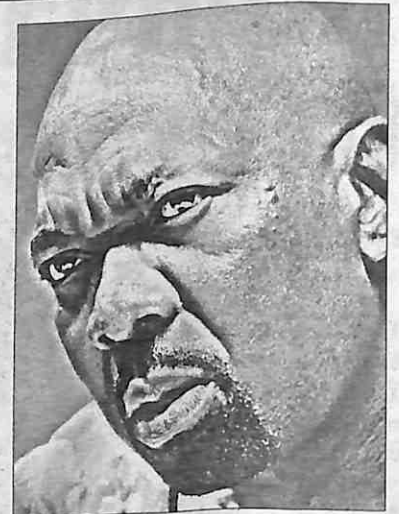
"After the podcast and article came out, I bumped into him at the MTV Base party this past weekend. I just told myself listen, dude, go to him and talk to him, and I went and spoke to him. 'I think he did read the article that went along with the Tshisa Live podcast because I

had already sent him a message long ago [before the podcast] explaining myself. We then hugged it out and he said we should fix our relationship because we had a really good relationship going."

Lasizwe said their make-up moment was brief and he and Somizi are yet to have a sit down to talk about what had happened.

He also shared a snap with an emotional post stating he was happy they were back to speaking terms. *Times Live*

## DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Judas on Isibaya.



Ntwenhle confides in Khanyi who is shocked to hear what she is contemplating. Judas is desperate to get to his wife, in fury he retaliates against the Zungus.



Things come to a climax when two arch enemies come face-to-face. Sibiyah's worst nightmare comes to fruition and one couple takes things to the next level.



Vho-Masindi's secret is finally revealed to the royal house. Matshidiso fears KK might discover what made him sick. Warona's efforts go to waste when she realises she needs more cash.



The stalker takes things to the next level. The second Vumba photo shoot gets underway and Crazy J fears the worst. Palesa is taken aback about what Gadafi wants her to do.



The Khoza house is divided as everyone scrambles to counter the Theron's attacks. Goodness realises that her problems with Sonnyboy have only just begun.



MaNgcobo's cloud of love begins to darken. Sbu refuses to listen to the ramblings of a jealous lover. Gabisile is in for a nasty surprise. Nonka unwittingly unearths a sleeping beast.



Yvonne is again about to embark on her journey - surely this time nothing can go wrong, can it?



MEME OF THE DAY

So my roommate placed his R450 inside the Bible and now the Israelite stole it and he's blaming me ..



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

**Capricorn December 22 – January 19**  
This is bound to be a fascinating day, Capricorn. You may have a foreign visitor who fills your mind with visions of adventures in faraway lands. Anyone you meet today is likely to be interesting, so be receptive to any new people who enter your life. Your curiosity and sense of adventure are piqued. You may decide to take a trip. If you do, be prepared for romance. It's definitely in the stars for you.



**Cancer June 22 – July 22**  
Try not to let yourself get sucked into participating in idle gossip, Cancer. There will be rumors flying today, and you'd be well advised to take cover. While it's true that there is some truth to the gossip, the embellishments to the story have blown everything out of proportion. Feelings are likely to get hurt. If you don't want yours to be among them, steer clear of the water cooler.



**Aquarius January 20 – February 18**  
Your creativity is at an all-time high today, Aquarius. You're inspired to embark on some long-term creative projects, and you have the energy to see them through to the end. This is a time for you to take a leap of faith and plunge right in. Hesitation will get you nowhere. Whatever it is you've been dreaming of doing, do it now.



**Leo July 23 – August 22**  
Let's hope you aren't afraid of heights, Leo, because today could have you climbing several rungs on the corporate ladder. It seems your hard work over these last few months has paid off. Don't hesitate to accept the challenge that's offered to you. If you're worried about skeletons buried in your office filing cabinets, you'd do well to come clean with the information. Likely your bosses will respect you for your candor and courage.



**Pisces February 19 – March 20**  
Be sure to open your mail and answer the phone today, Pisces, as you're likely to receive some interesting information from a friend or business associate. It could be that a deal that's been in the works has just been signed, or a romantic interest you've been pursuing finally returns your affections. Whatever the day brings, it's likely to be favorable.



**Virgo August 23 – September 22**  
It's likely that you're feeling ready for a change, Virgo. It isn't that you're dissatisfied with your job or environment, rather that your mind is hungry for new challenges. You may be able to satisfy this hunger by taking on more responsibility at work or signing up to attend some evening classes after work. Any new and different activity will give your mind the stimulation it craves.



**Aries March 21 – April 19**  
You can expect a warm and friendly environment at work today, Aries. Enjoy the conversations with your co-workers, but don't take anything at face value. There may be someone in your midst out to sabotage you. You don't need to worry about it too much, just take care to document any ideas or insights you have. You may need proof that they're original.



**Libra September 23 – October 23**  
Certainly there are advantages and disadvantages to the high level of intuition you have. Today you may feel weighed down by some strange thoughts that enter your head. Only time will tell if they are true premonitions or simply weird daydreams. In the meantime, you'd probably be best served by ignoring them completely. Life is too short to play the "what if" game.



**Taurus April 20 – May 20**  
An intense passion has been released within you, Taurus. You find it hard to resist the urge to take your loved one and run away to some deserted island. You could use a break from civilization. But if you can't quite make it to that island, how about creating an oasis right in your own home? Order some food from your favorite restaurant, bring it home, and enjoy an intimate evening with your partner.



**Scorpio October 24 – November 21**  
While your enthusiasm is high, your resistance may be a bit low, Scorpio. Take extra good care of yourself during this busy time. Your tendency is to overdo things, attending too many parties and shopping until the stores close. Your social life is in high gear right now, but you'll have to allow yourself some time to rest if you're going to have any hope of enjoying it.



**Gemini May 21 – June 21**  
You're likely to be feeling especially sensuous right now, Gemini. You exude a sort of innocent eroticism and draw many admiring glances. You're feeling alive and passionate, eager to embrace your life and the special people in it. This would be a great day to plan a romantic evening at home. Cook a nice meal, chill some wine, light some candles, and let nature take its course.



**Sagittarius November 22 – December 21**  
Colleagues may be a bit on edge, Sagittarius. You'll have to choose your words carefully. If you feel as though you're walking on eggshells, you are. There's definite tension in the air. And while you can't identify the source, you can certainly see it manifested on the faces of your co-workers. Today wouldn't be a good day to offer constructive criticism of any kind. Don't rock the boat.



BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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DOWN

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- SIMIAN
- ADULT MALES
- ADDITIONAL
- JOURNEY
- PARTITION
- MERELY
- SMALL TREE
- FUEL
- ONE TIME ONLY
- WOODWIND COMPONENT
- ALCOHOLIC BREW
- BRONZE
- INSECT

ACROSS

- AMUSEMENT OR PASTIME
- DEUCE
- PEAK
- OPERATED
- TRANSMITTED
- UNWELL
- RESPONSE
- TYPE OF REEF
- SINGLE
- INFORMATION
- EXPERT
- FLAIR
- GUIDED
- LET

LOL Laughing Out Loud

THE WHOLE TRUTH

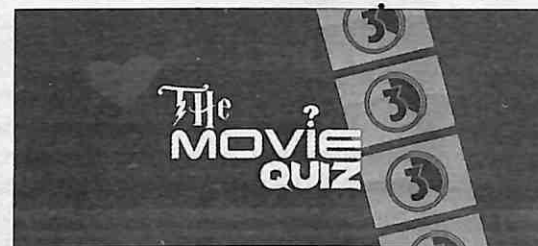
THE judge wanted to make sure the witness understood the solemnity of the occasion. "Do you know what the

word 'oath' means?" asks the judge. "Sure do," says the witness. "Oath means if I swear to a lie, I got to stick with it."

DID YOU KNOW

- The majority of Americans choose dogs over love.
- Star Wars was expected to be a flop.
- Your liver can regrow itself in three weeks.
- Danes once bred a pig to look like the flag

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

1. Which British actress won the Best Actress award?

Answers:  
A. Olivia Colman

TODAY'S MOVIE QUIZ

1. Which Paw Patrol pup is a Chocolate Labrador who lives in a boathouse?

Answers  
A. Zuma  
B. Zitha





Why Women Kill cast.

# Dinner talk - Why Women Kill

**WITTICISMS** from practically lethal in every way.

While Mary Poppins may be practically perfect in every way, the characters in Why Women Kill are practically lethal in every way.

That's especially true when it comes to their words. Beth Ann, Simone, Taylor, and all those around them just get wittier and wittier every week...and we're here for it!

The 1984 scenes, especially the dinner party, were a particular delight this week. Check out some of our favourite verbal gems from around the table and across the decades.

**Karl:** If we're fighting each other, how will we have the energy to properly hate them?

**Amy:** If I make a good impression,

his parents might buy us a house.

**Simone:** A house? As a wedding gift?

**Karl:** Darling, we really need to rethink those fondue forks.

**Amy:** Whatever you think of them, be nice.

**Simone:** I'm always nice.

**Amy:** Really nice, not bitchy nice.

**Amy:** Brad's parents are not going to buy me a house if they think I was raised by a woman who's never had a marriage last longer than a breath mint.

**Ruby:** I could just listen to him talk all day long.

**Simone:** If you were married to him, you would.

**Ruby:** You know what I dream about? Grandkids.

**Simone:** Oh I've had that dream. I always wake up screaming.

**Lamar:** I joke about sex, not money.

**Karl:** You're surprised that the man I slept with was your hairdresser? That is the gay sex equivalent of the butler did it.

**Karl:** My darling, don't you think you've had enough?

**Simone:** Of you, yes. Of Chardonnay, never.

**Simone:** That's right sugar. Karl is gay. Still have a crush on him?

**Brad:** Your stepdad is gay?

**Ruby:** I thought he's just English.

Watch the next episode of Why Women Kill, titled I Found Out What the Secret to Murder Is: Friends. Best Friends, on Monday 2 March at 21:00 on M-Net channel 101.

Missed the latest episode? Watch it on DStv Catch Up.

## Ride or die – Isibaya

**WHEN Beauty said she would ride or die for Judas, she meant it.**

You just can't keep the Ngwenyas down. Just when you think you have raided their escape and taken millions from Judas and Beauty before they escape to Mozambique, they just find another way.

They are the Bonnie and Clyde, Queen and Slim of Mzansi. But has their good run come to an end? The truth is, Judas just couldn't have done it without his MaB. She sacrificed everything – family, money, being a law abiding citizen – to free Judas from prison and escape with him. The pair have had some close calls with the Sibongile Zungu and her husband's hitmen, so has their luck run out this time? Blinded by his obsession with sticking it to Mpiyakhe Zungu and his family, Judas left Beauty to collect their documents from Jonas alone. He went to the Zungu homestead to say a final lethal goodbye to the dead with a poisoned watermelon. However, this time the Zungus had the upper hand because Mpiyakhe was only faking his death.

In what seems to be her swan song, Beauty took Jonas hostage

to getaway, but little did she know that his life carried no value. They both were shot. Is it karma? Beauty betrayed her mother and left her family destitute. So maybe it's a case of you reap what you sow. Or is it just a miscalculation on Judas' part. We all know Judas would have smelt a rat when Jonas was all jittery and paperless. Karma or not, you can do a lot to Judas, but don't touch his precious MaB. The Zungus are in line to pay a hefty for Beauty getting shot.

What do you think Judas will do next? Stay tuned to #Isibaya from Monday to Friday at 20:30 to find out.

We all know Judas would have smelt a rat when Jonas was all jittery and paperless. Karma or not, you can do a lot to Judas, but don't touch his precious MaB.



RIDE: Isibaya cast.

## RYAN DESTINY JOINS THE GROWN-ISH CAST

**THE** singer and actress well-known for her role as Alexandra Crane on Fox's Star, joins Grown-ish in its third season.

You may be disappointed by the cancellation of Star on Fox, but worry not, because one of its leading ladies, Ryan Destiny, has bagged a new role on Freeform's Grown-ish.

According to Shadow and Act, Destiny is set to play Jillian, a student who transferred from HBCU and is about to become very cosy with Zoey's ex Luca.

Jillian has been described as a well-rounded character who "talks art and

music with Luca, politics and activism with Aaron. She also fits right in with Zoey and her eclectic crew of girls", writes Shadow and Act.

Cal U is more in line with Jillian's goal of becoming a filmmaker, Destiny told Entertainment Weekly.

### Different

Cal U is a different kind of challenge for Jillian as she gets the chance to interact with different characters and has the opportunity to see where she fits into all of it.

Giving me details about her role, Destiny said that landing her character on the popular series was a bit



The Grown-ish cast.

of a long but short story. "I auditioned for a whole different show that Kenya Barris is doing, and I didn't really fit the character, but they loved my audi-

tion so much that they wanted me somewhere in their world.

"So, it was basically like, 'I want you on grown-ish as another char-

acter'".

Destiny couldn't refuse the offer as she said she was actually a fan of the show.



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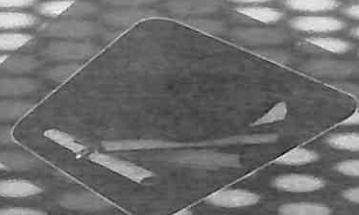
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## DERBY DESCENDS INTO CHAOS

**CAIRO - Al Ahly maintained their perfect record in the Egyptian Premier League without kicking a ball against Zamalek in the Cairo Derby on Monday evening.**

After incredible scenes at a sold-out Egyptian Super Cup last week in which Zamalek lifted their third trophy of the season, what unfolded this week has been nothing short of comical. Ugly scenes marred the end of the fierce rivalry as fights broke out between players and management after the penalty shootout, which the Egyptian Football Association duly

punished. Red Devils star Mahmoud Kahraba and Zamalek's Emam Ashour were handed bans until the end of the season, while several other players were sanctioned for the unsavoury scenes. Both clubs were also fined EGP100 000 (R97 000) for failing to control their players while the White Knights controversial President Mortada Mansour was also punished. **Confusion in Cairo Derby build-up**

After Mansour initially declared that Zamalek would refuse to play the Cairo Derby this week, it was

later confirmed that Patrice Carteron's side would field a U-18 side in protest of the league scheduling and punishment handed down by the EFA. However, hours before the game it's been claimed that Mansour forced delays on the departure of team bus under rainy weather conditions and suggested that the weather was the cause of the delay. But the EFA confirmed that the traffic jam was expected during the adverse conditions and a police convoy was provided for both sides to reach the Cairo International Stadium on schedule. Lithuanian ref-

eree Gediminas Mazeika initially decided to postpone the game by one hour after the claims made by Zamalek while Al Ahly players were ready for kick-off on the field of play. But after 30 minutes, with no indication that the opposition was en-route, the points were rewarded to Rene Weiler's side by default with a 2-0 scoreline. Ahly will now prepare to host Mamelodi Sundowns in the first Champions League quarter-final on Saturday, while Carteron's side host reigning champions Esperance on Friday.

**Kick-Off**



Thierry Henry and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

## THIS IS THIERRY HENRY

**LONDON - Gary Neville has heaped huge amounts of praise on Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang by comparing the striker to Arsenal legend Thierry Henry.**

Aubameyang netted twice at the Emirates to ensure Arsenal remain in contention for European football but it was the manner in which he scored his first of the day that drew comparisons to the iconic Frenchman.

After timing his run to perfection, Aubameyang latched onto a defence-splitting pass by David Luiz before cutting in from the left wing and tucking the ball into the back of the net. "This is Thierry Henry, everything about it," Neville told Sky Sports. "As he went through on goal you just imagined the great French striker sprint-

ing down on goal, setting it out to that far post and scoring. "It's Aubameyang now, wonderful. He's got so much pace and he times the run well."

Graeme Souness agreed with the comparisons before insisting that it is imperative that Arsenal keep hold of 30-year-old Aubameyang.

"He is 30, he is at the top of his game," Souness told Sky Sports. "He is a really good player. Coming here I was worried how he would deal with the English game but he has taken it all in his stride."

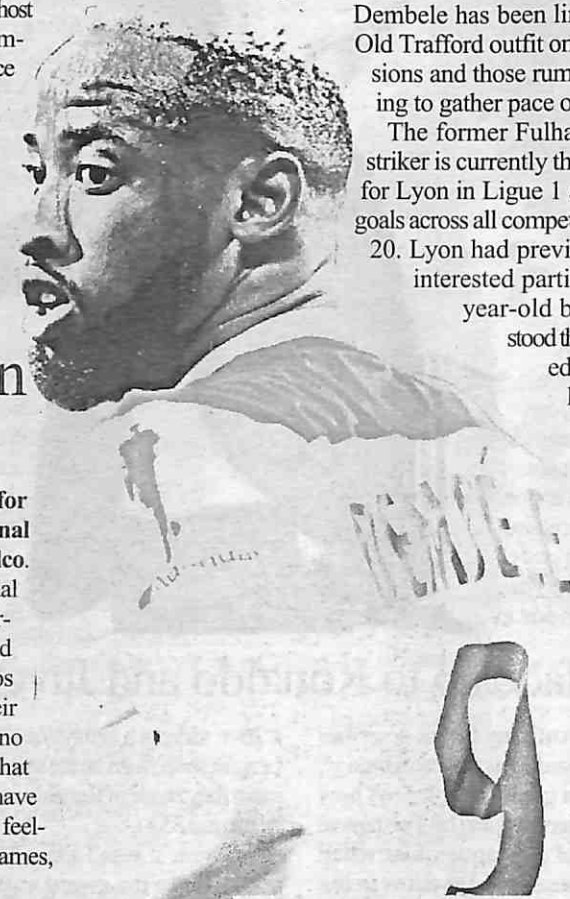
"You see two different goals today, one where he has got a chance of getting properly injured with a coming together of heads, but he didn't pull out in any shape."

**Daily Mail**

## Nadal back in action in Acapulco

**MEXICO CITY - Rafael Nadal is back in action for the first time since his Australian Open quarter-final exit, heading the field at the Mexico Open in Acapulco.**

A two-time former champion of the tournament, Nadal was knocked out in the second round last year by mercurial Australian Nick Kyrgios in a match that sparked angry words between the two. Nadal accused Kyrgios of "lacking respect" after he served underarm in their 2019 clash, but the Spaniard said on Monday he felt no lingering resentment. "Last year, I lost a tight match that I should have won, but it's part of our sport and I don't have a bad memory of that," Nadal said. "I have never had a feeling of revenge, no feeling of revenge helps you win games, but the opposite," he added. **Sport24**



Lyon striker Moussa Dembele.

## Lyon's Dembele keen on Old Trafford switch

**PARIS - Lyon striker Moussa Dembele is keen on returning to England, amid serious interest from Manchester United.**

United's problems in attack have been well documented this season and Dembele could be the long-term answer.

The Red Devils failed to draft in a replacement for Romelu Lukaku last summer after agreeing to sell the Belgian to Inter Milan.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer felt that Marcus Rashford was capable of leading the line on a regular basis but he had little in reserve.

Rashford did step up, scoring 14 league goals in 22 appearances, but the England star could be sidelined for the rest of the season with a back injury. His last outing came in the 4-0 victory over Norwich on January 11 and reports suggest he could even miss Euro 2020.

Anthony Martial has deputised in Rashford's absence, scoring in each of his last three outings across all competitions, while teenager Mason Greenwood has offered support.

Odion Ighalo was signed on-loan from Shanghai Greenland Shenhua on transfer deadline day after a chaotic search for a striker during the latter stages of the window.

Solskjaer hinted Ighalo could earn a permanent deal if he impresses during his loan stint but reports suggest they are still assessing other options.

Dembele has been linked with the Old Trafford outfit on several occasions and those rumours are starting to gather pace once again.

The former Fulham and Celtic striker is currently the leading man for Lyon in Ligue 1 and has hit 20 goals across all competitions in 2019-20. Lyon had previously warned interested parties off the 23-year-old but it's understood they have accepted he is likely to leave at the end of the term.

**AFP**

## Coronavirus forces fan ban at Italian football games

**ROME - Upcoming matches in Italian Serie A and the Europa League will be played behind closed doors to combat the spread of coronavirus, the Italian sports minister announced on Monday evening.**

"Following the demands of the sports world and knowing that the ban on sporting events open to the public remains in force in six regions of northern Italy, we have agreed to the holding of matches behind closed doors," said Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora after a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Inter Milan themselves announced their Europa League match with

Ludogorets tomorrow would be played with no fans present.

"In agreement with UEFA, the Lombardy regional health authorities and Milan City Council, our return game with Ludogorets will be played behind closed doors," an Inter statement said.

The sports minister did not specify which Serie A matches at the weekend would be included in the ban.

There are six games in the regions he mentioned, including the clash on Sunday evening between leaders Juventus and third-place Inter.

Italy reported its seventh death from the virus on Monday and it has the

most confirmed cases in Europe.

Eleven towns - 10 in Lombardy and one in neighbouring Veneto - are under lockdown, with some 50 000 residents prohibited from leaving.

Napoli's Champions League match against Barcelona yesterday was not at risk.

The alternative to banning fans is to postpone games and Gabriele Gravina, the President of the Italian Football League made clear earlier in the day that he was opposed to that.

"We have made an official request to Health Minister Roberto Speranza to have this game played behind closed doors," Gravina told the press. **AFP**



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# MAN CITY TARGET ROLE REVERSAL REAL MADRID

**MADRID** - Manchester City will be up against both Real Madrid and their reputation today as the Champions League's biggest winners play one of its biggest underachievers at the Santiago Bernabeu.

After City's win over Leicester on Saturday, Pep Guardiola said: "We will try to be ourselves. We can win and we can lose but we must try to be ourselves."

Yet in some ways, City will seek a role reversal too. Madrid's record is the envy of Europe but in particular by teams like City, whose financial might and technical talent has translated only into disappointment outside domestic competition.

In the time City have won three Premier League titles and five domestic cups, they have gone past the Champions League's quarter-finals only once, reaching the last four in 2016, only to be beaten by Madrid.

Zinedine Zidane's side, meanwhile, have surrendered dominance in La Liga to Barcelona but made amends for one Spanish league title in seven years by winning an four Champions Leagues out of the last six.

Few would argue that quality explains the difference. Madrid's success has certainly been due in

part to the brilliance of Cristiano Ronaldo but City have perhaps boasted an even better all-round collection of players and their excellence in England points to a club well-equipped to excel in Europe.

Guardiola has been accused of overthinking against elite opposition too yet City's lethargy encompasses nine seasons in the Champions League and Guardiola has only been in charge for three.

Instead, Madrid's habit for coming through the kind of crunch games that have so often proved City's undoing suggests each club's identification with the Champions League has become something of a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Madrid believe this tournament is their tournament, a conviction based on historic success that makes them assured under pressure and ruthless in the decisive moments.

"When you have a history of the

(Alfredo) Di Stefano period, winning five or six European Cups at that time, it means a new player that comes to Real Madrid and puts on that shirt knows 'we have to defend our history'," said Guardiola. "That gives them a boost because they live that history."

When Madrid last won the Champions League by beating Liverpool in the final in 2018, their advance to the trophy seemed to rely on a number of crucial interventions falling their way.

In the semi-final against Bayern Munich, they progressed after an error from Bayern's goalkeeper Sven Ulreich. In the quarters, they were awarded a fortuitous 97th-minute penalty to beat Juventus. Even in the last 16, they faced a Paris Saint-Germain side without the injured Neymar.

Yet where some saw luck, Madrid's coach and their players saw a refusal to give in.

"The point is Madrid never give up," said Zidane after their last-gasp triumph over Juventus. "We came up against a number of obstacles but we believe in the goals we want to achieve and we achieve them because we fight."

For City, that refusal to accept defeat is still to be established and with every year that victory evades them, doubts grow too.

"It's a real, real test," said Guardiola. "The king of this competition against a team who are not used to playing this kind of game much, because our best performance was one semi-final in our history. *Daily Mail*

## De Bruyne: If we don't win the UCL...

**JOHANNESBURG** - Manchester City superstar Kevin De Bruyne says they will be considered as 'failures' if they lose to Real Madrid in last 16 of the UEFA Champions League.

City lifted the domestic treble last season and achieved a record points total (100) for the Premier League title in the 2017/18 season.

But success in Europe has thus far evaded the star-studded squad within their dominance in England since Guardiola joined the club.

Now, with City

being handed a two-year ban from Europe's elite club competition, pressure has arisen on the squad to win the crown for the first time in the club's history.

Ahead of the Round of 16 tie 13-time winners, Real, the Belgian international concedes, the failure label will be warranted if they exit at the hands of Zinedine Zidane's men.

"Obviously it's Madrid. They have won the most Champions Leagues out of everybody," De Bruyne said, as per Manchester Evening News.

"But I think we will go there to try to play our game like we always do and try to play offensive football, try to put them under pressure, try to have a good game and, if we can, win."

"If we don't win it [the Champions League] everybody is going to say we are failures like the last five years! It's something we've not won yet."

He added: "We always want to win everything but sometimes another team is better or performing well - like Liverpool are doing this season."

"It's just that way and you just have to admit it. But we will just go there to win that game. You can't look too much forwards and see what's going to happen."

*Kickoff*



## Lyon face up to Ronaldo and Juventus

**FRANCE** - Anthony Lopes describes Cristiano Ronaldo as 'extraordinary', and the Lyon goalkeeper knows how big a job he faces keeping his Portuguese international colleague quiet when the French side face Juventus in the Champions League this week.

"I have been lucky enough to play alongside him. He is the captain and an extraordinary personality, a great man," Lopes told AFP when asked about playing with Ronaldo.

Lopes, 29, was born near Lyon and has spent his entire club career there. But thanks to his Portuguese roots he has won seven caps and been to two major tournaments with Ronaldo, including Euro 2016 which Portugal won.

### Inspiration

"I have gone to major tournaments with him, the Euro and the World Cup, where you have to develop links to those around you, and to do what he does every day is quite incredible," Lopes added. "Players today take great inspiration from him."

Today, OL host Ronaldo and the Italian giants in the first leg of their last-16 tie. Lyon are massive underdogs against

a Juve side in a hurry for Champions League success given the massive investment they made in Ronaldo, who recently turned 35.

Last year it was Lionel Messi who put Lyon to the sword at this stage, scoring twice as Barcelona won 5-1 in the second leg after a goalless draw in France.

"When you play Barca or Juve, the danger comes from everywhere," Lopes said, adding: "All eyes will be on Ronaldo, especially in the stands."

Lyon want to become regulars in the Champions League knockout stage, but they only just scraped through their group and have since lost star player Memphis Depay to a serious knee injury.

*Daily Mail*



## Man City take fight to UEFA on and off the field

**LONDON** - Manchester City may be set to go to war with UEFA, but time is of the essence for the English champions to satisfy their quest to win the Champions League.

City head to the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday, knowing failure to beat 13-time winners Real Madrid over two legs could be their final European adventure for two years.

UEFA slapped a stunning two-season ban on City earlier this month for overstating sponsorship income between 2012 and 2016 to

breach Financial Fair Play rules and failing to cooperate once an investigation was re-opened following the leak of internal emails to German magazine Der Spiegel.

City remain belligerent and insist they will beat UEFA off the field. An appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport will decide their fate for the next two years.

In the meantime, Pep Guardiola's men have to finally get it right on the field to satisfy City's long-wait to conquer Europe.

Now in their ninth season of Champions League football since Sheikh Mansour's takeover transformed the club's fortunes, City are still waiting for a landmark knockout win in the competition.

Even before the latest body blow of a European ban, the City support have not been enamoured by their new status as Champions League regulars.

The club have had to turn to social media influencers to try and sell tickets for group matches and the com-

petition's anthem is routinely jeered. "UEFA Cartel" and "UEFA Mafia" were among the banners that greeted their first home outing since the ban was handed down against West Ham last week.

A run to the semi-finals before being beaten by Madrid in 2015/16 is their best ever showing in the competition.

Despite re-writing the history books domestically, Guardiola's star-studded squad have fallen at the quarter-finals to English opposition in each of the past two seasons.

The contrast with Madrid could not be starker. For generations, Real have risen to the occasion on the Champions League stage, while City have crumbled under the pressure.

A former Barcelona coach and player, Guardiola hailed his old foes the "kings of Europe."

And in an interview with Spanish newspaper AS last week, City's Raheem Sterling insisted: "There is no better challenge than Real Madrid." *Daily Mail*



# MIDDENDORP SCEPTICAL OVER SOWETO DERBY TIMING

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has quickly turned focus to this weekend's Soweto Derby but remained sceptical of whether the fixture comes at a suitable time.

The upcoming clash between Chiefs and Orlando Pirates is undeniably one of the biggest events on the South African football calendar that every player and supporter looks forward to.

Rarely, however, does it have as significant a role in the Absa Premiership title race as it does this time around, with Amakhosi holding a four-point lead at the top of the table while The Buccaneers are just a further two points adrift in third position.

Having ended Pirates' five-year Derby dominance with a thrilling 3-2 victory in November last year, Middendorp's charges once again find themselves carrying the 'underdog' tag given their



**ITS WAR:** Orlando Pirates will face Kaizer Chiefs this weekend.

recent form. "It's about the next game, which is next Saturday, so we need to be concentrated now as quickly as possible and that's it," said the German tactician.

"I don't know [if the timing is

right], we know it's Saturday's game and there's going to be a huge attendance so, of course, there's a huge result at stake and we're aware about it." The Glamour Boys have won just two

of their last five matches in all competitions and come off back-to-back league and cup defeats, leaving their supporters somewhat anxious heading into this weekend's massive encounter.

## Sundowns legend lauds Pitso for having faith in Lukhubeni

**JOHANNESBURG** - Mamelodi Sundowns legend Joel Masilela has lauded coach Pitso Mosimane for having faith in young players such as defender Nicholas Lukhubeni.

The 23-year-old Lukhubeni has been a revelation since graduating to the Sundowns first team and even scored a goal from the right-back position in a league match against Chippa United recently.

Masilela, who starred for Masandwana in the 1990s, credits coach Mosimane for having the patience with the younger players in the squad and feels Lukhubeni can emulate someone like Percy Tau and play his football abroad.

In quotes published on Goal, Masilela said: "He's a very young talented boy and also trying to impress Pitso, he's working very hard."

"Pitso likes these boys, he's patient with them because they are the future of Sundowns."

"There's no pressure on him and he knows how to motivate these boys. You'll remember the story of (Percy) Tau, now there's Mkhulise and Makgalwa."

"I think they can go on and follow in the footsteps of Tau and make it abroad."

With regular right-back Thapelo Morena suffering a season-ending injury earlier this month, Lukhubeni could get more opportunities to impress.

Masilela added: "We need to be patient about these boys."

"There's no rush to prove a point now that Thapelo is injured, he must just enjoy himself and learn because the future is bright."

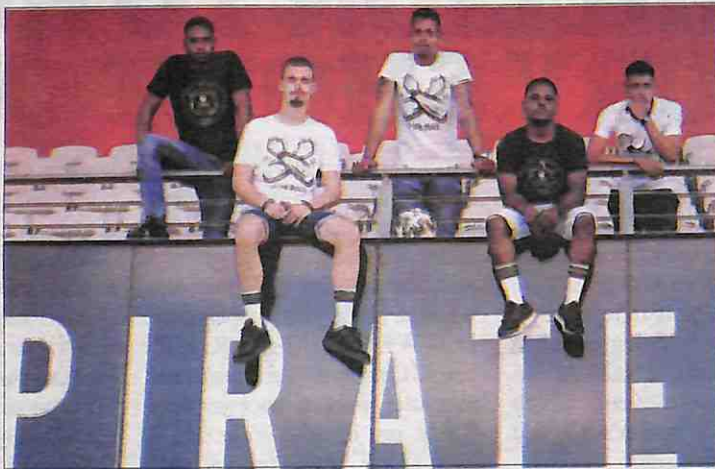
**TEAMtalk media**

## BUCS LAUNCH FUNKY GEAR AHEAD OF DERBY

**JOHANNESBURG** - Orlando Pirates have partnered with one of South Africa's fashion outlets to bring supporters a limited edition lifestyle range for the entire family.

Pirates have been making huge strides in their marketing department, with the club's latest offering aimed at catering to the masses - from infants to adults, both male and female.

The Buccaneers have launched a limited edition range through Jet Fashion, which will be sold online and at Jet stores nationwide, ranging in prices from around R60 to R100. This comes just days before the big Soweto Derby match-up against arch rivals Kaizer Chiefs, as the two teams gear up to battle for more than just bragging rights.



Both Soweto giants are currently in a position to challenge for the coveted Absa Premiership title, with Chiefs on top of the log standings with 45 points and Pirates in third position with 39 points.

Bucs will be hoping their new lifestyle range will offer supporters a chance to show off their colours for the big occasion this Saturday at FNB Stadium, where tickets have been sold out.

## Nthethe touts De Reuck for Defender of the Season

**JOHANNESBURG** - Former Bafana Bafana defender Thabo Nthethe has rated Maritzburg United centre-back Rushine de Reuck as the best defender in the ABSA Premiership.

When the time comes around for the Defender of the Season nominations to be announced, De Reuck's name is likely to be right in the mix along with Mamelodi Sundowns stopper Motjeka Madisha and Kaizer Chiefs' Erick Mathoho.

It is no coincidence that Sundowns (15), Chiefs (16) and Maritzburg (17) have conceded the fewest goals in the league this season along with Bidvest Wits (15). Nthethe knows a thing or two about defending having been the premier centre-back in the country at one time. And the 35-year-old, who is set to join Nedbank Cup champions TS Galaxy in the coming days, believes that it would be a two-horse race between Madisha and De Reuck for the best defender gong, but that De Reuck



**LEGEND:** Former Bafana Bafana defender Thabo Nthethe.

would edge it.

"For me Madisha and the boy from Maritzburg... De Reuck have been exceptional this season. But if I were to choose one, I'd go for De Reuck," said Nthethe, who made

79 appearances for Sundowns before leaving in 2018 and has won 22 Bafana caps. "That boy (De Reuck) knows football. He is very calm yet vocal in organising things at the back. He always wins one-against-one battles."

Nthethe confirmed he is hoping to put pen to paper with Galaxy before the end of the week and admits he would never have imagined being coached by his contemporary Mabhuti Khenyeza, who has recently taken over the reins at the GladAfrica Championship outfit.

"I'm still very much active. I have been training with Galaxy and it's promising that I'll sign, maybe before this week ends," said the former Bafana Bafana defender. "Life is a magic, I never thought I'd be coached by Mabhuti...I used to give him tough times as a defender when he was a striker, now I'm taking instructions from him."

**Sport24**



## Soweto derby tickets sold out!

**JOHANNESBURG** - Tickets for the Absa Premiership encounter between Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs have officially been sold out.

The much-anticipated clash will take stage at the 90 000-seater FNB Stadium in Johannesburg on Saturday.

It's a must-win match for Orlando Pirates if they are to apply any pressure on second-placed Mamelodi Sundowns while also edging closer to log leaders Amakhosi.

A win for Chiefs will further boost the Glamour Boys' title charge while also increasing their points gap to both Sundowns and Pirates. Kick-off is at 15:30.



**UP THE BUCS:** Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane.

## Pitso urges Sundowns fans to support Pirates in Soweto derby

**JOHANNESBURG** - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane has urged his club's fans to support Orlando Pirates in the Soweto derby that will be played this weekend.

The Buccaneers take on rivals Kaizer Chiefs at a sold out FNB Stadium on Saturday in a crucial encounter that could have huge ramifications on the Absa Premiership title race.

Amakhosi currently top the league standings with 45 points, four points ahead of Sundowns (41 points) with 10 games of the season still remaining.

Mosimane told reporters: "Obviously if you want the league to be exciting, you don't wish them (Kaizer Chiefs) to win on Saturday." "When we played (Bloemfontein) Celtic, did you see the Chiefs fans at Loftus? They came in numbers (to support Celtic)."

"When we played Chippa (United), they came in big numbers. Probably Masandwana must go and join the Buccaneers there (at the FNB Stadium)."

Masandwana will be in continental action this weekend as they travel to Egyptian giants Al Ahly for the first leg of the CAF Champions League quarter-finals.

**Teamtalk media**





## 'Too much sex hurting Bucharest club's performance'

BUCHAREST - Gigi Becali, the flamboyant owner of Bucharest football club FCSB, formerly known as Steaua Bucharest, thinks he knows what to blame for his team's recent poor run in the Romanian league: too much of the wrong kind of exercise.

The 1986 European Cup winners, Romania's most successful club with

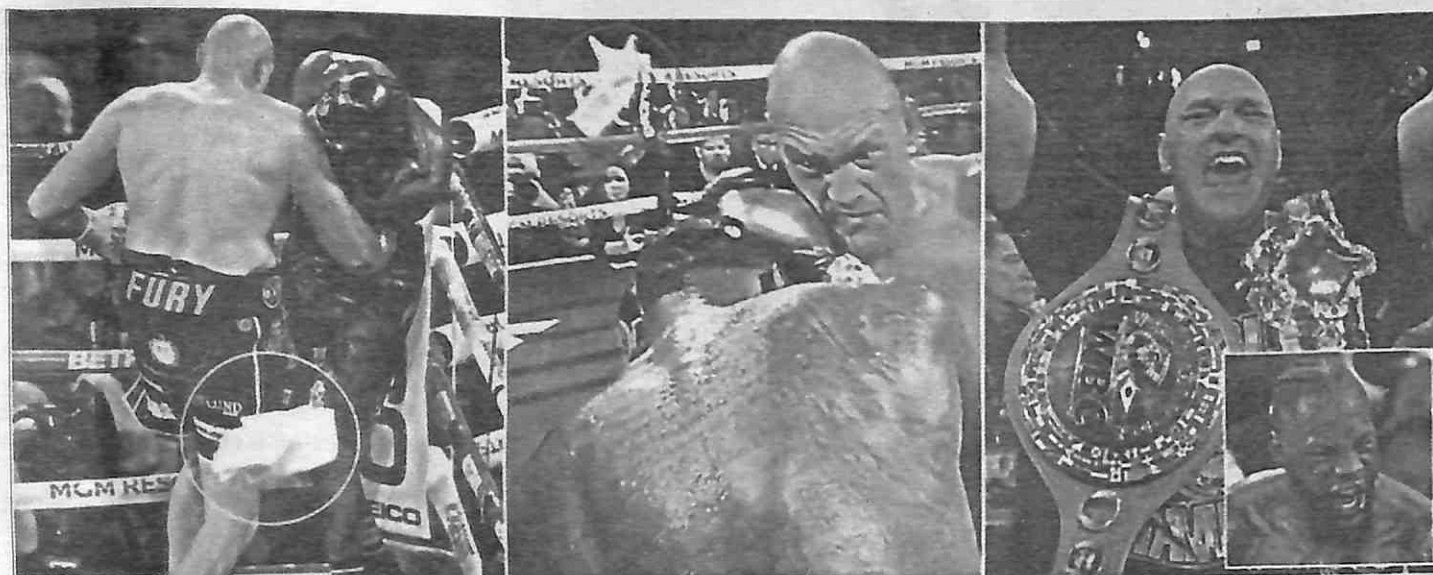
26 league titles, have failed to win their last three games, and Becali said the players were having too much sex.

"My players are making love with their girlfriends too often, that's why they aren't playing football so well lately," he told local media after FCSB's 1-1 home draw against lowly Chindia Targoviste, which left them

fourth in the standings, eight points behind leaders CFR Cluj.

The 61-year-old Becali, who made a fortune in real estate after the fall of communism in 1989 and served as a member of the European Parliament, praised CFR Cluj coach Dan Petrescu, a former Chelsea and Southampton right back, for restoring discipline at the club. *Reuters*

**I KNOW WHY:**  
Owner of Bucharest  
football club Gigi  
Becali.



## US\$400 MILLION TO HOST TYSON FURY SHOWDOWN

LONDON - The Saudi Arabians are tabling a gigantic bid for Tyson Fury's next fight, be it a second rematch with Deontay Wilder or a British bonanza against Anthony Joshua.

Four members of the Saudi royal family sat incognito at ringside here on Saturday night as Fury transformed not only himself with a phenomenal crushing of the biggest puncher in ring history but also the entire landscape of heavyweight boxing.

The Saudi party dressed in Western fashion was led by Prince Khaled, which will alarm Joshua's pro-

moter Eddie Hearn. It was with this high-ranking dignitary that he collaborated on AJ's vastly enriching December rematch with Andy Ruiz Jr in Riyadh.

Khaled, who is delegated by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to bring to Saudi Arabia the major sports events, which can polish the nation's troubled human rights image.

They consider nothing and no-one bigger now than the Gypsy King, who not only established himself as the pre-eminent heavyweight in the world today with the outstanding performance over-

seas by any British fighter in history but also reaffirmed his reputation as the ring's great entertainer. The Saudis were given a preview of Fury the showman when he made a pilot appearance in WWE wrestling in Riyadh before Christmas and it seems not to matter to them whoever Fury fights, nor in what order. He is seen as the key to unlocking a floodgate of international tourism.

Joshua banked US\$85 million for regaining his collection of belts from Ruiz in a temporary arena there. Now they envisage a series of fights for Fury in the national

stadium, the first in October, which could make him rich beyond the dreams of Croesus.

Who against? Well, Wilder expects it to be him. The Bronze Bomber said on Monday night he will trigger a rematch clause for the final part of a trilogy against Fury this summer. "The rematch is definitely going to happen," Wilder told *The Athletic*. "We're going to get it on. I want to get right back to it." *Daily Mail*

## £225 MILLION TO SIGN SADIO MANE

LIVERPOOL - Barcelona would reportedly have to pay Liverpool £225million to sign Sadio Mane.

Mane scored the winning goal in the Reds' 3-2 victory over West Ham in the Premier League on Monday night.

A clause inserted into the £145million Philippe Coutinho deal means Barcelona would have to pay an extra £89m above the market value for any Reds player, according to reports in Spain, as reported by *The Mirror*.

The £89m three-year premium was reportedly included when Coutinho made the switch to the Nou Camp in January 2018.

Mane has a current value of £135m, according to transfermarkt, and therefore Barcelona would have to pay a minimum of £225m

if they want to bring him in before 2021.

The Senegal international has been in sensational form this season with 17 goals and 11 assists in 34 appearances.

Javier Mascherano moved from Liverpool to Barcelona back in 2010 and the Catalan giants acquired striker Luis Suarez from the Reds four years later.

### Emergency

Barcelona signed striker Martin Braithwaite from Leganes last week after being granted permission to bring in an emergency forward following a series of long-term injuries.

The LaLiga outfit currently have Ousmane Dembele and Suarez both out injured for the foreseeable future.

Dembele has been ruled out of action for six months with a hamstring tear after undergoing surgery in Finland last week while Suarez is unlikely to return from a knee injury this season.

*The Mirror*

**£225 MILLION:**  
Liverpool's Sadio  
Mane.



**SOFT GOALS:** Thulani Hlatshwayo.

## Soft goals give Wits victory in Nedbank Cup

JOHANNESBURG - Soft goals by Thulani Hlatshwayo and Phathutshedzo Nange secured Bidvest Wits a 2-0 win over Chippa United on Monday in the final Nedbank Cup last-16 match.

A header by captain Hlatshwayo off a corner slipped between a defender and goalkeeper Veli Mothwa on 27 minutes to put the home side ahead at Milpark Stadium in Johannesburg.

Wits doubled their advantage two minutes later from an even softer goal as a speculative shot by Nange from well outside the box bounced over Mothwa and into the net.

The clubs produced an epic quarter-final in the same competition last year with the lead changing regularly before Chippa won on penalties after a 4-4 draw.

### Relegation zone

But the latest cup tie between them fell far short of the previous one with championship contenders Wits too good for Chippa, who are just two points above the relegation zone.

"It was not a great performance from us," admitted Wits coach Gavin Hunt. "We lacked energy and not a lot of thought went into many of our decisions."

"I will have to watch a rerun of the match before we play in the league this weekend, but it is not something I am looking forward to."

Baroka, Black Leopards, Bloemfontein Celtic, Highlands Park, Mamelodi Sundowns and second division sides TS Sporting and Real Kings are the other qualifiers for the quarter-finals.

*AFP*



# REGIONAL LEAGUES STANDINGS

## MTN Premier League

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Young Buffaloes	16	13	2	1	42	8	34	41
2 Mbabane Swallows	16	9	6	1	25	7	18	33
3 Royal Leopard	16	9	4	3	21	10	11	31
4 Moneni Pirates	16	8	4	4	23	14	9	28
5 Green Mamba	16	7	3	6	24	13	11	24
6 Mbabane Highlanders	16	4	10	2	12	10	2	22
7 Denver Sundowns	16	5	6	5	16	18	-2	21
8 Milling Hotspurs	16	4	6	6	13	20	-7	18
9 Tumbuti	16	3	9	4	20	28	-8	18
10 Manzini Wanderers	16	4	5	7	18	27	-9	17
11 Sea Birds	16	4	4	8	16	23	-7	16
12 Mhlume Peacemakers	16	3	4	9	14	24	-10	13
13 Malanti Chiefs	16	4	0	12	12	27	-15	12
14 Black Swallows	16	3	1	12	16	38	-22	10

## MTN National First Division

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Callies	15	12	2	1	29	7	22	38
2 Tlozi	15	10	4	1	24	8	16	34
3 Illovo	15	8	4	3	18	8	10	28
4 Madlenya	14	9	1	4	19	10	9	28
5 Seven Dreams	14	7	3	4	30	22	8	24
6 Tycoons	15	7	2	6	24	27	-3	23
7 Vovovo	15	6	3	6	14	17	-3	21
8 Citizens	15	4	4	7	18	16	2	16
9 Killers	15	3	3	9	12	20	-8	12
10 Movers	15	3	1	11	19	34	-15	10
11 Rangers	15	1	4	10	17	31	-14	7
12 Umbelebele	15	1	3	11	9	32	-23	6

## Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League E77 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Community	15	10	3	2	29	13	16	33
2 H. Shooting Stars	13	10	1	2	39	15	24	31
3 Junior Stars	14	7	3	4	26	19	7	24
4 Billy Ocean	14	7	3	4	16	11	5	24
5 Emajukujuku	15	6	5	4	18	14	4	23
6 Swazi Sun	15	6	3	6	22	27	-5	21
7 L. Sunrise	15	5	5	5	16	15	1	20
8 Sidwashini Utd	14	5	3	6	15	27	-12	18
9 Imbumba	15	5	2	8	18	27	-9	17
10 Burning Spear	15	2	8	5	12	14	-2	14
11 Mbabane City	15	2	2	11	14	28	-14	8

## Northern Zone

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Manchester	14	8	3	3	40	20	20	27
2 Mvuma Hotspurs	13	8	2	3	24	15	9	26
3 Khanjani Rovers	14	7	2	5	27	19	8	23
4 Kappa Kappa	13	7	1	5	25	21	4	22
5 Msahweni	14	6	4	4	17	19	-2	22
6 Stone Breakers	13	7	0	6	21	22	-1	21
7 Horo Spinners	13	6	2	5	14	14	0	20
8 Vultures	13	5	3	5	23	20	3	18
9 PP. Rangers	13	5	3	5	26	25	1	18
10 Sigodlo	13	4	1	8	14	18	-4	13
11 Seven Stars	13	3	4	6	10	21	-11	13
12 Machibini Rovers	14	1	1	12	14	41	-27	4

## Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League E70 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Interstars	21	16	3	2	55	20	35	51
2 Amawele	21	15	3	3	65	25	40	48
3 Mbabane Celtics	21	11	6	4	42	24	18	39
4 White City	21	10	6	5	47	37	10	36
5 Sandla	20	10	4	6	40	30	10	34
6 Freestyle	21	10	4	7	39	37	2	34
7 Pot O Gold	21	8	8	5	47	37	10	32
8 PG Dribbling Stars	21	8	4	9	34	30	4	28
9 Mkwelitje	20	8	3	9	32	32	0	27
10 Real Tec	21	5	10	6	40	36	4	25
11 Multi Classic	21	7	4	10	39	40	-1	25
12 Double Action	21	6	5	10	44	65	-21	23
13 Mpolonjeni Y Stars	21	5	6	10	32	43	-11	21
14 Mbabane D Wizards	21	4	6	11	25	41	-16	18
15 FC Vaal Stars	21	5	1	15	30	76	-46	16
16 Village Stars	21	1	3	17	18	56	-38	6

## B. Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Royal Dynamos	20	19	1	0	95	21	74	58
2 Hurricane	21	15	5	1	77	24	53	50
3 Mbabane United	20	13	3	4	40	25	15	42
4 Dangerous Darkies	20	12	5	3	43	27	16	41
5 Red Stars	20	11	3	6	50	29	21	36
6 Veni Cosmos	21	10	3	8	47	29	18	33
7 Real Stars United	21	7	6	8	29	34	-5	27
8 Mangwaneni	21	6	7	8	46	55	-9	25
9 Junction Stars	21	7	2	12	36	52	-16	23
10 Mantsholo United	21	6	3	12	43	56	-13	21
11 Mpolonjeni Y. Fighters	21	6	3	12	43	60	-17	21
12 Mantsholo FC	19	5	6	8	29	47	-18	21
13 Mphalati	20	6	3	11	28	50	-22	21
14 Mbabane Movers	19	4	4	11	35	49	-14	16
15 Lusoti	21	3	4	14	32	58	-26	13
16 National Rangers	20	3	2	15	21	78	-57	11

## Futis Nkhaba Regional League E30 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ngwenya Utd	26	23	3	0	78	15	63	72
2 Majotini	25	18	3	4	63	26	37	57
3 Atletico	25	16	4	5	78	18	60	52
4 White Rhinos	24	16	4	4	55	15	40	52
5 Crocodiles	25	16	4	5	63	32	31	52
6 Majotini Rebels	26	15	6	5	52	20	32	51
7 Nkoyoyo Utd	25	14	6	5	52	24	28	48
8 Motshane Very Good	25	14	5	6	57	33	24	47
9 Fast Movers	26	14	1	11	52	42	10	43
10 Kasie XI	25	11	2	12	48	48	0	35
11 Dribbling Stars	26	10	4	12	42	62	-20	34
12 Lubhedze	25	10	3	12	57	50	7	33
13 Super Stars	25	9	6	10	45	43	2	33
14 Manyisa Utd	25	8	6	11	33	38	-5	30
15 Nkoyoyo Jnr	25	9	3	13	48	59	-11	30
16 Barcelona	24	8	5	11	38	47	-9	29
17 Bafana	25	8	2	17	39	64	-25	26
18 Mhlosheni Celtics	25	6	5	14	47	71	-24	23
19 Hawane Arsenal	26	5	5	16	24	57	-33	20
20 Mahangeni Cosmos	25	3	1	21	31	101	-70	10

## Pots Construction Sigangeni League E30 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bhunya Black Aces	17	13	4	0	53	7	46	43
2 Sibovini	17	13	3	1	43	16	27	42
3 Ntsetse Flyers	17	13	2	2	46	12	34	41
4 Kupheleni	17	10	4	3	35	14	21	34
5 Real United	17	11	1	5	35	20	15	34
6 Mhlane United	17	8	5	4	24	21	3	29
7 Usushwana Eagles	17	6	5	6	25	20	5	23
8 Mighty Chiefs	17	7	2	8	26	33	-7	23
9 Lusushwana Nationals	17	6	3	8	21	33	-12	21
10 Real Touch	17	5	4	8	25	26	-1	19
11 Total Xi	17	6	1	10	18	29	-11	19
12 Sigangeni	17	4	6	7	24	34	-10	18
13 Villa Sport	17	3	4	10	23	39	-16	13
14 Kangaroo	17	3	2	12	14	41	-27	11
15 Young Fighters	17	2	1	14	17	50	-33	7
16 Manzanzima Celtics	17	2	1	14	17	51	-34	7

## Bakhanyisele &amp; Gongz Maphaleni League E50 000

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Young Lovers	20	16	2	2	57	17	40	50
2 Professionals	21	15	4	2	70	17	53	49
3 XI Experience	20	16	1	3	59	15	44	49
4 Manchester United	20	15	3	2	40	11	29	48
5 Blue Birds	20	13	1	6	45	25	20	40
6 Rangers	20	10	5	5	41	22	19	35
7 Young Stars	19	8	6	5	36	28	8	30
8 Hot Spurs	20	8	4	8	35	37	-2	28
9 Thuluzobona	20	6	5	9	23	34	-11	23
10 Umkhokha	20	6	1	13	32	62	-30	19
11 Khulawane	20	4	3	13	27	50	-23	15
12 Liselesele	19	3	3	13	23	53	-30	12
13 Stone Breakers	21	3	3	15	27	67	-40	12
14 Killers	21	2	2	17	12	46	-34	8
15 Barcelona	19	1	5	13	10	53	-43	8

## Western Stream

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Lunkanka	16	11	2	3	37	18	19	35
2 Jubukweni	16	9	6	1	29	12	17	33
3 Happy Fighters	15	9	3	3	33	19	14	30
4 Sunrise	16	8	5	3	34	14	20	29
5 Hill Stars	16	8	5	3	29	16	13	29
6 Love & Peace	15	8	4	3	32	9	23	28
7 Academy	16	7	6	3	24	16	8	27
8 Happy Tigers	16	7	5	4	34	15	19	26
9 Mighty Birds	16	4	1	11	28	37	-9	13
10 Rollers	17	2	1	14	17	48	-31	7
11 Top Classic	16	1	1	14	13	40	-27	4
12 Young Aces	15	1	0	14	8	54	-46	3

## South Star Mzimba Regional League E65 000

Promotion								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 N Cosmos	17	10	5	2	30	14	16	35
2 Mzimba Achievers	18	9	6	3	26	13	13	33
3 Timbungulu	18	10	2	6	37	26	11	32
4 Mzimba Rhinos	16	9	4	3	30	21	9	31
5 Sibuyeni	18	8	7	3	23	15	8	31
6 Kasiko	17	8	5	4	23	16	7	29
7 Green Sea	18	8	4	6	24	19	5	28
8 Vusweni Killers	17	6	5	6	26	36	-10	23
9 Ntsinta Rebels	17	5	5	7	29	24	5	20
10 Young Chiefs	18	5	5	8	23	28	-5	20
11 Real Monaco	18	4	7	7	18	20	-2	19
12 Mzimba Arsenal	17	5	4	8	18	29	-11	19
13 Rangers	18	3	8	7	20	23	-3	17
4 Amacabane	17	4	4	9	19	26	-7	16
5 Young Swallows	18	3	7	8	16	23	-7	16
6 Rumba Stars	17	2	6	9	17	36	-19	12



# MY GAME

'AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF SPORTS ISSUES'  
WITH: COMFORT JELE  
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## SERIOUS ATTENTION NEEDED FOR LADIES FOOTBALL

JUST this past weekend I had the opportunity to watch some of the games in the on-going EswatiniBank Cup Women's tournament, and it suffices to deduce this country has the talent, which only need to be nurtured under proper guidance.

I have to admit that in as much as I am someone who is not a staunch supporter of ladies football, I have been keenly following some of the unfolding developments in the sport thus I have every reason to confront the issues. I am quite aware that in the women's league some teams are much stronger than others, tactically and otherwise, as a result we are becoming used to witness high margin scorelines. Some teams are struggling literally, and their performance inside the field of play speaks volumes about the state of affairs in their respective camps. Yes the only official women's league in the country has produced different dimensions in as far as development of the game is concerned. As I write this, one of the teams Mbekelweni Ladies who had been failing to honour games has since been suspended and they



are no longer part of the current campaign. And there are many contributing factors that might have led to this situation for the team which was probably dreaming to climb the ladder to success.

### Result

Really, what could be the main reason that results to such situations for teams? Is it lack of financial support? Is it lack of proper guidance? Is it because of shortage of quality players? Answers to all these questions

would obviously lead us to one main aspect, which development. Development comes in many forms, whereby both coaches/administrators and playing staff have to be nurtured. And I am made to believe that the Women Football Association (WFA) under the leadership of Sonnyboy Mabuza is striving to develop the game, and do whatever it takes to improve the standard of the sport. We cannot sit down and claim that everything is well whereas ladies

football is seen to be lagging behind. The same goes to the other stakeholders of the game, the time has come for us to work collectively and bring shape to women football. Bringing companies on board to support ladies football could be another positive move that can make a great impact.

Friends of football like Eswatini Bank deserve accolades for incorporating ladies football in their sponsorship, and of course the football

lovers will have the opportunity to watch some of the games curtain raise during men's football. This also provides the ladies with the chance to gain exposure of playing in front of huge supporters. After all our national team, Sitsebe saMhleka is selected from the pool of players in the women's league which seems to be not taken seriously. The time has come for us to do the right thing at the right time. Nothing is impossible!

## Tuff One Race: Another busy weekend for athletics

THIS coming Saturday athletes will be back on the road courtesy of the Tuff One Marathon slated for Manzini.

Organised by one of the country's renowned clubs, Golden Foot Athletics Club, the race is set to provide local runners with another opportunity to shine against the region's finest. It is an undisputed fact that a race of this magnitude always attract runners even from outside the borders, and I am made to believe that athletes will come prepared to give us what we deserve - that is entertaining competition. Interestingly, this race comes barely 30 days before another big one, in the upgraded

TZD Lubombo Marathon scheduled for March 28. For any athletics enthusiast worth his or her salt, this is undoubtedly what the doctor has ordered. We are eagerly waiting for the Tuff One race to see how the athletes battle it out for honours. By the way this is an event which is open to people in all different walks of life, with different categories to choose from. This is another action packed weekend for athletics, which has a potential of producing scintillating competitions. Are you a social athlete? Are you an elite athlete? The ball is in your court as we say LET THE RACE BEGIN!

## SPORTS MEDICINE SOLUTIONS

By: Melusi Lukhele  
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LET me congratulate all the teams that have made it through to the last 8 of the EswatiniBank Cup 'Idlala kamnandzi'.

Due to the intensity of the games, today we are looking at concussion. Concussion is defined as a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain, induced by traumatic biomechanical forces.

### RISK FACTORS

Previous concussion - a history of concussion substantially increases the risk of recurrence and prolonged recovery from subsequent injury. Patients with unresolved symptoms from a prior injury appear to be at greatest risk; recurrent injury is most likely to occur within the first 10 days after the initial injury.

● **Younger age** - The developing brain may be more susceptible to concussion.

● **Higher risk sports** - such as American football, ice hockey, rugby, and boys' and men's lacrosse, have the highest concussion rates

● **Gender** - females sustain more concussions than their male counterparts when playing the same sport under similar rules.

### CAUSES

Concussion may be caused by a direct blow to the head, face, neck, or elsewhere on the body with an "impulsive" force transmitted to the head.

## CONCUSSION



### CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Any new neurologic symptom that develops following sports-related head trauma, whether direct or indirect, strongly suggests the diagnosis of concussion.

● **Physical** - Headache, nausea, vomiting, balance problems, incoordination, dizziness, visual problems, fatigue, photophobia, phonophobia, numbness/tingling, neck pain. An on-field complaint of dizziness by the athlete is among the best predictors of concussion with a protracted recovery

● **Cognitive** - Feeling mentally foggy or slow, disorientation, difficulty concentrating, difficulty remembering, slow or incoherent speech, word-finding difficulty, slowed reaction time.

● **Emotional** - Irritability, sadness, emotional lability, nervousness, behavioral changes. As changes in mood may be difficult to gauge, it can be helpful to question family, coaches, teammates, or friends to help determine the athlete's baseline.

● **Sleep-related** - Drowsiness, somnolence

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

**Observation** - Look closely for signs of disequilibrium and lack of coordination. During the evaluation, be aware of concerning abnormalities such as inattentiveness, confusion, atypical emotionality like crying or laughter that is inappropriate or out of character for the athlete or problems following instructions or focusing on a task.

**Memory and attentiveness** - After the initial symptom review, assess memory and attentiveness. Deficits in recall and concentration are common with a concussion.

**Neurologic examination** - You should look closely for focal deficits like weakness of an extremity, speech difficulty, which may signify more serious intracranial pathology.

Be certain to include the following elements:

- Cranial nerve testing
- Strength and sensation testing
- Vestibular and ocular motor assessment
- Balance assessment

### ON-FIELD OR SIDELINE EVALUATION OF ACUTE CONCUSSION

When a player shows any features of a concussion: - The player should be medically evaluated on-site using stan-

dard emergency management principles and attention should be given to excluding a cervical spine injury.

The appropriate disposition of the player must be determined by the treating healthcare provider in a timely manner. If no healthcare provider is available, the player should be safely removed from practice or play and urgent referral to a physician arranged.

### EVALUATION IN EMERGENCY ROOM BY MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Here you need a medical assessment including a comprehensive history and a detailed neurological examination including a thorough assessment of mental status, cognitive functioning and gait and balance. A determination of the clinical status of the player including whether there has been improvement or deterioration since the time of injury. This may involve seeking additional information from parents, coaches, teammates and eyewitnesses to the injury. A determination of the need for emergency neuroimaging in order to exclude a more severe brain injury involving a structural abnormality is needed. Players and officials should know that only team medic is allowed to send player back to the field of play so let's give medics enough time to access and manage according to his expertise and refer when there is a need.



# MTN Premier League 2019/20

PREVIEWS

## MTN PREMIER LEAGUE RETURNS TO ACTION

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**SOCCKER - THE MTN Premier League returns to action this evening with a number of games taking place at different venues in the country.**



**RAMPAGE:** Mbabane Highlander's Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze.

**BRAGGING:** Manzini Wanderers coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe.

### WILL MILLING STOP RAMPAGING BULL?

*Milling Hotspurs vs Mbabane Highlanders  
(6:30, Mavuso Sports Centre.)*

**NEWCOMERS** Milling Hotspurs will be looking to end capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders' winning streak this evening at Mavuso Sports Centre.

Sitting on position eight with 18 points, the new kid on the block will be highly motivated to play against the black and white outfit. Milling coach Clement 'King Clay' Mdluli will rely on inspirational captain Linda Mbuli to lead the team inside the field of play. The youngster is a marvel to watch as he demonstrates

to be a true leader. He is a future star in the making and no wonder he has received a national team call-up. However, the Manzini based outfit must tread carefully as they will be up against Mbabane Highlanders, a team that is slowly but surely regaining its strength. The black and white outfit will be all out to prove a point that their good form in the cup competitions is not a fluke. Outspoken gaffer, Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati will be pinning his hopes on his midfielders, Menzi Mamba, Phumlani Ngwenya and Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule to carry the day for him.

#### TEAMS

##### MILLING HOTSPURS

**Coach:** Clement 'King Clay' Mdluli

**Captain:** Linda Mbuli

**Key Players:** Lungelo Mngometulu, Futhi Gama

**Match Winner:** Lwazi Bhembé

##### MBABANE HIGHLANDERS

**Coach:** Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati

**Captain:** Jimoh Moses

**Key Players:** Banele Ndzabandzaba, Simphiwe Manana, Khanyakwezwe Shabalala

**Match Winner:** Lindani 'Rio' Matsenjwa

### Who will claim Manzini bragging rights?

*Manzini Wanderers vs Moneni Pirates  
(8:30 pm, Mavuso Sports Centre)*

**SPARKS** are set to fly tonight when Manzini Wanderers host cross-town rivals Moneni Pirates.

The biggest question is who will claim the bragging rights?

The maroon and white outfit is going through a rough patch at the moment and would want to use this match to redeem themselves. They have not been getting the desired results

lately, but that will count for nothing inside the field of play. Moneni Pirates, on the other hand, will be all out to pile more misery on their rivals. The Sea Robbers know what this games means and will be looking for the maximum points. This promises to be an entertaining encounter.

#### TEAMS

##### ● MANZINI WANDERERS

**Coach:** Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe

**Captain:** Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya

**Key Players:** Mpendulo Ngidi, Mancoba 'Spider' Maseko, Mhlengi Mngomezulu

**Match Winner:** Johnson Mensah

##### ● MONENI PIRATES

**Caretaker Coach:** Bongani Mhlongo

**Captain:** Menzi

**'Magawugawu' Simelane**

**Key Players:** Fabrice Mopina, Lizwe Zwane, Mthunzi Motsa

**Match Winner:** Njabulo Shongwe



**BATTLE:** Christopher Tembo.

### Sea Birds, Malanti Chiefs in relegation battle

*Manzini Sea Birds vs Malanti Chiefs  
(6:30 pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

**STRUGGLING** sides Manzini Sea Birds and Malanti Chiefs will be fighting to save their lives this evening at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Both teams are lying at the bottom of the log standings with 12 and 16 points, respectively.

They will come guns blazing so that they move out of the relegation zone.

Sparks will definitely fly when these two sides meet.

#### TEAMS

##### ● MANZINI SEA BIRDS

**Coach:** Bongani Dladla

**Captain:** Sibusiso Dlamini

**Key players:** Xolani Sibandze, Wandile Nhleko, Laurent Abah

**Match winner:** Muzi Tsabedze

##### ● MALANTI CHIEFS

**Coach:** Christopher Tembo

**Captain:** Siyabonga Nkambule

**Key Players:** Lindokuhle Fakudze, Innocent Jere

**Match Winner:** Thokozani Dlamini

### TAMBUTI READY FOR INYOK'ELUHLAZANA

*Tambuti vs Green Mamba  
(6:30 pm, Mayaluka Stadium)*

**SUGAR-belt** side Tambuti are ready to give defending champions Green Mamba a rude welcome in their own backyard.

The Terisayi Changara-led charges, who will be enjoying a home ground advantage, will be all out for a win today as they want to improve their position on the log standings.

Green Mamba, on the other hand, will also be aiming to collect the maximum points to consolidate their top four position. This is another match that promises to be entertaining.

#### TEAMS

##### ● GREEN MAMBA

**Coach:** Caleb Ngwenya

**Captain:** Banele Dlamini

**Key players:** Njabulo Thwala, Musa Dlamini, Mthunzi Mkhontfo



**READY:** Tambuti FC's Muntu Mamba.

**Match winner:** Mcolisi Mkhontfo

**Captain:** Muntu Mamba

**Key players:** Ugo, Ishmael Zwane, Mcebo Mdluli

**Match winner:** Reagan Kangumbu

##### ● TAMBUTI FC

**Coach:** Terisayi Changara

### Forces derby on the cards

*Young Buffaloes vs Royal Leopard  
(4 pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

**THE** artificial turf will suffer when the two security forces sides meet this afternoon.

Young Buffaloes, who are perched at the summit of the log with 41 points, will be looking at getting three points at the expense of Royal Leopard, who have been blowing hot and cold since the start of the season. The duo of Alie Matse and Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze will be the ones to watch in this encounter. Meanwhile, Leopard will also be out to spoil the army side's party. The army side knows that they have to win this match if they are to compete for honours. The security forces derby always lives up to expectations.

#### TEAMS

##### ● YOUNG BUFFALOES

**Coach:**

Sabelo Mnisi

**Captain:**

Nhlanhla Gwebu

**Key players:**

Fanelo 'Order'

Mamba, Wandile

'Skosh' Shabangu,

Mpendulo Dlamini

**Match winner:** Alie

Matse

##### ● ROYAL LEOPARD

**Coach:** Edwin Matsebula

**Captain:** Berry Steenkamp

**Key players:** Lungelo

Tsabedze, Fanelo Tsabedze,

Machawe Dlamini

**Match winner:** Thabiso

Mokenkoane





# FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL News

● Arsenal could be forced to sell Gabon forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang if they fail to agree to terms over a new contract, with the 30-year-old's present deal expiring in 2021. (*Star*)



● England winger Jadon Sancho, 19, could remain with Dortmund beyond this season despite being linked with a summer move to Chelsea, Liverpool or Manchester United. (*Ruhr Nachrichten - in German*)

● RB Leipzig's Germany striker Timo Werner, 23, linked with Liverpool, has an exit clause of 30m euros (£25m) plus a guarantee of performance-related bonuses, rather than £50m as initially believed. (*Sport1 - in German*)

● Manchester United midfielder Nemanja Matic, 31, is expected to leave when his contract ends this summer, with his agents already assessing options, but AC Milan are not interested due to the Serbian's wage demands. (*Calciomercato*)

● Arsenal's Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka, 27, says he feared he would never play for the club again after the rant at supporters that led to him losing the captaincy - and has reservations over whether he would take the job again. (*Evening Standard*)



● Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho is interested in Brazil's Willian, 31, after working with the Chelsea winger when he was manager at Stamford Bridge. (*Star*)

● Everton are targeting Lille's Brazilian defender Gabriel, 22, as they make a centre-half their priority summer signing. (*Mirror*)

● Bayern Munich Chief Executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is yet to be totally convinced by Brazilian forward Philippe Coutinho. The German club has the option of making the 27-year-old's loan move from Barcelona a permanent transfer at the end of the season. (*Bild, via Mail*)

● The father of Chelsea's Spanish left-back Marcos Alonso, 29, has hinted that his son will return to Italy, having played for Fiorentina before moving to Stamford Bridge. (*Calciomercato - in Italian*)

● Morocco midfielder Hakim Ziyech, 26, says Chelsea Manager Frank Lampard played a big role in his decision to move to the Blues from Ajax. (*Mail*)



● Leeds are eyeing four summer deals which could amount to £45m in transfer fees should they gain promotion to the Premier League. (*Express*)

## HAYLEY HAPPY WITH HER ACHIEVEMENT

STORIES BY COLISILE SACOLO

**SWIMMING - TOP junior female swimmer Hayley Hoy says she is proud of herself after winning six medals during the Cana Zone IV Games held in Botswana.**

The Swim Lab swimmer outshined her competitors during the competition.

She first won her silver medals in the 200m backstroke and 200m free style in the Under-12 section on Friday afternoon and went on to win more medals on Saturday and Sunday.

The team arrived on Monday having finished the four-day swimming competition. Hayley said she was very happy with her performance during the competition and gave credit to her coach. "I worked very hard for these medals. Going to the competition I knew very well that I will come home with medals. I trained hard in preparing for the competition."

She said he had been pushing herself during training because she wanted positive results.

"I am very happy with my performance and these medals mean a lot to me," the excited young swimmer said. Hayley said this was made possible through hard work and determination.

"Mine is just to encourage other swimmers to train hard and never give up." Eswatini Swimming Association President (ESA) Berger

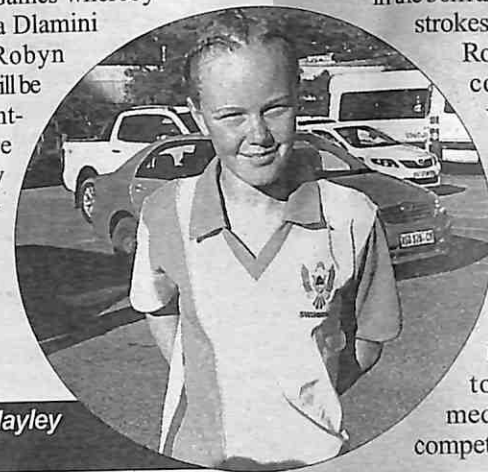


**ARRIVAL : Eswatini Swimming Association squad during their arrival on Monday from attending the Cana Zone IV Games in Botswana. (Pics: Nomalungelo Phiri)**

Nxumalo said it was the first time for them to bring back home so many medals. "I am very proud of the swimmers because we have been attending the Cana Zone IV Games but this is our first time to win so many medals. This shows that the standard of swimming is improving in the country. You can see that the swimmers are working hard and its now paying off."

He said even the swimmers who did not win tried their best during the competition. Nxumalo added that with the little resources they had, they were able to expose the swimmers to the international arena.

"They represented the country well. We are now looking forward to other international competitions. The team will also attend the 2020 Tokyo Games whereby Simanga Dlamini and Robyn Young will be representing the country in swimming."



**PROUD: Top junior female swimmer Hayley Hoy.**

## I won all my heats - Simanga

**SWIMMING - TOP senior male swimmer Simanga Dlamini said he won all his heats despite not getting any medal in his categories.**

"It is true that I did not get any medal but I was happy with my performance during the heats. I also improved my personal best in the 200m butterfly where I finished fourth." He said he was happy with the overall performance of the team. "It was a fair competition and I am happy with the experience we gained. I was also expecting to win medals but it did not happen."

I will prepare hard in readiness for the 2020 Tokyo Games. I just have to remain focused." Another podium finisher was top senior female swimmer Robyn Young, who bagged two bronze medals in the 50m and 100 backstrokes.

Robyn said the competition was not easy but was happy with her performance.

"I will continue working hard as I want to win more medals in other competitions."

## OVER 600 REGISTER FOR TUFF ONE HALF MARATHON

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**ATHLETICS - OVER 600 participants have registered for the Tuff One half marathon.**

This was revealed by Golden Foot Club (GFC) Secretary Gideon Mthembu yesterday.

The 12th edition of the Tough One half marathon will be held at the Zakhele Sports Ground on Saturday.

Mthembu says the event promises to be bigger and better, mentioning that registration was still open.

"Registration is going well and the 10km race seems to be most popular as close to 400 entrants have been received."

He then urged Emaswati to con-

tinue registering since their intention was to have at least 1 000 entries.

"We will close registration once we reach the 1 000 mark. Interested runners should register before Friday."

The winners of the half marathon will get E2 800 in both men and women categories while the runners-up will take home E1 700 each.

Mthembu said preparations for the race were already at an advanced stage.

The race, jointly sponsored by Sportz House and Total Garage, will feature two categories in the 10km and 21km.

Registration is still open at Manzini Fitness Zone, Mbabane Sneakers, Timbali Lodge, and Sportz House and online. "We shall provide another platform for registration at the

Bhunu Mall in Manzini all day on Friday.

Registration is E100 for the 10km and E120 for the 21km.

Mthembu said those who would register online would be expected to produce proof of payment.

The route for the 10km race will go via Ngwane Park, Faith Christian Ministries then back to Zakhele Sports Ground while the 21km will go past Faith Christian Ministries via Mkhweni, Yith'Abantu Highway, Sidvokodvo road, Esikhaleni Selusekwane, Lwandle, Coates Valley then back to Zakhele.

The 21km is half tar and half gravel road and there will be water points after every 3km of the route.

Mthembu said this event started in 2009 with 206 participants for

the 18km race.

He said they then upgraded the event to 21km in 2013.

"We had over 800 participants in 2019 and we look forward to a great attendance even this year. We are hoping for another success story."

On the same note, Mthembu thanked GDF sponsors for the incentives despite the current economic crisis. "We are truly grateful for this kind of gesture as we encourage the nation to participate in sports," Mthembu said.

**Tuff One prize list:**

	Men	Women
1st	E2 800	E2 800
2nd	E1 700	E1 700
3rd	E1 100	E1 100
4th	E650	E650
5th	E250	E250

## Dodge beat Siziba in Floating Trophy Challenge

BY MELUSI MLOTSHA

**POOL - VETERAN pool star Dodge Matsebula beat Zweli 'Siziba' Dlamini 9-5 in the Floating Trophy Challenge played at the Mbabane Express Car Wash on Sunday.**

Matsebula walked away with E1 000 and a trophy after he was crowned the champion. The veteran pool player was

the first to draw blood when he led 3-0 in the opening stages of the match. However, 'Siziba' levelled matters at interval. Matsebula showed character and eventually won the match 9-5.

**Congratulated**

Mbabane Express Car Wash coordinator Sicelo Mndzebele said it was a tightly contested match and congratulated the winner.

"It was a good match as both players displayed good performances. However, Dodge demonstrated that he was well prepared as he eventual won 9-5," he said.

Mndzebele thanked all pool lovers for attending the game despite the cold weather.

He also mentioned that they would be hosting the singles and double trophy challenge this weekend.



**HAVE A REASON TO SMILE: Dodge Matsebula posing with the trophy and cash after he was crowned champion on Sunday.**





# 'WE CAN ESCAPE RELEGATION'

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**SOCCER - RECENTLY** signed Pigg's Peak Black Swallows striker Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze believes he can help the Northern Hhohho side escape relegation.

Interviewed yesterday, the former Manzini Wanderers striker said they only needed five wins to be safe from relegation.

"We only need to play as a team and get the desired results."

When asked about their 1-2 defeat to Moneni Pirates in the EswatiniBank Cup, the former Green Mamba striker said lack of concentration in the last few minutes of the game cost them the match.

He said they matched their opponents, only to lose concentration in the dying minutes of the match.

Ndzimandze converted from a free-kick to level matters for his team, only for them to concede late in the match.

'Fash' joined Black Swallows after he was put on transfer by the maroon and white outfit together with the likes of Juries Gama, Laurent Abah, Nathi Mkhonta and Ncedo Mamba, to mention but only a few.

**BELIEVES:** Pigg's Peak Black Swallows striker Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze.



## Birds, Bull, Weslians in Idlala Kamnandzi Under-20 grand opening

BY COLISILE SACOLO

**SOCCER - THE** country's three top teams' junior sides Mbabane Swallows; Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers will feature during the EswatiniBank Cup Under-20 grand opening games at Manzini Club on Sunday.

This is according to the fixture released by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) COO Pat Vilakati yesterday.

The triple header will see Mbabane Swallows take on Mbabane Highlanders in the Mbabane derby while Mhlume Peacemakers will clash with Manzini Wanderers in the second match with Moneni Pirates playing against Tambuti.

The latter are the defending champions of the tournament after they beat Denver Sundowns 2-1, court-

### FIXTURE:

Sunday at Manzini Club		
Mba Highlanders	vs	Mba Swallows 10am
Mhlume Peacemakers	vs	Manz Wanderers 12pm
Moneni Pirates	vs	Tambuti 2pm
Sunday at Old Trade Fair		
Milling Hotspurs	vs	Royal Leopard 10 am

tesy of Ndumiso Matsebula and Wandile Mngometulu's goals. Ishmael Zwane's charges took home E40 000 for being champions of the prestigious tournament.

The other match will be between Milling Hotspurs and Royal Leopard at the Old Trade Fair in Manzini.

### Exciting

Vilakati invited members of the public to attend the games in their numbers. "We will be having exciting games during the Under-20 grand opening. Mine is to invite fans and parents to come and support their children."

## ESSA FOOTBALL, NETBALL COURSES START TODAY

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**SOCCER - THE** Eswatini Schools Sports Association (ESSA) will host football and netball Pre-level 1 coaching and officiating courses at St Juliana's in Manzini today.

ESSA General Secretary Felicity Dlamini said all attendees of the courses would be licensed by Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and the course would be facilitated by EFA's Bhikisisa 'Bizzah' Mkhonta and Antony Mdluli (football) while Muzi Dlamini will facilitate the netball courses. Dlamini said she believed that

the courses would go a long way in improving and developing the sporting sector.

He said registration was opened for sports teachers between 8am to 9 am.

The cost per attendee is E970 which will cover facilitators, stationary and equipment, meals, venues, accommodation and certification.

Dlamini thanked EFA for the courses. "Attendees will be equipped with knowledge they will share with the kids in the various schools. We are looking forward to a successful event. I urged sports teachers to come in numbers since there is a lot to learn."

## AEK Larnaca FC to take first batch of open trial winners

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

**SOCCER - AEK Larnaca FC** will recruit the first batch of the Eswatini Open Trials winners in April.

This was confirmed by Professional Soccer Management (PSM) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Emmanuel Emenogu yesterday.

Emenogu said AEK Larnaca were the first club to partner with PSM.

AEK is a Cypriot professional football club from Larnaca, Cyprus. It also has basketball sections for men AEK Larnaca BC and a volleyball section for women.

Greatest successes of the football club are the qualification to the 2011-12 UEFA Europa League group stage and the win of Cypriot Cup in 2004 and 2018. Their highest league performance was the second place in three consecutive years.

In 2019, AEK signed their biggest ever shirt sponsorship with Cypriot-based betting company Bet on Alfa

Ltd in a three-year deal. It was also the first time Bet on Alfa became a major sponsor of a Cypriot professional football club.

The Australia-based global marketing firm PSM, in collaboration with Eswatini Football Association (EFA), is presenting a rare opportunity to all Emaswati to fight for a place in Europe through the 10-day trials that started in January 20.

According to information sourced from the CEO, AEK Larnaca will also partner with the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs to set a structure for Under 10-15 players.

"We want to take young stars to greater heights," he said.

PSM has partnerships with Europeans teams, including Arsenal from England, Galatasaray and Alanyaspor, who are both from Turkey.

Alanyaspor have already invited Mbabane Highlanders and Sihlangu enterprising midfielder Sisekelo 'Rio' Matsenjwa for an assessment.

## Leopard in goalkeeping injury crisis

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

**SOCCER - POLICE** side Royal Leopard are reportedly in a goalkeeping injury crisis, ahead of their MTN Premier League match against army side Young Buffaloes.

The much awaited clash is billed for Somhlolo National Stadium today.

Word coming out of the team's camp is that first choice goalkeeper Ncamiso 'Mbhonyo' Dlamini sustained a serious

injury last weekend in the EswatiniBank Cup against National First Division side Madlenya FC. The former Umbelebele goal minder is joining Phephisani Msibi in the treatment table. This, therefore, means that the team has only one goalkeeper for today's encounter in Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Makhanya. It has also been gathered that Junior Magagula is back after missing the team's weekend match. However, the duo of central defender Machawe Dlamini and captain Barry Steenkamp are still missing from the

team as they are recovering from injuries.

"We are left with only one goalkeeper after 'Mbhonyo' sustained an injury last weekend," said the source. Royal Leopard Chief Executive Officer Frank Hurube said 'Mbhonyo' suffered a minor knock and would be available for selection today, depending on the coach's plan. "All the players are available except Machawe and Barry who are nursing injuries." Meanwhile, Young Buffaloes will be without the services of Siboniso 'Sithobela' Maseko and Wandile Maseko.

## Thabiso through to quarter-finals

BY COLISILE SACOLO

**BOXING - ESWATINI** boxer Thabiso Dlamini proceed to the quarterfinals of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games qualifiers.

The competition started on Saturday in Dakar, Senegal, where 119 registered boxers will be involved in 212 bouts.

Dlamini first beat Tounkara Madala from Mali (unanimous decision) with

all five judges giving him the win.

This was confirmed by Eswatini Boxing Association Pearl Dlamini, who said they were happy with the progress of the boxer.

"Thabiso is now through to the last eight in his category. This comes after he beat Konate Mohamed from Guinea in the 69kg category in his



second fight. Again he won his fight by a split decision."

He will fight Mengue Ayissi Albert from Cameroon in his next bout.

"If he wins, he will be through to the semi-finals stage which will give him more chances to qualify for the Olympic Games."

Dlamini said as an association they were fully behind Thabiso. "We want a podium finish and we believe he is capable of achieving that. We wish him all the best in his next fight."





## CAF bans all Zim stadiums

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**SOCCER - WITH** Somhlolo National Stadium banned from hosting international games, CAF has informed Zimbabwe that all their stadiums do not meet the Confederation of African Football (CAF) standards to host international matches.

According to a press statement from Zimbabwe Football Association Communications and Competitions Manager Xolisani Gwesela, CAF has made a decision to bar ZIFA from using local stadiums in all upcoming international matches.

"The decision by CAF comes against the background of a CAF stadium inspection, which was conducted in November 2019 and the subsequent inspection report circulated on December 1, which stipulated areas of improvement for our three stadiums, Barbourfields, Mandava and the National Sports Stadium (NSS), to be fully homologated. While Mandava and NSS were completely struck off the roster, Barbourfields was provisionally certified on the condition that issues raised in the inspection report would be addressed," reads the statement.

### Authorities

Stadium authorities were notified of CAF's position and the urgent nature of the situation at hand. "To date, neither of the three stadium authorities has requested us to invite CAF for another inspection, a position which CAF has said led to the decision to bar all three stadiums from hosting international matches. While ZIFA is engaging CAF with a view to appeal this decision, we have asked stadium authorities to send us commitment letters detailing timelines on work that needs to be done before CAF comes for another inspection. Once we receive such commitment, we will send to CAF. We have been using stadiums which do not meet CAF and FIFA standards for a while now, but we need to put our heads together as a country to ensure that our stadiums are renovated to meet required standards," reads the statement. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe has started the process of looking for an alternative venue in neighbouring countries to host their upcoming matches.

# Y'ELLO SUNDAY AT SOMHLOLO

- Highlanders have a date with Royal Leopard
- Wanderers clash with Young Buffaloes in the second match
- All other games will be played on Saturday

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**SOCCER - CAPITAL city giants** Mbabane Highlanders will co-host the MTN Premier League Y'ello Sunday's double-header with struggling hub giants Manzini Wanderers at Somhlolo National Stadium this weekend.

This is according to the latest fixture released by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) COO Pat Vilakati yesterday.

The 'Black Bull' will host unpredictable police side Royal Leopard in the first game, with the Weslians crossing swords with the on-form Young Buffaloes in the main match of the day at the country's soccer Mecca.

All the other elite league games will be played at different venues on Saturday.

The games will start with a double header at Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday, where Milling Hotspurs will take on Tambuti, while Malanti Chiefs have a date with Mhlume Peacemakers in the second match.

There will also be a double header at Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday, where Denver Sundowns will play against Manzini Sea



**Y'ELLO: Premier League of Eswatini COO Pat Vilakati.**

Birds, with Moneni Pirates taking on Mbabane Swallows in the other match.

Pigg's Peak Black Swallows have a date with Correctional Services side Green Mamba at

### FIXTURES

#### MTN PREMIER LEAGUE:

Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium		
Milling Hotspurs	vs	Tambuti 2pm
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Mhlume Peacemakers 4:05pm
Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre		
Denver Sundowns	vs	Manzini Sea Birds 2pm
Moneni Pirates	vs	Mbabane Swallows 4:05pm
Saturday at Killarney Stadium		
Black Swallows	vs	Green Mamba 3:30pm
Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium		
Mb. Highlanders	vs	Royal Leopard 2pm
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Young Buffaloes 4:05pm

#### MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION:

Saturday at Prince of Wales Ground		
Seven Dreams	vs	Tambankulu Callies 2pm
Saturday at Manzini Club		
Young Movers	vs	Rangers 3pm
Saturday at King Sobhuza Stadium		
Hlatikulu Tycoons	vs	Tinyosi 2pm
Mbabane Citizens	vs	Ludzeludze Killers 4pm
Sunday at Mayaluka Stadium		
Ilovo	vs	Umbelebele 2:30pm
Sunday at Killarney Stadium		
Vovovo	vs	Madlenya 1:30pm

Killarney Stadium on Saturday. Vilakati invited fans to come in their number to support their favourite teams. "The MTN Premier League will be in full swing this weekend. A number of entertainment activities will be taking place during the Y'ello Sunday."

Action packed...  
Idlali lemnandzi!



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