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Nation prays for end of COVID-19 pandemic

HEAR US
LORD:
Reverend
Albert Thwala
delivering his
sermon dur-
ing the
Somhlolo
Festival of
Praise service
held at the
National
Church in
Lobamba yes-
terday. SEE
MORE COV-
ERAGE ON
PAGES 2 AND
4. (Pic: Simon
Shabangu)



BULL DIE-HARD FAN ARRESTED



PAGE 3

FOUR MPs TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

- Brings number of infected politicians to 6
- Total cases now 1 938, recoveries 876

STORY ON PAGE 3

WATER PAYMENT METHOD

Mobile Banking



STEP 1

Enter Usd
Short
Code
*120*2345*

STEP 2

Enter Your
Banking Pin

STEP 3

Select S-
Value Added
Services

STEP 4

Select 3-Pay
Water SWSC

STEP 5

Select PAY
From
Account

STEP 6

Then Enter
SWLS
Account
Number

Confirm
Details to
pay



Drawn: J. MUYI

FOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

FOUR Members of Parliament have tested positive for COVID-19. The four were discovered following

the recent compulsory COVID-19 tests conducted over the past two weeks for all parliamentarians as well as Parliament staff.

Private

The names and constituencies of the four MPs are known, but they declined to have their names revealed,

claiming their health was a private matter.

This now makes the number of MPs who have tested positive to be six, when including the recently recovered Public Works and Transport Minister Chief Ndlehlhla Ndwandwe and the first legislator to test posi-

tive, Manzini North MP Macford Nsibandze. The Manzini North MP and minister did not mind their names to be made known.

House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela was not immediately available to confirm the reports, but insiders told the newspaper that indeed

the four MPs tested positive and were currently in quarantine.

The MPs will miss today's election of a senator who will replace the late Mike Temple.

Normally, such events are of high stakes where a single vote matter.

The Kingdom of Eswatini is not the only country affected by COVID-19 at both executive and legislative level. In South Africa, two ministers Gwende Mantashe and Thulas Nxesi tested positive and various other MPs, including those in provinces.

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

A teacher has died of COVID-19.

On Tuesday the teaching fraternity in the country experienced the most feared outcome of COVID-19, which is the death of one of their own.

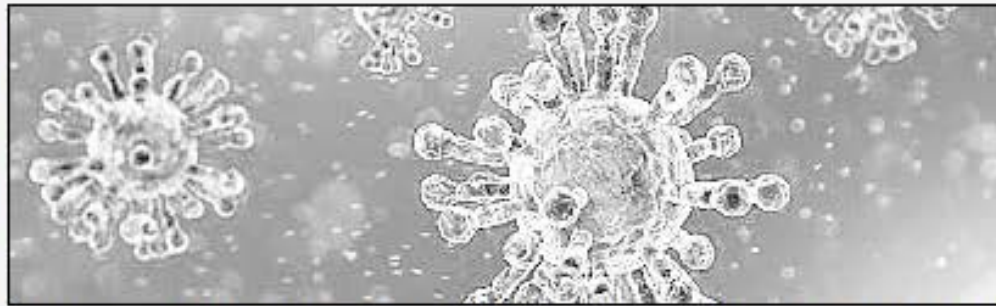
The Mdzimba High School teacher who was confirmed to have the virus on July 10, passed away on Tuesday.

Boy Magagula (53) died while he was undergoing treatment at Lubombo Referral Hospital.

The teacher was admitted showing severe symptoms of COVID-19. It is stated that Magagula was driven to hospital by one of the teachers before he was confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 and was transferred to Lubombo Referral Hospital.

The teacher's medical condition worsened while he was in the hospital. According to Tuesday's COVID-

Teacher dies of COVID-19



19 update, the teacher is a 24th death of COVID-19 in the country.

Statement

The minister's statement further reveals that the 53-year-old was under ventilator to aid him recover from the virus, but he failed.

Mdzimba High School Principal Elvis Msetfwa confirmed the pass-

ing but declined to give further details.

When the principal was questioned about the condition of the teacher who drove Magagula to hospital as well as the other teachers of the school, he said all communication should be addressed to the principal secretary of the ministry of education and training.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Education Bertram Stewart said the teacher was sick for a long time.

He added that he had been away from school since July 6, 2020 which is the day when Form V pupils resumed lessons after the outbreak of COVID-19.

This comes after the principal secretary last week blasted education stakeholders ridiculing all strikes taken by government for the reopening of schools.

He stated that reports relating to teachers and COVID-19 were blown out of proportion.

He stated that coronavirus has affected many organisations and governments' departments, but teachers were given the spotlight.

President of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Mboniswa Dlamini passed condolences to the family and friends of the deceased teacher.

Notably, the death of the educator came at a time when SNAT and government were in a court battle over the opening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dlamini added that it was clear that government was gambling with educators' lives.

CLOSE HIGH COURT – PRINCIPAL JUDGE

BY ALEC LUSHABA
Editor

PRINCIPAL Judge Qinisile Mabuza has urged Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala to consider closing the High Court briefly, whilst a thorough fumigation and testing exer-

cise of COVID-19 takes place.

Her fears are informed by reports that two more High Court judges have tested positive to the virus, bringing the number to four.

In the first case of two judges, the CJ issued a directive to briefly close the High Court for half a day to fumigate the place, whilst some staff members

who were in contact with the judges went for isolation until their results were back.

This time around, reports reaching the newspaper are to the effect that a senior judge has tested positive whilst another has asked to be away as he felt flu symptoms associated with the virus.

Principal Judge Mabuza, while she

did not confirm the reports, she acknowledged being made aware of them.

Circulate

She feels the High Court, given its architectural design, does not circulate enough air in court rooms and the virus could stay for days without being killed even when fumigated and left for ours.

"I feel the place needs to be thoroughly fumigated, not once, but twice at least and leave it for days without occupying it to allow for effective cir-

ulation of the chemicals used. As things are, I am not sure whether the exercise undertaken was effective. This is more so because we don't know where and how the judges contracted this virus. At least we know that they are positive and have been at work. We share court rooms, Court C for instance, is huge and the ceiling is too high for fumigation chemicals to circulate effectively if we do a rush job," she said. Justice Mabuza said without

Nation prays for end of COVID-19

STORIES BY SIFISO NDLABATSI
Mbabane

THROGS of Emaswati were united in prayer yesterday, calling for an end of the coronavirus pandemic.

This was during the Somhlolo Festival of Praise event that was streamed live in various social media platforms and broadcast live on television.

Yesterday marked 29 years since the Somhlolo Festival of Praise started.

Despite the partial lockdown, where movement and gatherings are restricted, most of Emaswati were able to follow the proceedings in real time and made comments on how they were feeling on social media platforms.

Most of those who posted their comments revealed that they were praying for God to protect Eswatini from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Somhlolo Festival of Praise virtual service was held at Lobamba National. The programme director of the event was Pastor Nhlambhla Hlatshwako.

Pastor Maphindukani Simelane kicked-off the service by reading the Word of God to the congregants.



ONE OF THE SPEAKERS: Prince Masitsela.

Pastors who took to the podium thanked His Majesty King Mswati III for allowing these services to continue.

Restricted

A brief background of COVID-19 and how it ended up seeing borders closed and churches' having restricted numbers was shared to the congregants. The pastors prayed to God to heal Emaswati's prayers and heal the nation.

Some of those who shared the word of God during the service that lasted for about three hours included Reverend Simon Nzima from League of African Churches, Pastor Thwala from Council of Churches and Bishop Dorah Mabuza.

Bishop Mabuza encouraged Emaswati to continue praising the Lord despite all the hardships faced by the nation.

She read from the Book of Exodus 15 verse 26 which goes; "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you".

Bishop Steven Masilela was among those who expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III for allowing the Somhlolo Festival of Praise to be held even this year.

His Majesty asks for peace in the land

PRINCE Masitsela said yesterday was special as it was a day when the late King Sobhuza II was born.

He said King Sobhuza II ruled the country and respected God. The senior prince said yesterday was about the day when God decided to show Himself to King Somhlolo and showed him what Emaswati should do in order to survive.

He said the land that was taken away from Eswatini would be brought back and when that happens the land will be much greener.

Prince Masitsela said this could be noted these days as vast green fields could be spotted all the way from Eswatini to Pretoria. "Nale live labalitsatsa laham-ba watsi nakhuluma na Somhlolo watsi nawukugcinile loku wan-gayicitsi ingati yalabanfhi name lelive bangalitsatsa liyawubuya libe ngilo libeluhlata njengoba kuyeniaka nawubuhela kubo TV baveta. Nibona kuluhlata kuzu-ka la kuyofika le kubo Pitoli."

Masitsela stated in vernacular.

Prince Masitsela assured the nation that God has not forsaken Eswatini and He would not do so in the near future.

The prince hailed King Mswati III for fearing and believing in the Lord.

He said His Majesty King Mswati III was asking for peace in the land. "Ucela kuti live lonkhe lakaNgwane umangabe khona lalingamupha kana ucala kutshula." The prince stated in vernacular.

He said peace was what brings development in the country. The prince said His Majesty had gone out of the country to secure a lot of investors who were expected to bring billions in financial investments in the country. He said His Majesty asked for peace at homes, churches, schools, work and in every other sector in society.

He explained that a lot of investors would be drawn into the country because of the peace which prevails amongst Emaswati.

COVID-19 deaths now 25

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

MINISTER of Health Lizzie Nkosi has announced two more confirmed COVID-19 related fatalities for two days in a row as COVID-19 confirmed cases are fast approaching the 2 000 mark.

Yesterday, Minister Nkosi announced the 25th COVID-19 related death.

The deceased is a 74-year-old male from the Manzini Region.

According to the minister's statement, he was admitted on July 8, 2020 in a critical condition and was sent straight to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Lubombo Referral Hospital.

His condition worsened as he developed complications due to a chronic disease that led to his demise yesterday. His death comes after the minister on Tuesday announced the death of a 53-year-old man from the Manzini Region, who was confirmed COVID-19 positive on July 10, 2020.

He presented to Lubombo Referral Hospital with a severe COVID-19 disease, whereupon he was put on a ventilator to assist him with his recovery. Unfortunately, his condition did not improve and he passed away.

On the Monday, the minister also confirmed the death of a 56-year-old woman from the Manzini region. The woman died while undergoing treatment in one of the country's health care facilities.

...confirmed cases approaching 2 000 mark

The minister said the deceased died after she experienced challenges with her respiratory system.

She was then treated as a COVID-19 suspect after she was tested. Nkosi said the deceased's condition worsened as she was awaiting results, she passed away after she was diagnosed with the virus.

Death

Meanwhile, on the same day the minister announced the death of a 40-year-old man, also from the Manzini region.

He also died while undergoing treatment in a health facility. He suffered from a respiratory illness which worsened when he was undergoing treatment.

The 40-year-old man died before his COVID-19 test results were released.

The minister further announced 44 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which were a decline from the 68 cases that were announced on Tuesday. A majority of the cases were from the Hhobho region, which is an orange zone.

For three consecutive days, the region has recorded the most cases.

Yesterday, a total of 23 cases that were confirmed from the region, 13 of the patients had asymptomatic while nine had mild symptoms of COVID-19.

To date, Hhobho region has 708 cases of COVID-19.

COVID-19 hotspot Manzini region had 18 cases that were confirmed yesterday, of which 12 had no symptoms of COVID-19 while five had mild symptoms of the virus. To date, the region has 947 cases of COVID-19.

The minister further confirmed two cases of COVID-19 from the Shiselweni region, where one was asymptomatic while the other one had mild symptoms of the virus.

To date the Shiselweni region has the second lowest number of COVID-19 cases as they are 157.

Lubombo region had only one case and the patient showed mild symptoms of COVID-19 and only 133 cases have been confirmed from the region to date.

Currently, the country has 993 people who are being treated for COVID-19 with only 876 recoveries.

Since March 14, 2020, there are 1 938 cases of COVID-19 that have been confirmed in the country.

The minister pleaded with the nation to practice good hand hygiene, cough etiquette, physical distancing, wearing of masks as well as self-isolation where necessary in order to reduce and flatten the epidemic curve in the country.

Nkosi urged the nation to ensure that they conduct medical check-ups in order to avoid fatalities related to coronavirus.

This is because there has been a rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths caused by co-existing illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiac diseases and asthma.

prejudging anyone who may have carried out the job of fumigating the High Court, you discover that some sub-standard chemicals may be used.

She said this she once discovered when chairing a judicial commission of inquiry into the procurement of medical services.

The principal judge said the findings shocked her and made her not to trust a lot of the products provided.

She said it was for this reason that

she felt the CJ should consult them in order to share experiences and ideas on how best to deal with the situation better before more judges get infected.

The Principal Judge said one of the ways they could use would be to allow judges to work from home and only have a duty judge to attend to urgent matters.

"This can be done and also have the Motion Court on Friday. This would prevent the high activity that currently

takes place, until we have satisfied ourselves that the place has been properly fumigated and necessary systems put in place to minimise transmission," Principal Judge Mabuza said.

Efforts to get a response from Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala and Registrar of the Supreme Court Lungile Msimango proved futile. It is becoming a norm now that the CJ nor the Registrar of the High Court do not respond to questions from this newspaper.

POCA motion is wrong – Pholile

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

JUSTICE and Constitutional Affairs Minister Pholile Shalkantu insists that the legality of the motion without notice to suspend the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) is wrong.

This was the case and response the minister made in Parliament on Monday, but still MPs insisted and voted for the motion to stand.

The motion moved by Hosea MP Mkhuzi Mabuza and was seconded by Maphalaleni MP Mabulala Maseko ordered the minister to prepare within seven days, a Bill that seeks to amend certain sections of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, No. 11 of 2018 that would address the retroactive effect which is against section 119 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini Act, No. 001 of 2005.

In her response, Shalkantu said the legal argument advanced by the motion was totally wrong. "There is no provision of POCA which is against the Constitution," she stated.

She added that Section 119 of Constitution did not prohibit the passing of retro-

spective legislation per se but forbidden the passing of such legislation if it trampled upon an existing right.

The section was thus misinterpreted by the mover of the motion, said the minister.

She added that Section 14 and S19 of the Constitution protects fundamental rights and freedoms including the right to protection from deprivation of property. "This right does not extend to property taken under a law which makes provision for such or under a court order. POCA focuses on proceeds of unlawful activities. Section 119 of the Constitution does not protect the ownership or possession of the proceeds of crime," she said.

The definition of proceeds of unlawful activity as per Section 2 of POCA defines proceeds of unlawful activity as any property or any service, advantage, benefit or reward that was derived, received or retained, directly or indirectly in Eswatini or elsewhere, at any time before or after the commencement of the Act, in connection with or as a result of any unlawful activity carried on by any person, and includes any property representing property so derived and property which is mingled with property that

is proceeds of unlawful activity.

She mentioned it was wrong for an argument of this nature to be debated in Parliament which was the very same House that passed the law.

She said any debate on the constitutionality or otherwise of POCA should be reserved for the courts not Parliament.

She said the Legislature clearly intended for POCA to apply to proceeds of crime acquired before or after the Act.

Shalkantu stated that Parliament could not change the operation of the law by a mere motion.

"Parliament changes the operation of the law by legislation not by way motion," she insisted.

She further strongly objected the motion because it would not be possible for her to implement it should the House pass it as it stood.

She said there was no section in the POCA that permitted unwarranted seizures. The call for the amendment was vague without pointing to the provisions criticised as permitting unwarranted seizures.

There were administrative seizures provisions in terms of the POCA as was the case in other jurisdictions.

"All seizures were done upon an application being made in court laying down the grounds for the seizure and all seized property was thus in terms of a court order," the minister argued.

Highlanders' die-hard fan Mduduzi arrested for robbery

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Mazini

A Mbabane Highlanders die-hard fan Mnduduzi Dlamini and a former Matsapha United official were arrested in connection to a robbery case where a consignment of cigarettes valued at E499 500 were stolen.

A total of three persons were arrested in connection with the offence that was committed on July 10, 2020 at Nhlambeni area.

The arrested suspects are Dlamini and Ngononi Mota, who was a Matsapha United official and one Nathi Tfwala. Dlamini is the latest suspect to be apprehended by the police as he was arrested on Tuesday while in Mbabane.

According to sources, there are three more suspects who are still on the loose, who are wanted by the police in connection with the offence. These are alleged to have actively participated during the robbery, where 18 boxes of a variety of cigarettes were unlawfully taken from a 38-year-old man of Siphocosini at knife-point.

It is said that the complainant was driving a bakkie from Matsapha where he had bought the cigarettes and was headed to Nhlanguano in the evening.

Sources said while the man was on his way and was at Nhlambeni along the Mhlaleni-Nhlanguano Public Road, just near a T-junction to

Ngononi Operational Support Services Unit (OSSU), he slowed down the vehicle when approaching the speed humps. It is said he had not reached the speed humps when out of nowhere a Toyota Tazz sedan screeched to a halt right in front of him. This is said to have caused the bakkie driver to completely stop his car, as he tried to comprehend what was going on.

To his surprise, three men are said to have jumped out of the Tazz sedan and charged towards his car while wielding their knives. Just then two other bakkies that came after the Tazz are said to have stopped; one behind and the other next to the man's bakkie. While the three knife-men pointed their weapons at the complainant, it is alleged that the men from the two other cars hastily offloaded the cigarette boxes from his car and into their vehicles before speeding off and leaving him unharmed.

It was only after the three vehicles had left that the complainant was able to reach for his mobile phone, through which he called the Matsapha Police Station to report the incident. The cigarettes were reportedly bought to be resold at retail price in Nhlanguano.

When sought for comment, the Chief Police Information and Communication Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the arrest of the three men with the latest arrest being Dlamini.

'Political parties will never survive here'

BY SIMON SHABANGU
Lobamba

PRINCE Masitsela has said political parties will never survive in the Kingdom of Eswatini because they divide the nation.

He said many will try to form political parties but none of these will succeed because this country is protected by God and the King has constantly asked the nation to give him the gift of peace. He was speaking during an interview after attending the Sombhlo Festival of Praise service at the National Church in Lobamba, where he was eyes and ears of His Majesty at the service.

He said the country never wanted political parties until the British colonial system brought it up when the King started negotiating for independence.

He said they told the King that they will not handover power to an individual, but to someone who has been elected by the people.

He says that is when political parties started in the country, because they also assisted some of the people to form their own parties. "In 1964 when we had the first elective council, they came up with a law which allowed for only one vote from a polygamous family. I had three wives but only one wife was allowed to vote, then you asked yourself

if that was democracy. In fact this was a ploy to get the political parties to win the election so that King Sobhuza II was removed from the throne. Because the King was determined to free the country from the British colony, he gave in but because King Sobhuza was ordained by God, the people stood by their King," Prince Masitsela added.

He said they had no choice but to handover the reigns because Emaswati had beaten them in their own game. He said people continue to support the current system of governance because it is peaceful, something which the King has always asked the nation to present to him as a gift.

The prince said in 1991, His Majesty King Mswati III also commissioned a committee which he (Prince Masitsela) led. He said the agenda was to get direction from the people as to how the country should be governed. "I went to all the Tinkhundla centres collecting views from the people, but still Emaswati maintained that they wanted to elect members of Parliament through the Tinkhundla system not under political parties."

"How then can one expect parties to survive here because the people know what they want? Political parties divide a nation; even this country can be destroyed by parties, but because this country is for God no matter what we will succeed here," he said.

Somhlolo Festival of Praise service



BIG DAY: Reverend Thwala delivering his sermon during the Somhlolo Festival of Praise service held at the National Church in Lobamba yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



IN SPIRIT: Senate President Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini, Princess Lomathemba and Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe in prayer.



ATTENTIVE: King's representative Prince Masitsela and Umngani Lusendvo Fakudze following proceedings of the service.



MUSIC: Swazi Gospel Singers rendering music at the service.



SPEAKS: King's Representative Prince Masitsela making his remarks during the Somhlolo Festival of Praise prayer service.



GOD I PRAY: Bishop Stephen Masilela leading the congregation in prayer.



THE WORD SAYS: Bishop Dorah Mabuza delivering her sermon.



BRIEFS: Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini making her remarks before closing the service with a prayer.



MY GOD: Reverend Simon Nzima ministering the word of God.

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VACANCY ALERT

TENNIS COACH

Our client is looking to employ an energetic and passionate Tennis Coach to provide tennis lessons to students of varying ages and abilities. The Tennis Coach's responsibilities include evaluating students' performance, ensuring that all tennis equipment is in good working order, and educating students on tennis game strategies and good sportsmanship. You should also maintain a professional appearance at all times.

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Tennis Coach Responsibilities:

- Assisting students in developing and improving various tennis skills.
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'King Sobhuza II was an ambassador of Christianity'

STORIES NOKUZOLA THWALA
Nemini

"KING Sobhuza II was an ambassador of Christianity and lived a Christian lifestyle."

This was attested to by King Sobhuza II's surviving eldest child Princess Msalela as she shared memories of the late King in commemoration of his birthday and as the country celebrated King Somhlolo's vision.

She said when King Sobhuza II came back from Lovedale, he was a born again Christian who then practised and emphasised Christianity. Adding, she said his experience made him exemplary, showing the nation a Godly way of life. She said he also acknowledged God's favour on Israel hence his support for that nation regardless of the perspective.

"When he came back, he called Sibaya and shared that Christianity was what his great grandfather King Somhlolo (Sobhuza I) had seen in a vision in which

he advised Emaswati to choose the Book over the coin," she said.

The princess alluded that Nkhosifotjeni (King Sobhuza II) even stood for the construction of the Lobamba National Church, advising BB to start the foundation regardless of the fact that funds were not enough at that time.

She said he wondered how anyone who would veer off the Christian lifestyle would survive.

"Wagcizelela kutsi inkhosi Somhlolo yatsi akudliwe umculo kugqokelele indlini-

Mona also hated corruption

PRINCESS Msalela also stated that the late King Sobhuza II hated corruption with passion.

She said he ordered all Indians out of the country then as they had infused corruption tendencies and their num-

bers had increased. However, after the King was laid to rest at Mbilaneni, a certain clique recalled them. "The then Indians wanted to rule, but God refused as *live la Somhlolo kutsi sitavuhlolela*," she narrated.

ga. Asati kutsi loyawuyekela wona uyawuphila njani? Kwase kwakhiwa lisongfo lamhlaba wakaNgwane. God indeed chose Emaswati, and this confirms that the country is the pulpit of Africa," stated the princess.

Reminiscing, she narrated how King Sobhuza II helped the Brits during World

War II as his wisdom surpassed all and was attested by all who worked with him. "This was God-given, only a few opposed him because of his wisdom. He was fortunate to have divine wisdom, of course, he had an advisory council working with him as well," Princess Msalela said.

Funeral Notice



Umntfwanenkhozi Ntfombindze

Kwatswa bakaMncina Ekuvinjelweni, banfwaberkhozi kaLozitha nakaLobamba, bekhobonina kaLobamba Lomdzala nabeNgcoseni, belisontfo lakhe 7th Day Adventist (beSabatha), batu kulu bakhe, tihlobo nebangani kutsi umntfwanenkhozi Ntfombindze lotalwa yiNkhosi Sobhuza II eNkhosikadini Lomasontfo Fakudze kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Umntfwanenkhozi bekendze kuChief Mafutha Mncina. Umntfwanenkhozi utawubekwa endlini yakhe yekugcina ngelisonfo (Sunday) 26th July, 2020 Ekuvinjelweni emphakatsi. Kutawuba bele umlindzelo ngenca yemkhuhlane lohlasele umhlaba lokufaka nelive laseSwatini

Simemetelo sikhishwa yindvuna yemphakatsi Ekuvinjelweni Makwaya Shabangu egameni lemphakatsi

SEKULULA VAT REFUNDS

PUBLIC NOTICE



VAT REFUND/SEKULULA CLAIMS

The public is hereby notified that in accordance to the economic lock down regulations issued by the Government of the Republic of South Africa as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the South African Revenue Services (SARS) office dealing with processing and payment of claims for VAT paid on goods sourced from South Africa was closed during the month of April and May 2020.

Accordingly, the VAT Refund/ "Sekulula" claims could not therefore be forwarded for processing to SARS during these months.

This means that there will be delays in the payment of claims to the SRA. This will result in late notification on rejected claims as well as delays in the issuance of statements to those traders whose claims may be rejected by SARS. Furthermore, important claims for refunds submitted for processing during these months will also be delayed.

The public is however, advised that the SRA office dealing with Sekulula VAT refund claims at our Matsapha (AGOA office) is open to receive all refund application claims and to assist with all queries related to the scheme. Traders and individuals who wish to submit claims under the scheme are reminded to do so within 75 days of the date of purchase in South Africa. Submissions should be made to the SRA (AGOA) offices in Matsapha. Any inconvenience is regretted.

SRA Commissioner General

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WOMAN SENTENCED FOR LYING

STORIES BY STARSKY MEHONTA
Nhlango

A woman, (22) was charged and sentenced to 12 months in jail with an option of E2 000 fine for defeating the ends of justice or obstructing the course of justice.

Sisana *not her real name of Nkwene made a false statement to the police that she had been raped knowing very well that she was lying, thus her conduct amounted to that one of defeating or obstructing the course of justice reads the charge sheet. She appeared before Shiselweni Senior Magistrate Joseph Dlamini where the state was represented by Mduduzi Dlamini and she elected to conduct her own defence. She pleaded guilty and she was found guilty as charged.

She had still not paid the fine when this report was compiled. It is believed that she had arrived at her in-laws to visit the father of her two-year-old child, a boy, but the father was not at home as only his brother was there and he welcomed her. According to a source, the two were known to be always intimate when together and the father of Sisana's child wasn't aware. It is said the child who was brought to the grandparents greatly missed her and had fallen asleep. However, Sisana then recalled that her brother-in-law was on Anti-Retroviral Treatment, it clicked to her that as they had had unprotected sex, there was a possibility being infected. "She had totally forgotten that the brother-in-law was on treatment and she only remembered afterwards. She decided to go to the hospital, where she claimed she needed to be treated as her uterus and other organs were troubling her. Nurses wanted to

know what exactly she needed and it was then that she disclosed that she had an intercourse with someone she did not trust, and she was afraid of infectious diseases. It was then that she started telling more stories, including that she could not remember as to who exactly she last slept with. It was then where the nurses advised her that she should first go to the police station as they were not going to assist her with anything without a document from the police," a source said. Sisana according to the source, proceeded to the police station to seek the document known as 'RSP Form 88' needed at the hospital before she could be attended to. "At the police station, Sisana decided to claim she had been raped and this she did in order to get the document. The police were keen to know more regarding what they were hearing and it was then that she was asked if she had any suspect. She then mentioned that her brother in law was the one who raped her. A group of over five heavily armed detectives went to the workplace of the man, who is employed as security guard where he was arrested last week and charged with rape. He spent three nights behind bars before his release on Saturday after the truth was revealed," said an informer. With the man now having to be brought to court for rape charges, Sisana was troubled by her conscience and as she wanted to withdraw the charges. "She said she had framed the man as she consented and not that he raped her. She stated that the reason she claimed to have been raped, was because she needed the form from the police," said a source. "She was informed that for what she did, she was facing a serious offence and was subsequently arrested and she was taken to court," a source said.



Sisana at the Nhlango Magistrate's court.

Lubombo has one positive case of COVID-19 in schools

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

SINCE the reopening of schools, one pupil from the Lubombo region has tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

This was reported by Chairperson of the Education Committee under the Lubombo COVID-19 Task Force, Richard Dlamini.

He stated that a Form Five pupil at Siteki Nazarene High tested positive after she was taken for testing as per her request.

Arrangements

The pupil is said to have come forward and reported to the administration of the school that her grandfather had recently tested positive for the virus.

For this reason, the pupil requested to be tested despite that she had not yet started showing symptoms. Dlamini said the school made prompt arrangements and referred the pupil to paramedics.

The pupil was subsequently ordered to stay at home while waiting for her results.

According to Dlamini, the results came pos-

itive, confirming the pupil's fears.

Dlamini said his committee assisted the school in taking precautionary measures and continue with lessons.

"In the meantime, lessons are continuing at the school while the pupil recuperates at home," he said.

Patients

Meanwhile, Dlamini reported that the Lubombo Central High pupil who was said to have been exposed to high risk of contracting the virus has been cleared.

The pupil was turned back home after gathering that she was engaged in employment at a quarantine centre before schools reopened.

Dlamini said however, his committee gathered that the pupil was not working at a quarantine centre, but at a lodge which was mistaken to be hosting patients.

Dlamini said schools under the region were currently running smoothly, with administrations taking the necessary precautions. It was also reported that the awareness committee was currently making visits to the schools to keep the learners informed about the virus.

One killed, five critical as Quantum rolls at KaFutheni Hill

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

ONE passenger died on the spot after a Quantum trading as Asamfash Transport overturned while descending the KaFutheni Hill on Monday evening.

This was after the driver of the public vehicle lost its control, letting it off the road, which is currently under construction. At least five other passengers were left battling for their lives at Good Shepherd Mission Hospital after the accident. According to witnesses, the public vehicle left the bus rank just before 6pm and headed for its Mpaka destination. The Quantum loaded enough passengers as guided by the COVID-19 Regulations and Guidelines. The driver is said to have opted to drive on automatic gear just after passing the Fire and Emergency depot, which is situated near Mzilikazi.

The Quantum gained momentum as it descended the KaFutheni Hill. A passenger who survived the accident said the driver made attempts to apply brakes after noting that the vehicle had

gained speed. His attempts were, however futile as it appeared that the brakes had become faulty.

The driver is said to have then attempted to keep the runaway vehicle on the road, which is currently on gravel. Apparently, motor vehicles are currently using a gravel lane while the construction companies are working on the other lane and applying tar.

"The driver lost control of the vehicle just at the top of the hill and drove about 500 metres before it eventually overturned," said one of the survivors.

The Quantum overturned several times towards the right side of the road, near the gate of the cordon fence. In the process, passengers were ejected out of the Quantum as it continued to roll.

When the Fire and Emergency Services personnel were called to the scene, one passenger remained motionless on the ground. The personnel confirmed the passenger dead on the spot.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident. "The driver lost control of the vehicle, leading to it overturning and killing one passenger," said Vilakati.



World Health Organization

VACANCY NOTIFICATION: DRIVER

<p>TITLE: Driver (20202839) DUTY STATION: Mbabane UNAE: 02 DURATION OF CONTRACT:</p>	<p>ORGANISATION UNIT: CSU APPLICATION DEADLINE: 04 August 2020 CONTRACT TYPE: Fixed - term appointment 24 months (renewable subject to availability of funds)</p>
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PURPOSE OF THE POSITION
 Country Management Support Units (CMSUs) have been established in the organisational structure to provide support for Managers and staff to fully assume their responsibilities in the CSU environment and to ensure compliance with organisational policies, procedures, rules and regulations on all administrative and financial matters and transactions in the context of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
 Under the general supervision and guidance of the Operations Assistant, the incumbent performs the following duties:

- Drives office vehicles to provide transportation of authorized personnel
- Delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items
- Meeting official personnel at the airport and facilitating immigration and customs formalities as required
- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc.
- Performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs, regular servicing and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc.
- Ensures that the steps required by the rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in accident
- Performs other duties as required

FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Driving rules and regulations of the country;
- Familiarity with office procedures and transport needs;
- Knowledge of driver courtesies;
- Ability to read, write and understand instructions in the official working languages and
- Ability to write concise and clear reports in case of accidents

EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS
 Essential - A: least O' Level education and a valid driver's license.

EXPERIENCE
 Essential - A: least two years driving experience as a driver and a safe driving record. UN experience would be an added advantage

Use of Language Skills
 Essential knowledge of English and S'Wazi. Knowledge of a second UN language would be an added advantage.

Remuneration
 Salary is paid at G2 level of remuneration applicable to the UN System in Swaziland.

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MoH COMMISSIONS FRONTLINERS FOR MANZINI HOTSPOTS

STORIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

IN an effort to halt the growth in the new COVID-19 cases in the Manzini Region, the Minister of Health Senator Lizzie Nkosi has commissioned a team of over 40 trained personnel to embark on door-to-door intensified case finding mission.

This happened in an event that was held at Caritas on Monday.

According to the minister, the personnel is made up of health care workers; nurses, doctors, lab technicians, paramedics, clerks and drivers and other practitioners who in the mission will function as frontliners with a common goal. These will be divided into 10 teams and will comb the Manzini hotspots.

She said the six-pillar door-to-door strategy is targeted at the COVID-19 hotspots, the personnel will be using the EFTTIT approach.

EFTTIT stands for Educate, Find, Test, Treat, Isolate and Trace. Worth noting is that this approach will be used in Hhohho as it is also hardest hit by the coronavirus.

The task of the trained frontliners, according to the minister, entailed educating communities about the COVID-19 infection, prevention and control measures. She said although a lot has been taught in this regard, the door-to-door visits will help in that members of the public will ask questions and get clarity in areas that they feel are not clear to them. Also, this approach is aimed at reinforcing the COVID-19 case detec-



The Minister of Health, WHO Acting Country Representative Dr. Brian Chirombo and other dignitaries posing for a group photo with the commissioned frontliners.

tion by strengthening alert systems, intensive screening and testing in the Manzini and Hhohho Regions' hotspot localities. The minister said most of the tested individuals will be advised to self-quarantine in the event that they test positive for the virus. Further, such an approach is said to help investigate 100 per cent of confirmed cases within 48 hours of diagnosis and also investigate and isolate 100 per cent of high-risk contacts.

Minister Nkosi stated that the ministry of health has embraced the principle of learning by doing

in the response against COVID-19 hence the approach will be documented and the results on the outcomes will be shared as the country's contribution to the global knowledge on responding to COVID-19.

With the assistance of the World Health Organisation, the minister said Eswatini is confident that this will make a difference.

Minister Nkosi said there is a need for the ministry to be ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic through data informed decisions. Therefore, she advised the team to remember to record the work

they do.

"The work of the next day needs to be informed by data from the previous day so if it is not recorded then it is not done," she emphasised.

To make this work possible, the minister urged members of the community to welcome and assist the frontliners by ensuring that the environment they work in is clean and safe. Also, she stated that the personnel will be identified by the uniform they will be wearing, which she said is the same one paramedics are known to wear. In addition, these will have the COVID-19 identification cards.

"The community is urged to be truthful during screening and assessment for ease of identification of individuals who are at high risk of being infected and affected by the pandemic," Nkosi said.

She further appealed to the public to take an individual stance to comply with the COVID-19 prevention actions as this could result in a nationwide benefit of halting the spread of the disease. In this regard, the minister expressed her appreciation to the Manzini Regional Administrator Chief Gija who is also the Chairperson for the Manzini COVID-19 Response Team for his efforts in addressing the pandemic in the region.

The community is urged to be truthful during screening and assessment for ease of identification of individuals who are at high risk of being infected and affected by the pandemic



The Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi making her remarks during the event.

WHO promises more support in fight against COVID-19

THE World Health Organisation vows to continue supporting the intensification of national efforts to reduce COVID-19 related illnesses and death, and further mitigate its impact on the health system.

This was relayed by the organisation's Acting Country Representative Dr. Brian Chirombo who said WHO as the United Nations lead agency on health was proud to be associated with the COVID-19 campaign for the Manzini and Hhohho regions.

Chirombo said the UN family was already supporting the various sectors in addition to the central health sector of Eswatini.

In addition to this, Chirombo stated that WHO, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP) are already jointly contributing funding and technical input to the initiative.

Further, the acting country representative reported that the UN resident coordinator is coordinating with the Heads of UN Agencies for additional UN family support to the EFTTIT initiative. "We are reorganising our team to provide more support not only to the central level of the ministry of health but also to the Regional Health Management Teams to help strengthen their technical capacity and support implementation of the six-point plan towards flattening the curve and reducing morbidity and mortality," he said.

Chirombo also called upon all partners to intensify support to the ministry of health and the government to help turn around the COVID-19 outbreak in Eswatini.



Anti-Corruption Commission

ADVERTISEMENT FOR INVITATION TO TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF BILLBOARDS Tender Reference 38 OF 2020/21

The ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC) now invites sealed Tenders for the supply, delivery and installation of billboards inscribed with anti-corruption messages and two full colour logos. The billboards will be fitted along the Ngwenya, Mbabane and Manzini corridors.

The Tender document can be obtained at Anti-Corruption Commission, Mbabane, Eswatini for the price of E300 (three hundred Emalangeni), which against receipt should be paid at Mbabane Revenue Office Account 471/1102/21132.

Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, which must be marked as follows:

"The Secretary to Eswatini Government Tender Board"
Treasury Building,
Mhlambanyatsi Road,
MBABANE

Further the envelope must be marked with the following information: 'ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION', 'Tender No. 38 OF 2020/21', 'BILLBOARDS', 'Do not open before 09:00HRS on the 21st AUGUST 2020'.

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Eswatini Government Tender Board, Treasury Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane, Swaziland, by 21st AUGUST 2020 AT 09:00HRS and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box.

Tenders received in time by the latest date and time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building on 21st August 2020 at 09:00hrs. Tenders not deposited in the Treasury Tender Box, as well as late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in "Instructions to Tenderers", including Original copy of current Tax Clearance Certificate, valid Labour Compliance Certificate, valid Trading Licence, Form J, Form C, VAT certificate, General receipt of E300.00, valid Eswatini National Provident fund certificate, police clearance certificate, manufacture authorization and a bank guaranteed cheque or insurance bond of E5000.00 must be included in the Tender.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For further information contact the following: Sinelemba Mlekati, Anti-Corruption Commission, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Sibekelo Building, 3rd Floor, P.O Box 4342, Mbabane; Tel: 2404 3179. Email: anticorruption@acc.org.sz

COMMISSIONER, ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Bishop Kasaro endorses Pastor Bakhe's book

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

PASTOR Bakhe's new book 'Releasing the Sons' is out.

The book received a thumbs up from Jesus Calls Worship Centre leader Bishop Robert Kasaro.

The subtitle of the book is 'How Sons in the Faith Can Understand Fathers in the Faith, and How Fathers in the Faith Can Understand Sons in the Faith'. Bishop Robert Kasaro said the book was not just a book, but a voice of instruction and direction for the church in the 21st century and beyond.

"I highly recommend this book. It shall bring healing and restoration to fathers and sons," reads a statement from the bishop.

When presenting the book on Monday at Eswatini Observer offices, an elated Pastor Bakhe Dlamini said the response towards his second book was quite overwhelming.

"I guess it's because I wrote on a big topic. What people often put as 'church politics' is explained in this book. It is a book for the believers and non-believers."

"The church has had some negative publicity over the recent years, and I believe we need to do ministry well. Some order has to be restored in God's house."

There is often tension when junior pastors (sons in the faith) leave the church they were submitting under to start their own. At times junior pas-

tors it is the committed genuine mistakes, and at times senior ministers (fathers in the faith) commit the mistakes," said Dlamini.

The book, according to Dlamini, encourages sons in the faith to leave their home churches in a proper manner when the time has come for them to go and start a new church.

The book encourages fathers to try to understand their sons who are called out, highlighting that they should do the best they can to release their sons in a proper manner.

"It also tackles corruption, unaccountability, infidelity, etc., that have off late troubled the church," added the pastor.

According to Dlamini, the book that arrived from a printing company in Cape Town six days ago has already been bought by pastors and congregants in South Africa and locally.

If one would love to indulge in the read, they could get a copy at LWC Bookstore at The Gables, next to Movie Zone.

IT'S HERE: Pastor Bakhe Dlamini presents his 'Releasing the Sons' book to Eswatini Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbingo and Entertainment Editor Ayanda Dlamini. (R) Pastor Bakhe signs a few copies for the Eswatini Observer team. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Public Service Pensions Fund

7th Floor Ingosha Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane P.O. Box 4468, Mbabane

PUBLIC NOTICE/ SATISO

DEATH GRATUITY DISTRIBUTION BY PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND

The Public Service Pensions Fund invites the following deceased members' families to meetings to be held at the following scheduled times and dates at the Pensions Building, along Mhlambanyatsi Road. Family members are requested to bring certified copies of the following: proof of identity, death certificate, birth certificates, marriage certificate(s) and any other relevant documents.

Lithobeli letet hlala phansi (PSPF) lilela ehlala tanaba labalandela kuzi tiyale emhlabeni ngalimalanga nezikhatsi letilandzelako.

Tiyalelwa kuzi tiyalelwa sekula semufi, tiyalelwa tekulwa tebanifwana bemufi, tiyalelwa tekutsatsana, nabanafise babuze (P.L.N.) ID natoronke lilelwadi ledingisa.

The following deceased members' families are invited to attend a meeting on the following dates:

Monday 27 July 2020				
Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Mathabala Gwes B	Correctional	39960745	06.07.2020	09h00
2. Khumalo Thabiso T	Police	9736652	10.06.2020	10h00
3. Thwa Linda	Defence	10237054	09.07.2020	11h00

Tuesday 28 July 2020				
Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Mamba Celwe	Defence	10358593	01.07.2020	09h00
2. Madinane Madwala	Health	4345204	20.06.2020	10h00
3. Mdiluli Bheki	SNT	39961823	12.07.2020	11h00

Wednesday 29 July 2020				
Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Majola Alex	Education	800070304	11.07.2020	09h00
2. Mawiso Nkomo	Tinkhundla	6487737	13.07.2020	10h00
3. Dlamini Khetswe	Defence	300018190	01.07.2020	11h00

Thursday 30 July 2020				
Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Mombule Nkosingphile	Education	2645663	05.07.2020	09h00
2. Mombule Khanyisile	Home Affairs	4387516	20.06.2020	10h00
3. Dlamini Thamsanqa	Defence	957127	25.05.2020	11h00

For more information please contact Nompumelelo Masina at 24119030 or our Toll Free Number 8002401

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND P.O. BOX 4468, MBABANE

Tel: 2411 5000 / Fax: 2404 2712 www.pspf.co.sz TOLL FREE: 800 2401 email: info@pspf.co.sz

ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ESERA)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES - ESERA/RFP/03/2020-2021

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified local service providers to Provide Cleaning Services for Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA).

Terms of Reference of this tender may be accessed from the websites of Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) i.e. www.sppra.co.sz and ESERA, www.esera.org.sz

The closing date for submission of tenders is Friday, 31st July, 2020 at 12H00. Requests for clarifications closes on 24th July, 2020

Tenders should be submitted with original receipt as proof of payment of a non-refundable tender fee of E350.00

Completed tenders should be delivered, in a sealed envelope, into the tender box at the Reception of Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority located at the First floor, R-HUS Office Park, Karl Grant Street, Mbabane, Eswatini and should be clearly marked with the words:

ESERA/RFP/03/2020-2021: PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES FOR ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

All enquiries relating to this tender may be addressed to Ms Zanele Nhlabatsi, email zanele@esera.org.sz

ESERA does not bind itself to accepting the lowest or any proposal

1st Floor, Rhus Office Park, Karl Grant Street Mbabane P.O. Box 7137 Mbabane H100

Tel: +268 2404 2103; Fax: +268 2404 8384; Email: info@esera.org.sz; Website: esera.org.sz



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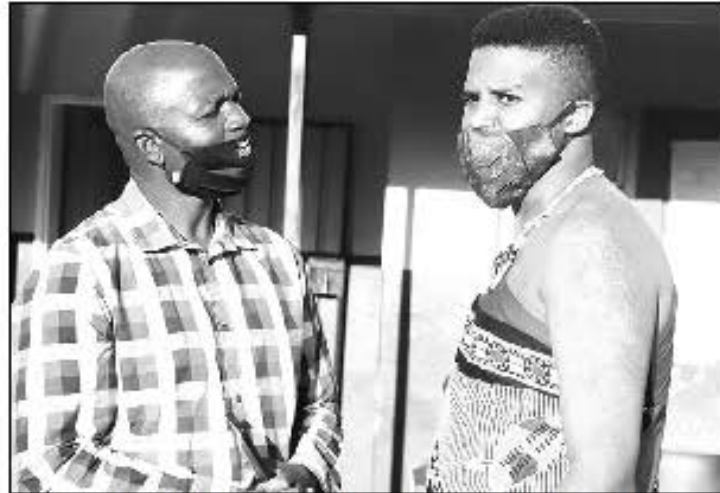
LIZINYANE Prince Majaha has urged the corporate sector and government to assist the underprivileged communities to have access to internet connection in order to be able access e-learning services in the COVID-19 era.

He was speaking at Lusoti High School when addressing pupils and parents who were gathered for a donation by the area's Member of Parliament Victor Malambe.

"In this era of online learning, I am aware that there are many challenges, which include pupils having no access to the internet. It is important that we work together in ensuring that this is not the case.

"I, therefore, urge the business community and international donors to assist in any way to make sure that every child has access to the internet so that they cannot be left out of the learning platforms provided through social and electronic media," Prince Majaha said.

On another note, the prince urged the



THANK YOU: Mhlume Member of Parliament Victor Malambe sharing a light moment with Prince Majaha during the donation of food hampers to the needy and pupils of Lusoti High School on Tuesday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

pupils to set their goals high and aim at becoming better citizens of the country in future. He said education opens doors to a better future. He also urged the pupils to take this pandemic seriously and follow all the precautions to win

the battle against the pandemic. Further, the prince commended MP Malambe and the sponsoring companies for organising the event, where people were presented with food parcels while the female pupils got sanitary pads.



PACKING: Spar Retail Operations Manager Johan Lues packing some of the Mahewu's boxes in preparation for the handover.

...MP Malambe promises nothing but the best

MHLUME Member of Parliament Victor Malambe has promised to deliver a number of developmental projects to alleviate poverty in his area.

Malambe told parents and pupils of Lusoti High School that his mandate was to bring solutions to the challenges faced by the community.

"Whatever troubles you face, do not hesitate to report them. It is our duty to assist you. I am aware of some of the challenges you face and as of now, we are working on bringing aid to curb them," he said.

Further, Malambe said they had secured a sponsorship to help pupils with sanitary pads for about six months. He thanked Buy'n Save Spar Group and Philani Maswati for the partnership.

Meanwhile, Philani Maswati Chairman MP Lutfo Dlamini said the area was blessed to have a visionary leader in the



KIND: Mhlume MP Victor Malambe making his remarks before handing out food parcels to the needy. (R) CARING: Chairman of Philani Maswati Charity Organisation Lutfo Dlamini directs proceedings.

office of the Inkhundla. He urged the community to support the MP and his



committee, emphasising that if they worked together, a lot will be achieved.



FOR THE PEOPLE: Prince Majaha hands over a blanket to an elderly woman during the Philani Maswati Charity Organisation donation of blankets, bread, face masks, mealie-meal, rice and much more held at Siphocosi yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Indlovukazi brings smiles to 100 elderly

BY MDUDUZI MDLULI
Siganeni

HER Majesty the Indlovukazi yesterday brought smiles to 100 elderly people at Siganeni Community under Siphocosi Inkhundla.

Indlovukazi was represented by Lizinyane Prince Majaha, who handed out the donations through Philani Maswati Charity Organisation. Her Majesty the Indlovukazi is patron of the charity organisation.

The donations included blankets and food items, such as bags of rice, mealie-meal, bread among other gifts.

The donations were made possible by companies such as Prime Bakeries, Japan Cars, MSK Solutions and others, who sponsored the event.

Four chiefdoms benefited from this kind gesture. They included Siganeni (which hosted the event), Siphocosi, Luhlendweni and Mantabeni. The chiefdoms were represented by authorities such as Tindvuna and constituency councillors (Bucopho).

Speaking at the event, Lizinyane Prince Majaha told those present that he was happy to be part of the event. What made him happy was that he represented Her Majesty in distributing gifts to the elderly people. He said this showed how much Their Majesties loved Eswatini.

He said they always wanted ways of making lives easier for them. He said nowadays, there was an outbreak of COVID-19, a disease that threatens mostly the elderly and these blankets were going to make them warmer in this cold season.

He expressed hope in that the gifts would help in making their lives easier and urged them to do all they could to protect themselves from the disease.

Lizinyane said what also made him happy was that this was happening on the birthday of King Sobhuza II, whom he described as the country's Biblical Moses, who led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt up until they reached Canaan, a land of milk and honey.

Lizinyane Prince Majaha said King Sobhuza II also led the country through many milestones, including the country's independence, which was attained in 1968.

To celebrate King Sobhuza's birth-

day, the prince led the attendants in cutting a cake. They all sang a birthday song, in commemoration of the birth of King Sobhuza II.

The cake was eventually cut into many pieces, which were distributed to all those who attended the event.

The prince's sentiments were shared by Siphocosi Member of Parliament (MP) Mduduzi Matsebula.

Matsebula started by thanking Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and the prince for such a kind gesture and further thanked all those that ensured the success of the event.

Matsebula said his Inkhundla's temperatures were low during this winter season, a situation, according to Matsebula, affecting the elderly people mostly.

He said the donations came at a very critical moment because they were dearly needed by the elderly. Matsebula further urged Philani Maswati Chairperson MP Lutfo Dlamini, who was present at the event, to inform the Siphocosi farmers when donating to communities in the lowveld.

"We understand that Philani Maswati is making donations around the country. We urge the organisation to inform us when donating to lowveld chiefdoms. We understand that our fellow Eswatini in that place do not have maize, as that climate is not suitable for maize farming. The farmers want to donate maize to them," Matsebula said.

The MP, on behalf of the chiefs from the four communities, donated a goat to the prince.

Matsebula said this did not mean the farmers had enough of the maize, but the little they had could make a difference.

Philani Maswati Chairman Lutfo Dlamini expressed words of gratitude to Matsebula, saying what he had done was what was needed by most Eswatini in many chiefdoms.

Dlamini stated that Eswatini should be happy that they still had the institution of the Monarchy, which maintained peace in the country.

Dlamini stated that COVID-19 negatively affected his organisation because they could not host the Biggest Braai this year.

He said they were planning to host this event in a digital way in order for it not to be affected by such incidents like the outbreak of COVID-19.



Matsapha Town Council
info@matsapha.co.sz
www.matsapha.co.sz

MATSAPHA NEWS

Corner Police College & Airport Road | P.O. Box 1700 | Matsapha, Swaziland
For more information Call or whatsapp - 7963 6348 / 2518 8235



BABHELE DLAMINI
MATSAPHA TOWN COUNCIL PRO

BUSINESS COMPLIANCE TO COVID-19 REGULATIONS IN MATSAPHA INSPECTED

Lockdown restrictions have been eased by government and more businesses have been allowed to operate. The easing of restrictions is mostly motivated by the need to enhance the economy of the country. However, daily reports have shown a surge in the number of positive cases. With all this in mind, it calls for extreme compliance with the Covid-19 Regulations of 2020.

In the beginning of the month of July 2020, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Royal Eswatini Police (REPS) and Matsapha Town Council undertook compliance inspections in Matsapha. The inspections focused on enforcing the General Regulations of Trade as well as ensuring compliance to the Covid-19 Regulations and Guidelines laid down by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health. The inspections were done in both urban and peri-urban space, where a total of 50 businesses were visited.

In line with the Covid-19 regulations the inspections focused on whether there was a temperature test gun and sanitizer available and in use at the entry points; whether people were wearing masks; social distancing with markings on the floor, health and safety; and whether the maximum number of 20 people was followed.

Under the General Regulations Trade, Trading Licenses Order of no.20 of 1975, Price Control Order of no. 25 of 1973 and the Liquor Licenses Act no. 30 of 1964 were used to inspect the businesses.

The compliance inspection results showed that a number of the businesses are aware of the regulations as indicated by the below results. However social distancing presented as an issue as it is not fully enforced by businesses.

Contravened	Compliant	None Compliant
Provision of hand sanitizer and temperature gun- entrance	43	7
Social distancing markings	33	17
Face masks	45	5
Health and Safety	48	2
Maximum of 20 people	50	-



Routine inspections done at businesses

About half of the inspected businesses, comply to the set regulations. Off note though is that the other half are businesses outside of the urban space, more so the

informal sector. The 17 businesses that were none compliant were charged and where there were gaps identified advice was given to these businesses.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE HEALTH INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES IN MATSAPHA?

Matsapha Town Council conducts routine health inspections for businesses around the town, to food and non- food establishments. Have you ever wonder what the requirements for the inspections are? Well you can learn more about them.

First you need to know that the inspections guidelines, review both external and internal environment. The specific requirements have been highlighted in the table below:

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT	
Outdoor Facilities	Specific Requirements
1. Zoning and town planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable land use zone • Accessibility of business by vehicular and pedestrian clients • Adequate loading/delivery facilities separate from parking area should be provided. • Adequate parking facilities • Compatibility of proposed business with neighbouring uses or businesses • Public safety and convenience • Business protection and advertising and signage
2. Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External walls should be well finished and aesthetically • There must be proper storm and wastewater management systems • Septic tanks should be accessible and approved by municipality • All public places should be provided with facilities for the disabled e.g. toilets, parking • The building should be sited in a way that allows free entry of natural lighting and ventilation • Landscaping of building • Provide fire hydrants for fire building, which should be located before the water meter
3. Environmental requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessment, approved by Swaziland Environmental Authority (SEA) • External yard should be free of overgrowth of vegetation, be free of dirt, be free from rodents and insects as well as kept clean at all times • It should not be sited next to any source of contamination, pollution and infestation • Provision of demarcated temporary waste storage area • Pre-treatment facilities should be approved by municipality
INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT	
Indoor Facilities	Specific Requirements
4. Floor, walls, ceiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth, durable, light coloured paint, easy to clean • Walls brought to a smooth finish • Non-absorbent for areas subject to moisture like kitchen • Walls and ceiling should be painted in a light coloured paint • Floor should not be slippery and recommended to be incorporated with a non-slippery floor to prevent floor scuffed and/or contamination in product storage



Routine inspections done in businesses

5. Utility services lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not be unnecessarily exposed • Exposed lines should not present a tripping or make people trip • Indicate all wall light switches, sockets, DB & meter - face
6. Ventilation and lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficiently lighted and ventilated (naturally and/or artificially)
7. Toilet facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate for males and females • Separate for staff and customers • One water closet for every ten females and one for every fifteen males - or not • One water closet and a SHEL bin for every 20 females and one water closet and a SHEL bin for every 20 males • Toilets should not communicate directly with food room or working area • Warm hand basins/sinks should be provided • Running supply of hot and cold water should be provided • Soap, nailbrush and proper hand drying facilities should be provided
8. Water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and a potable running supply of hot and cold water should be provided
9. Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste water and soil water should be properly drained through appropriate sewerage system • A grease trap or oil separator should be provided for wash basins and/or kitchen sinks
10. Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard and appropriate waste bins with tight fitting lid should be provided for the temporary storage of waste prior to collection • Self-closing bins should be provided in every work area • Clearly demarcated and secured waste storage area should be provided within premises • appropriate hygienic waste receptacles should be provided
11. Storerooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate separate storage facilities for dry and wet goods should be provided • Food and non-food items should be stored separately • All stored materials should be elevated from the floor; appropriate shelving should be provided. The lowest shelf should be elevated at least 20cm from the floor
12. Change rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change room facilities should be provided separately for both male and female staff • Should not communicate directly with food room or working area • Change rooms should be provided with appropriate lockers and/or hangers
13. Preparation & packing areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be centrally located to allow for cleaning • Ceiling area must be well lit and ventilated • Extraneous furniture collecting dust to be isolated where there are possibilities of fumes and steam • The design and layout should provide at least 50% free moving and working space • Hand wash basin with a supply of running hot & cold water should be provided in every work station • Three compartment sinks should be provided for washing equipment, these should be separate from the hand wash basin and food sinks • Sinks for food should be provided • Separate area for food preparation to be provided • Clear flow of work processes • Surfaces for preparation should be non-absorbent and easy to clean e.g. stainless steel • The floor should be well drained to accommodate volumes of water produced by work processes
14. Required protective clothing/equipment (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable, adequate, sound, clean and durable light coloured personal protective clothing/equipment should be provided • NB: food handlers should wear PPE ONLY when in the food preparation area • Hand gear, safety shoes, goggles, suitable hand gloves, apron, chef's hat, gloves protectors, beard & head net, respirators, etc.
15. Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate first aid kit should be provided • Personnel exposed to hazards should be medically examined prior to employment and thereafter at not more than annual intervals • Medical health certificates should be provided prior to employment and at not more than 6 months intervals • Hazard identification and safety measures should be in place e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate suitable fire lighting equipment and fire emergency preparedness measures should be provided • Indicate emergency exits

NB: Text in italics and underlined applies to food premises, over and above the rest of the requirements.



BUILDING SECURE LIVELIHOODS

World Vision
Eswatini

WORLD VISION SAVED OUR CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

WORLD Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working

with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

The organisation, which currently operates in 100 countries and has built a substantial experience base and com-

petency in both development and emergency aid, impacting the lives of vulnerable children by tackling the root causes of poverty. World Vision Eswatini started operating in 1992, focusing mainly on emergency relief after the

devastating drought that hit Eswatini. Later on, the focus shifted from relief to disaster mitigation, rehabilitation, and transformational development.

The Eswatini Observer took some time to travel to the Lubombo region

to witness some of the organisation's projects executed for World Vision Eswatini through the Lubulini Area Programme to talk to the respective beneficiaries, and this is what they had to say.

WATER HARVESTING AND SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROJECT (SINYAMANTULWA)
This is a combination of a rooftop water harvesting project, where each of the over 140 homesteads received 500l water tanks. The citizens were also advised to use the tanks to water their backyard gardens. The third component of the project is a sanitation and hygiene project, which benefited over 2 000 folks.

JABU MBULI (RESIDENT)

"This area does not have water. Since time immemorial, we have always struggled in terms of water, and that's where World Vision has come through to try and help us out. They first said they would drill boreholes for us, but then they found out that there was absolutely no water underground, and that is when they came up with the idea of buying us water tanks to harvest water when it rains, which is once in six months to be honest. That real-



LEAFY: Jabu Mbuli shows her garden which has been made possible through the 500 litre water tank she received from World Vision. She feeds a family of five through the garden. (r) **SAD:** The old reservoir which the residents used to get water from before the intervention by World Vision. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)

ly helps a lot, and there's also one water tank situated here in my home that World Vision re-fills every week, where all other members of the community can come with their 20-litre buckets to get water for vital things such as cooking and drinking. Secondly, they also bought these toi-

lets for us, because about two years back, we used to relieve ourselves in the bushes and this would affect us greatly. Also we used to get sick every now and then, especially diarrhoea on our children, our skins were also looking bad and now all that has improved and we really appreciate

the work World Vision has done for our area."

WILE NZIMA (WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

"We thank World Vision and the work that they do in our community. I am one of the members of the WASH

committee at Lubulini, and our duty is to go around the homesteads in this area and teach the citizens in the importance of hygiene.

"We were taken through training by World Vision and now with the water tanks, the people are able to listen and follow our advice."



INNOVATIVE: Mhlabeni Indvuna Goodman Xaba inspects the Solar Powered Water System which benefits over 800 people in the area. (r) **LIFE:** Thobile Ngema watering her garden with water from the solar-powered system. She feeds a family of six through the vegetables in the garden.



MHLABENI COMMUNITY WATER SCHEME

This is a solar-powered water pumping system worth over E3 million which benefits over 800 citizens.

GOODMAN XABA (MHLABENI INDVUNA YENHUNDLA)

"World Vision saved our children from being sexually abused, because they would walk long distances to fetch water in the river, and sometimes they would fall prey to these young men who hid in the bushes to then do their despicable acts.

"This is now a thing of the past since this water system was put

in place, because we as a community came forth with a certain contribution, and World Vision helped get us the entire infrastructure. Now every household has a tap, and two schools also use the very same water system for their pupils.

This has definitely helped the schools perform much better because the pupils are much less susceptible to illnesses caused by the fact that they aren't drinking clean water.

"We thank World Vision for all this development, and also our local committee which they trained headed by Dumisani Dlamini. They are very responsible."

Toll Free Line
6600

It takes Eswatini
to end sexual violence against children

Our Social Media Pages

- YouTube: World Vision Eswatini
- Email: worldvision@wv.org
- Instagram: @worldvisionesw
- Twitter: @WorldVisionESW
- LinkedIn: World Vision Eswatini
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What's in Your Mind

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

ON THIS DAY

...JULY 23

1904 - The ice cream cone was invented by Charles E. Menches during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, MO.

1914 - Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Francis Ferdinand by a Serb assassin. The dispute led to World War I.

1938 - The first federal game preserve was approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The area was 2 000 acres in Utah.

1945 - The first passenger train observation car was placed in service by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

1952 - Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew King Farouk I.

1954 - A law was passed that stated "The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to repair, equip, and restore the United States Ship Constitution, as far as may be practicable, to her original appearance, but not for active service, and thereafter to maintain the United States Ship Constitution at Boston, Massachusetts."

1958 - The submarine Nautilus departed from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, under orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine." The mission was to be the first vessel to cross the north pole by ship. The Nautilus achieved the goal on August 3, 1958.

1962 - The "Telstar" communications satellite sent the first live TV broadcast to Europe.

1972 - Eddie Merckx of Belgium won his fourth consecutive Tour de France bicycling competition.

1972 - The US launched Landsat 1 (ERTS-1). It was the first Earth-resources satellite.

1984 - Miss America, Vanessa Williams, turned in her crown after it had been discovered that nude photos of her had appeared in "Penthouse" magazine. She was the first to resign the title.

1985 - Commodore unveiled the personal computer Amiga 1000.

1986 - Britain's Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey in London. They divorced in 1996.

1998 - US scientists at the University of Hawaii turned out more than 50 "carbon-copy" mice, with a cloning technique.

2000 - Lance Armstrong won his second Tour de France.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



MARLON WAYANS,
MOVIE ACTOR, July
23 1972, 48 years old



MICHELLE WILLIAMS,
POP SINGER, July 23
1979, 41 years old

HAMBA KAKUHLLE ZINDZI

ZINDZISWA 'Zindzi' Nobutho Mandela was the youngest daughter of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela. She was born on December 23, 1960 and raised in Soweto, South Africa.

Zindzi was 18 months old when her father was arrested and convicted of sabotage and treason. She was three years when he was sentenced to life imprisonment at Robben Island, off South Africa's west coast. At the age of 12 she displayed her bravery as she wrote to the United Nations, urging it to intervene to protect her mother, herself an anti-apartheid activists from the South African authorities. "I am writing this letter to you because if my mother wrote, you might not have [received] it, as most of her letters to her friends don't reach them," Zindzi wrote in 1973. "The family and mummy's friends fear that an atmosphere is being built for something terrible to happen to mummy."

When, in 1977, the apartheid government banished Madikizela-Mandela to Brandfort, Zindzi was sent with her. She later attended a boarding school here in Eswatini and received a Bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Cape Town. Soon after graduating, she became her father's emissary.

Then South Africa's President P.W. Botha had offered to release Tata Mandela on the condition that he be confined to the semi-independent territory of the Transkei, which had been established by the white National Party administration for black inhabitants. Madiba rejected the offer, and his daughter delivered that message to the Botha government.

Imprisoned

In February 1985, as the armed struggle against apartheid intensified and South Africa's townships began resembling war zones, Zindzi addressed hundreds of people in Soweto on behalf of her imprisoned father and her banished mother. "The prison authorities attempted to stop this statement being made, but he would have none of this and made it clear that he would make this statement to you, the people," Zindzi told the crowd.

As a member of the 'Free Mandela campaign, Zindzi was recruited as an underground operative of uMkhonto weSizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, the foremost anti-apartheid movement, according to her official biography.

Zindzi's perspective of life under apartheid was captured in her anthology of poetry 'Black as I Am,' published in 1978.

In one poem, 'A tree was chopped down,' she recalls a family torn apart, writing: "and the fruit was scattered/I cried/because I had lost a family/the trunk, my father/the branches, his support."

She received her education in South Africa and Eswatini, Zindzi spent many years involved in South Africa's freedom struggle and has embraced roles in the arts, philanthropy and business.

Zindzi has been involved in philanthropic work with several organisations and held leadership

positions. In her business role she held positions as director and president of several corporations and holdings.

Zindzi's political career included serving as deputy president of the Soweto Youth Congress under the leadership of Oupa Tekere Monareng, was a member of the 'Release Mandela Campaign', worked with the communities of Orange Farm to launch the first ANC (African National Congress) branch with Walter Sisulu in the 1990s, was recruited by Cde Mshosho as an underground operator of Umkhonto we Sizwe (armed wing of the African National Congress) and later served in Commander Aubrey Metsing Modise's unit as a member of MKMVA Zone II - Lesley Moatshe Branch (Mkhonto we Sizwe Military Veterans Association). Zindzi was serving as South Africa's ambassador to Denmark before her death. Her death came just days ahead of Nelson Mandela Day, on July 18, an annual celebration held on his birthday since his demise in 2013.

Apartheid

In recent years, even as a diplomat, Zindzi could be a vocal critic of South African policy. "Dear Apartheid Apologists, your time is over," she wrote on Twitter in June 2019 amid a national debate over land reform in South Africa, where white farmers continued to control most of the land even after the end of apartheid. "You will not rule again. We do not fear you. Finally #TheLandsOurs."

The Afrikaner lobby group, AfriForum, filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission, accusing her of racism.

She refused to back down, later posting, "I am not accountable to any white man or woman for my personal views."

In February, she tweeted her dismay that F.W. de Klerk, the former president of South Africa, was allowed to attend the State of the Nation Address after he had made comments that all South Africa's woes cannot be blamed on apartheid. Zindzi said she was 'heartbroken' by De Klerk's justification of his actions, and posted a photo

of her mother being dragged by police officers and soldiers in 1991.

Zindzi was married twice, first to a businessman, Zwelibanzi Hlongwane, in 1992, and in 2013 to Molapo Motlajwa, a veteran of the armed wing of the African National Congress, who survives her. She is also survived by her four children — her daughter Zoleka Mandela, and her sons Zondwa, Bambatha and Zwelabo Mandela — as well as her elder sister Zenani Dlamini, who is South Africa's ambassador to South Korea and her half sister Makaziwe Mandela-Amuah.

Her own human rights career began to grow in 1985 when then President P.W. Botha offered her father a conditional release in 1985. Which he refused, and Zindzi read his communication, publicly, balking at the offer: "I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people, to be free," Madiba said through his daughter.

It was his first public statement since being sentenced to life at Robben Island.

Zindzi's life has left a guide in a world that continuously fights for human rights, a guide for women not just in South Africa but the whole world. She was a woman who was proud of her identity and loud when she had to be. *Hamba Kakuhle!*

RIP:
Zindziswa
Mandela.



Women and Law

in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust - Swaziland

Swaziland Office:
Esia Street 142
Mankweni building
Mankweni, Swaziland

P.O. Box 504, Mbabane, H 100, Swaziland
www.womenandlaw.org
Tel: 2505 0343

Regional Office:
Plot No. 14022, GIE
Katimililo Road, Olympia
Excursion, Lusaka, Zambia



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtselfo

ARTICLE 11.

1. In the absence of specific agreement as to the size of the mission, the receiving State may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be reasonable and normal, having regard to circumstances and conditions in the receiving State and to the needs of the particular mission.

2. The receiving State may equally, within similar bounds and on non-discriminatory basis, refuse to accept officials of a particular category.

ARTICLE 12.

The sending State may not, without the prior express consent of the receiving State, establish offices forming part of the mission in localities other than those in which the mission itself is established.

ARTICLE 13.

1. The head of the mission is considered as having taken up his functions in the receiving State either when he has presented his credentials or when he has notified his arrival and a true copy of his credentials has been presented to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the receiving State, or such ministry as may be agreed, in accordance with the practice prevailing in the receiving State which shall be applied in a uniform manner.

2. The order of presentation of credentials or of a true copy thereof will be determined by the date and time of the arrival of the head of the mission.

ARTICLE 14.

1. Heads of mission are divided into three classes namely:

- (a) that of ambassadors or nuncios accredited to Heads of State, and other heads of mission of equivalent rank;
- (b) that of envoys, ministers and internuncios accredited to Heads of State;
- (c) that of chargés d'affaires accredited to Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

2. Except as concerns precedence and etiquette, there shall be no differentiation between heads of mission by reason of their class.

ARTICLE 15.

The class to which the heads of their missions are to be assigned shall be agreed between States.

ARTICLE 16.

1. Heads of mission shall take precedence in their respective classes in the order of the date and time of taking up their functions in accordance with Article 13.

2. Alterations in the credentials of a head of mission not involving any change of class shall not affect his precedence.

3. This article is without prejudice to any practice accepted by the receiving State regarding the precedence of the representative of the Holy See.

ARTICLE 17.

The precedence of the members of the diplomatic staff of the mission shall be notified by the head of the mission to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or such other ministry as may be agreed.

ARTICLE 18.

The procedure to be observed in each State for the reception of heads of mission shall be uniform in respect of each class.

ARTICLE 19.

1. If the post of head of the mission is vacant, or if the head of the mission is unable to perform his functions, a chargé d'affaires ad interim shall act provisionally as head of the mission. The name of the chargé d'affaires ad interim shall be notified, either by the head of the mission or, in case he is unable to do so, by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the sending State to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the receiving State or such other ministry as may be agreed.

2. In case where no member of the diplomatic staff of the mission is present in the receiving State, a member of the administrative and technical staff may, with the consent of the receiving State, be designated by the sending State to be in charge of the current administrative affairs of the mission.

ARTICLE 20.

The mission and its head shall have the right to use the flag and emblem of the sending State on the premises of the mission, including the residence of the head of the mission, and on his means

DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES ACT, 1968

...An Act to confer diplomatic privileges and immunities on representatives of foreign states in accordance with the articles of the Vienna Convention, 1961, and on representatives of public international organisations of which Eswatini is a member



Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Thuli Dladi.

of transport.

ARTICLE 21.

1. The receiving State shall either facilitate the acquisition on its territory, in accordance with its laws, by the sending State of premises necessary for its mission or assist the latter in obtaining accommodation in some other way.

2. It shall also, where necessary, assist missions in obtaining suitable accommodation for their members.

ARTICLE 22.

1. The premises of the mission shall be inviolable. The agents of the receiving State may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.

2. The receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.

3. The premises of the mission, their furnishings and other property thereon and the means of transport of the mission shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.

ARTICLE 23.

1. The sending State and the head of the mission shall be exempt from all national, regional or municipal dues and taxes in respect of the premises of the mission, whether owned or leased, other than such as represent payment for specific services rendered.

2. The exemption from taxation referred to in this Article shall not apply to such dues and taxes payable under the law of the receiving State by persons contracting with the sending State or the head of the mission.

ARTICLE 24.

The archives and documents of the mission shall be inviolable at any time and wherever they may be.

ARTICLE 25.

The receiving State shall accord full facilities for the performance of the functions of the mission.

ARTICLE 26.

Subject to its laws and regulations concerning zones entry into which is prohibited or regulated for reasons of national security, the receiving State shall ensure to all members of the mission freedom of movement and travel in its territory.

ARTICLE 27.

1. The receiving State shall permit and protect free communication on the part of the mission for all official purposes. In communicating with the Government and the other missions and consulates of the sending State, wherever situated, the mission may employ all appropriate means, including diplomatic couriers and messages in code or cipher. However, the mission may install and use a wireless transmitter only with the consent of the receiving State.

2. The official correspondence of the mission shall be inviolable. Official correspondence means all correspondence relating to the mission and its functions.

3. The diplomatic bag shall not be opened or detained.

4. The packages constituting the diplomatic bag must bear visible external marks of their character and may contain only diplomatic documents or articles intended for official use.

5. The diplomatic courier, who shall be provided with an official document indicating his status and the number of packages constituting the diplomatic bag, shall be protected by the receiving State in the performance of his functions. He shall enjoy personal inviolability and shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention.

6. The sending State or the mission may designate diplomatic couriers ad hoc. In such cases the provisions of paragraph 5 of this Article shall also apply, except that the immunities therein mentioned shall cease to apply when such a courier has delivered to the consignee the diplomatic bag in his charge.

7. A diplomatic bag may be entrusted to the captain of a commercial aircraft scheduled to land at an authorised port of entry.

He shall be provided with an official document indicating the number of packages constituting the bag but he shall not be considered to be a diplomatic courier.

The mission may send one of its members to take possession of the diplomatic bag directly and freely from the captain of the aircraft.

ARTICLE 28.

The fees and charges levied by the mission in the course of its official duties shall be exempt from all dues and taxes.

Wit & Wisdom

● "People are more difficult to work with than machines. And when you break a person, he can't be fixed."
— Rick Riordan, *The Battle of the Labyrinth*

● "I never change, I simply become more myself."
— Joyce Carol Oates, *Solstice*

● "I lived in books more than I lived anywhere else."
— Neil Gaiman, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*

● "Sometimes it seems safer to hold it all in, where the only person who can judge is yourself."
— Sarah Dessen

● "I do things like get in a taxi and say, 'The library, and step on it.'"
— David Foster Wallace, *Infinite Jest*

● "If I should ever die, God forbid, let this be my epitaph:
THE ONLY PROOF HE NEEDED FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD WAS MUSIC"
— Kurt Vonnegut

● "Any fool can be happy. It takes a man with real heart to make beauty out of the stuff that makes us weep."
— Clive Barker, *Abarat: Days of Magic, Nights of War*

● "It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."
— Arthur Conan Doyle

● "I don't want to be at the mercy of my emotions. I want to use them, to enjoy them, and to dominate them."
— Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

● "We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down."
— Kurt Vonnegut, *If This Isn't Nice, What Is?: Advice for the Young*

● "All we demanded was our right to twinkle."
— Marilyn Monroe

● "You are kind. You are smart. You are important."
— Kathryn Stockett, *The Help*

● "Is 'fat' really the worst thing a human being can be? Is 'fat' worse than 'vindictive', 'jealous', 'shallow', 'vain', 'boring' or 'cruel'? Not to me."
— J.K. Rowling



THERE seems to be an un-attainable and un-reachable feat in popularity which places pressure to current heroes as they are compared to the past ones.

No matter how they fare, exceptionally expeditious as they can possibly be, there is that void; that comparison with the past heroes who seemingly occupy a permanent seat in the minds of many people.

30 YEARS

In my 30 years in different positions/roles in the leadership domain and cultural industries, I have always been confronted with the question/dilemma; that will I ever reach the high grade of 'yesterday' heroes? This question has to be understood within the context of popularity in comparison to those you found in certain spaces.

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

When I started writing poems and plays, there was that thing that, 'Uyabhalika kapha ngokwe ufike kuyihlo O.J. silwane sembhali lezo!' I can imagine what it is to be the son of Jomo Sono, Patrice Motsepe, David Masondo, Doctor Khumalo, etc.

When I became a minister, someone I won't mention called me aside and said, 'uyazama kona Goje sekusale kancane ufike ezingweni labo George.' Yaa! George was the first minister of Tourism! So we are always compared to someone whose 'shoes are too big to fill!' Talk of UNESWA, two names linger on; Professor Sam Guma and Lydia Makhubu.

INDIVIDUALISM

Forgive me to invite my individualism into the debate, perhaps it will make you have a broader understanding of my argument.

If today, I celebrate more than three decades in leadership, but people seemingly believe someone else deserves to be engrained in the wall of fame but me, it means this argument is worth advancing.

'FUTURISTIC' PAST

You are a minister, Member of Parliament, PS, Under Secretary, Ambassador, Director, head teacher, editor, newsreader, reporter, journalist, leader of an NGO, etc, instead of receiving a bucket full of accolades, people seemingly tell you in the face or even conceal it, if you are lucky, that you will never reach the level of your predecessor. This is painful indeed and despairing! On a positive note, it makes you to STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.

The question that always comes to my mind is; are people 'living' in the past? Is it a question of conformity or escapism or both? Or may be *vole* these icons deserve the praise and *vole* are irreplaceable *kutsi nje* it's not easy to accept? The thing is people who 'live' in the past have stubborn faith in their beliefs and are unshakable; in sports, culture, leadership, etc they are not movable. For you to end up winning the battle; 'The Game of Thrones' you have to really fight.

WILL WE EVER REACH THE HIGH GRADE OF 'YESTERDAY' HEROES?

● Forgive me to invite my individualism into the debate, perhaps it will make you have a broader understanding of my argument



Jomo Sono.



Patrice Motsepe.



The late David Masondo.

LEADERS

I was in Ghana in 2010 representing the country in Kwame's 100 years centenary. I wish you were there. In this West African country, they talk of Kwame Nkrumah, the first president, in 1957, as if you will bump into him in some corner of Accra, the capital city. To them, he is the epitome of leadership-nothing more-nothing less.

It is true, over time they warmed up to Jerry Rawlings, another ex-president but Nkrumah still occupies many lips in every mention of the word, 'leader.'

Joachim Chissano in Mozambique fought hard to eclipse Samora Machel because for quite sometime he was under his shadow.

For a long time, to many Mozambicans the heroic icon was Machel because of his struggle credentials and tough stance on Portuguese after independence and radical relations with Moscow.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has had five presidents after independence but Mandela is mentioned in a reverend tone. Mbeki is lucky to be still mentioned in high esteem but Mandela is still on top of them all.

In Burkina Faso, even today they talk of Thomas Sankara who ruled for a short time but brought so many changes. Like many Pan Africanist radical leaders, he died in a hail of bullets.

ESWATINI

Eswatini has had so many leaders but even today many still talk of A.K. Hlophe, Sam Mkhombhe, Arthur Khoza, Albert Shabangu, Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini, Almon Mbingo, MT Khumalo, etc. Some of us were recruited by Albert Shabangu and Maduduza Zwane when they were with SNAT.

They had a powerful strategy/policy (why SNAT stopped this) of recruiting what they termed 'brilliant future' leaders from tertiary into the SNAT family. Since we were in student leadership all our tertiary lives we

were natural choices.

It is not surprising that we ended up in SNAT branch leadership. But still, we have dismally failed to make it to the 'high grade' to the level of being icons. The challenge we have today is leaders who have never been active in student politics i.e. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) but through their academic credentials end up being managers. By now you know the difference between a leader and a manager. In a country where there is no political education, it becomes a nightmare.

JOURNALISTS

In journalism it is the same. Once there is opportunity to talk about the profession familiar names spring up; Bheki Makhubu, Vusi Gimindza, Musa Ndlangamandla, Nimrod Mabuza, Thulani Thwala, etc.

They will tell you Mbongeni Mbingo is (was) the best ever entertainment journalist and editor! Try to make your point at your own peril! Their ears are deafened anyway.

LOCAL RADIO

In local radio, it's the same! They still talk of James 'Imotolo' Dlamini, Marwick 'Days & Weeks' Khumalo, Percy Simelane, Charles 'Sigayoyo' Magongo, Mduduzi 'Comfy' Dlamini, Edward Mtsetfwa, Thoko Mpanza, Joana Masuku, Ray 'Boom-Boom' Dlamini, Percyval Mtjali, etc.

After these stalwarts, nature selected other greats but I can tell you today whenever people are having talks about EBIS, they look back to the past.

SOCCER

How many local soccer stars have we seen in the last two decades? Many. But soccer fans still talk about Timer Mthembu, Scara Thindwa, Abel Shongwe, William Shongwe, Kaizer Zini, Stanley Matsebula, Lloyd Maziya, Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze, Botsotso Khoza, Sipho 'Tholeni' Nkambule, Thobile Thwala, Scara Gama, Toy Manzini, Boy Boy Nyembe etc. And these soccer

fans have a habit of omitting and forgetting others. Truly, truly, I say to you, no goal-keeper born of woman was better than Robinson 'Sparks' Dlakubi when playing for Mbabane Highlanders! OMG, I am also locked in the past. If you can ask soccer fans randomly to name the best five soccer players the kingdom ever had, don't be surprised if they open an old file in the shelf. If you think they would scream, 'Dennis 'Yuki' Masina, Wonder Nhleko, Sibusiso 'Spoko' Dlamini, 'Tony' Tsabedze and Felix Baderhost or Sikhali-you are in for a great surprise! They will list five names neatly packed in the shelves of the local soccer museum!

JOMO SONO

This is everywhere. It's been more than 30 years since Jomo Sono stopped playing football. Wait until you hear old Pirates fans talk! Jomo this Jomo that! You tell them about Steve Lekoele, they remind you of Jomo's 'siza kicks', 'banana kicks' and 'shibobos' and not mention that he spent more than 10 years in his own team, Jomo Cosmos. At least William Okpara is still remembered so is Senzo Meyiwa and Itumeleng Khune, otherwise old horses would bombard your eardrums with Brian Baloyi if you are lucky and if you are not so lucky, they will open an expired file and bring to life Patson 'Kamuzu' Banda and Joseph 'Banks' Setlhodi.

SCHOLARS

I am not a scholar, thus I invite them to help me understand why it is not easy to make people accept and accommodate new heroes but put their foot firmly on the past.

I know I am talking on behalf many people when I say it is not easy to be living in the shadow of others, no matter how you try to matter. But it is life and we have to keep on moving. PUSH: Push Until Something Happens.

Over time they will recognise you and if they don't; RECOGNISE YOURSELF.

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

Eswatini gets Moody's B3 rating

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

MOODY'S Investors Service, ("Moody's") has downgraded the Government of Eswatini's long-term issuer rating from B2 to B3, changing the outlook from negative to stable. The downgrade to B3 reflects Moody's expectation that the deterioration in the government's debt burden and affordability will continue, weakening the sovereign's fiscal strength. According to a report by Moody's the government faces coronavirus-related revenue shock, from a weak position having failed to narrow its deficit to a large enough extent and for long enough to stabilise, let alone reverse, a prolonged increase in its debt burden. Government liquidity risk, which remains elevated and evident in the large stock of government arrears, will continue to constrain growth prospects. External vulnerability is ever present due to the thin foreign exchange reserves coverage of imports.

"The stable outlook at B3 is underpinned by the country's relatively high income levels, which are materially above B3-rated peers, and a relatively well integrated and diversified economy despite its small size. Eswatini's membership in the Common Monetary Area, and peg with the South African Rand provide a policy anchor and supports low and stable inflation, an additional credit strength.

Concurrently, Moody's has maintained the local-currency bond and deposit ceilings at B3 and the foreign-currency bond ceiling at B1, while lowering the foreign-currency deposit ceiling to Caal from B3.

It was also highlighted that the significant deterioration in fiscal strength undermined the sovereign credit profile.

"Persistently large fiscal deficits have contributed to a steady rise in Eswatini's debt burden and deterioration in the sovereign's fiscal strength. In the absence of fiscal consolidation in so far a largely conducive environment, Eswatini's debt burden increased to 43.3 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2019 (ending March 31 2020), up from just 14.9 per cent in 2015.

"The economic and financial implications of the coronavirus pandemic compound Eswatini's fiscal challenges," reads the report. Moody's added that they expect the fiscal deficit to widen to 10 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2020, fiscal year ending March 31 2021, as the economy contracts significantly, resulting in a decline in domestic tax revenue.

"The widening fiscal deficit is driven primarily by lower revenue, as the government's fiscal stimulus package in response to the coronavirus pandemic mainly seeks to re-prioritise spending rather than increase total spending. "The government has taken steps to limit the rise in spending, including through hiring freezes, limiting travel expenditures, and closing spending accounts, which were a source of spending overruns in previous years. However, the spending structure remains relatively rigid, with a large wage bill and high level of transfers, will slow the pace of expenditure-led fiscal consolidation." It is stated.

It was mentioned that larger fiscal deficits would contribute a faster and further deterioration in Eswatini's debt burden and debt affordability.

"Moody's expects the debt-to-GDP ratio will increase to 58 per cent by the end of 2021,

...downgrading of govt's long term issuer rating from B2 changes outlook from negative to stable



with the interest-to-revenue ratio rising to 13 per cent, up from just 4.4 per cent in fiscal 2015. Absent a significant fiscal adjustment, the debt burden will continue to rise in subsequent years, further weakening the sovereign's fiscal strength," Moody's said.

It was further stated that government faces long-standing challenges related to reliance on Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue, which is largely beyond the control of the government and likely to grow at a very slow pace, and institutional weaknesses that limit policy effectiveness related to fiscal consolidation efforts.

Higher SACU revenue will have a temporary stabilising influence in fiscal 2020, but will have the opposite effect in future years as lower SACU revenue weighs on total revenue collection. Moody's expects lower SACU revenue in 2021 and 2022 to slow the pace of fiscal consolidation.

Also liquidity pressure continues to manifest itself through the accumulation of arrears, which weigh on growth prospects. The government's financing plans for fiscal 2020 include a financing gap of 5 per cent of GDP, which Moody's expects to result in a further accumulation of arrears.



Public Service Pensions Fund

Tib Floor Ngweni Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane. P.O. Box 4469, Mbabane.

NO PROOF OF LIFE VERIFICATION IN 2020

The Public Service Pensions Fund would like to advise its Pensioners that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Proof of Life Verification Exercise has been postponed to 2021. This decision has been taken to ensure that Pensioners and Staff Members' lives are not put at risk. Pensioners will be advised in 2021 of the exact dates when the Verification Exercise will be undertaken. The Fund would like to urge all its members to continue abiding by all safety protocols recommended by the Eswatini Government through the Ministry of Health on the prevention of the COVID-19 spread.

KUTE KUVUSETELA BULUNGA KULOMNYAKA WA 2020

Lihhovisi leMhlalaphansi latisa emalunga alo lahola impenisheli kutsi ngenca yalomkhuhlane we COVID-19 kuvusetela bulunga kwalomnyaka wa 2020 sekuchutjelwe embili emnyakeni wa 2021. Lesincumo sitsetfwe kute kuvikelwe imphilo yeMalunga neTisebenti telihhovisi. Emalunga ayokwatiswa ngemnyaka wa 2021 kutsi ngumaphi emalunga lokuyovusetelwa ngawo bulunga. Lihhovisi leMhlalaphansi likhutsata emalunga kutsi ahloniphe imigomo netinchubo tekutivikela kulomkhuhlane letibekwe nguHulumende weSwatini ngeLitiko leMphilo letimayelana nekuvikela kubhebeheka kwalomkhuhlane.

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE
Tel: 2411 9030 / Fax: 2404 2712 www.pspf.co.sz TOLL FREE: 800 2401 email: info@pspf.co.sz

#pspfswatini @pspf_swatini

VITALS

Prime Rate	7.5%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.0%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	7.5%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	4.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.65 per litre
Replacement	E11.70 per litre
Diesel	E12.10 per litre
Paraffin	E7.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 21 JULY 2020

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	16.5799	16.6299
British Pound / SZL	21.0366	21.1000
Japanese Yen / SZL	6.4562	6.4741
Swiss Franc / SZL	17.6626	17.7140
Botswana Pula / SZL	1.4259	1.4468
Australian Dollar / SZL	11.6756	11.7124
Canadian Dollar / SZL	12.2787	12.3139
Euro / SZL	18.9632	19.0404
Gold	1,817.7244	
OI	43.55	

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



Standard Bank

CONTACTS

Qondile Ntiwane
(7806 3568 / 7607 6305)
Bahle Gama
(7806 3351 / 7946 0318)
business@observer.org.sz
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503 / 2404 6463

Pension used as laid off workers' salaries

STORIES BY KWANELE DHLADHLA

SOME companies within the construction industry have resorted to triggering insurance provisions on the workmen's compensation and pension fund provisions to pay laid off workers and those currently at home.

These were part of the remedies used by companies to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Companies surveyed by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) also highlighted effecting salary cuts, notifying clients on project delays and making requests for construction extension in alignment with contract specifications.

This was contained in a report by the CIC on the impact of COVID-19 on the construction industry of Eswatini, aimed to provide a brief synopsis of current industry developments and ascertain possible impacts as the pandemic continued to manifest itself.

The report was also intended at providing information to interested stakeholders who may want to provide some form of assistance or interventions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

Hence, to assess the current industry performance and estimate the impact of the pandemic thus far on the construction industry, selected stakeholders were interviewed.

The report highlighted impacted areas that were considered, which include the current status of business operations, retrenchments,

prices of materials and availability of materials.

The organisation stated that most respondents were not in a position to provide responses on issues that included the impact on finances and future plans due to the COVID-19 uncertainty and non-availability of relevant managers during the time of survey.

"Out of a total of 1 071 contractor and consultant companies registered with CIC during 2019/20 financial year, 55 companies formed part of survey and were mostly those that were operational during the time the COVID-19 pandemic was still unfolding.

"Out of 55 surveyed companies, 28 companies returned questionnaires, which represented a 50 per cent response rate.

"There were limitations faced by the CIC survey team due to non-response and non-availability of most industry players during the period," they said.

"Out of a total of 1071 contractor and consultant companies registered with CIC during 2019/2020 financial year, 55 companies formed part of survey and were mostly those that were operational during the time the COVID-19 pandemic was still unfolding"

...Contractors call for grants, equal distribution of projects

CONTRACTORS in the country have called for provision of grants to cover business loans and equal distribution of proposed projects.

These were some of the recommendations proposed by the industry stakeholders as part of measures to assist mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and ensure that the construction sector recovers post the pandemic.

According to a report compiled following a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the construction industry of Eswatini compiled by the Construction Industry Council (CIC), the stakeholders pointed out that recent developments dictated that business ought to be carried out differently, going forward.

They noted that, a major concern was that the advent of the pandemic occurred in the midst of an already struggling industry that was facing cash-flow challenges due to delayed and non-payment by government to contractors for completed works, declining work opportunities due to low economic growth and due to a few contractors that were preferred for a majority of ongoing construction works.

In their recommendations, the contractors also proposed the granting of work permits allowing expatriates to return to the country to complete works, increased site inspection to strengthen compliance and the provision of compensation for laid off employees.

They further stated that a timely payment for completed works was important during these times as well as the adjustment of prices for construction materials.

Other recommendations included the re-opening of borders, provision of safety measures on site and also import substitution through support of local manufacturers of materials. The CIC highlighted that the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 had culminated in closure of some and scale-down in operations of most construction companies in the construction industry.

They mentioned that the structure of the construction industry was made up of industry players, including contractors, consultants, suppliers and manufacturers of construction and construction related materials and infrastructure project owners. "However, for this report

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATES GETS SAFETY THUMBS UP

BY KWANELE DHLADHLA
Mbabane

CONSTRUCTION Associates (CA) has met and upheld international safety, quality and environmental management standards to which it is certified.

First registered in 1977 with the vision to become Eswatini's top building contractor, CA has reaffirmed its commitment to proactive SHEQ management by complying with best practice standards in its work.

In 2019, CA was certified as having fulfilled the requirements of ISO 45001, ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 by South African Certification and Auditing Services Company (SACAS), joining a select few African companies that have obtained certification to these standards.

The certification means that CA was assessed and fulfilled the requirements of the ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management System, ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System and ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System.

CA Managing Director Arnold Poutwels shared that the company undertakes regular audits with SACAS and with every



evaluation it has been found fully compliant to the standards.

"We are pleased to inform our stakeholders that we remain compliant to the standards as our recent evaluation satisfied the requirements. We are a company that values safety which helps us to provide a safe working environment for everyone working on our projects or people visiting our sites," he said.

He added that their motto was to consistently deliver client requirements through quality, control and discipline.

"You are assured of excellence in performance and quality project delivery every time. Our project portfolio attests to this because of our strong commitment to continual improvement," he said.

The company's completed project portfolio includes a variety of com-

mercial structures and multi-storey buildings, such as The Corporate Place, Woodlands Shopping Centre Mbabane Government Hospital Maternity Wing, Lubombo Referral Hospital, amongst others.

As a 'Category B1' company, a grading which allows unlimited value of works under building contracts, CA is involved as a joint venture partner, responsible for the construction of two of Eswatini's flagship building projects; the International Convention Centre (ICC) and Five-Star Hotel (FISH) in Ezulwini.

Other projects include building a distillery, bridges, culverts, pipelines and water filtration plants. It should be mentioned that all these sustainable projects have had a significant bearing on the socio-economic development of Eswatini.

Only 32% construction companies operating at full scale

OUT of the 55 surveyed contractors and consultants' construction companies, 32 per cent were operating at full scale, while 48 per cent reported to have scaled down their operations.

Scaling down of operations implies that businesses were operating at less than full scale; within the 25-75 per cent operation capacity.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) reported that 16 per cent of construction businesses reported that when COVID-19 was first declared as a

national emergency by government, they shut down operations but had eventually and gradually resumed partial operations at the time of survey.

"However, only a few surveyed companies, about four per cent had completely shut down," it was reported.

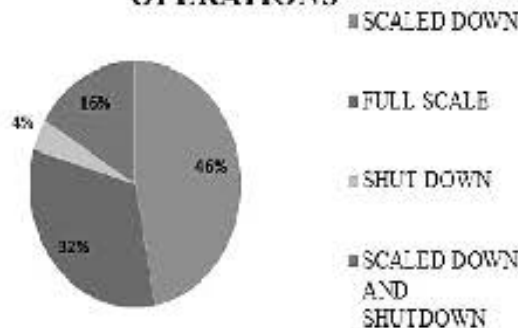
It was further mentioned that an analysis of surveyed companies revealed a mixed response in terms of the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on employment.

"About 32 per cent of companies had not effected any retrenchments from

pre-COVID-19 staff complement and these are companies that were operating at full operational capacity. In addition, 32 per cent of businesses have shed off 50 per cent of pre-COVID-19 total staff complement, 16 per cent shedding 75 per cent, while four per cent shed off 25 per cent of pre-COVID-19 total staff complement," CIC disclosed.

CIC added that only four per cent of businesses had shed off the full pre-COVID-19 complement, as they had completely shut down

STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES BUSINESS OPERATIONS



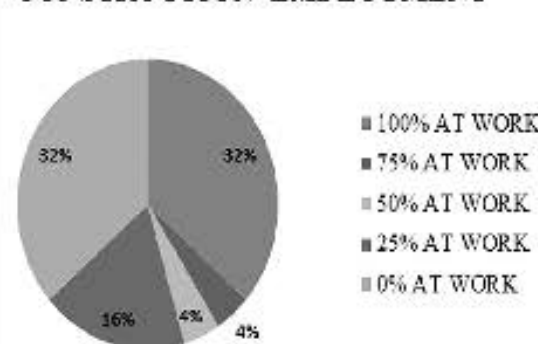
only Contractors and consultants were surveyed as it was difficult to gain access to most industry players as a result of COVID-19.

"At the time of undertaking of survey and writing of report between May to June 2020, the country was still faced with a lot of uncertainties due to the unfolding pandemic, which evidently posed serious threats to sustainability

of the construction industry, going forward.

Furthermore, the pandemic emerged at a time when the construction sector was still reeling from the negative effects posed by low economic and construction activity, fewer work opportunities and delayed and non-payment by government for construction of public projects," reads the report.

COVID-19 EFFECT ON CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT



The council added that efforts were being made to understand companies' future plans, but noted that the challenge was that COVID-19 continued to persist during the survey period hence posing a difficulty for contractors to have definitive plans in place.

"The proposed interventions are to be implemented mainly by CIC and government entities," it was stated.



NEW SBS MD VOWS TO UPHOLD SUPERB CUSTOMER SERVICE

BY KWANELE DHLADHLA

THE newly appointed Managing Director (MD) of Swaziland Building Society (SBS) Mhali Sibanyoni has undertaken to ensure that customer service and satisfaction remains at the core of their business.

The seasoned banker who has been in the banking and financial industry space for over 30 years said, like in any other business, she was cognisant of the notion that for sustainability and business continuity they needed to constantly improve to align with the current needs of their most valued customers.

"Customer service and satisfaction is at the centre of our business," assured Sibanyoni.

The Master of Business Administration holder from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN) who has held the position of General Manager at SBS for three years recounted that she started her career at the then Standard Chartered Bank in 1990.

She then progressed in the banking sector mainly in the credit department, where she ended up being head of credit at Nedbank before moving to Standard Bank under the same portfolio before subsequently joining the Society.

The former St Marks High School pupil said she was really honoured to be given the opportunity to lead SBS as MD.

...our system was successfully implemented and like all systems there were teething problems which have since been resolved

Teams

When asked to share some insight into the late MD Timothy Nhleko, she said he was a visionary leader, who was able to articulate the strategic intent of the business clearly and embedded throughout the executive and management teams.

"I have really enjoyed working with Mr Nhleko, the board and colleagues to reposition the Society for success in the future. SBS is an outstanding company with talented and dedicated people.

"There is much that remains to be done and I am confident that we will rise to the challenge and deliver for our shareholders, customers, employees and society at large in the future," she said.

When asked what had been the challenges faced by the bank as it migrates into the new system and how were they addressed, Sibanyoni said, "our system was successfully implemented and like all systems there were teething problems which have since been resolved."

When further probed as to what values she hopes to bring into the organisation with intent to ultimately meet revenue targets and overall objectives of SBS, Sibanyoni responded, "as a business, we have a set of values (passion, innovation, accountability, openness). These

values I too subscribe to and believe if properly embedded throughout our business, they will enable us to navigate the current VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and Ambiguous) times we live in."

As the second female managing director (MD) to lead a bank in the kingdom, when probed as to what positive spin-offs she thought her appointment brings in the quest for gender equality in the country, Sibanyoni said, "I personally believe in equal opportunities for all based on capability analysis."

SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM VITAE:

Education
High School: St Marks High
Bachelor of Art Social Science: UNESWA 1989
MBA: UKZN 2007
GIBS UNIVERSITY: Senior Management Development Programme
Leadership Development Programme: Stellenbosch University
Post graduate Diploma in Leadership: Stellenbosch University
- Currently pursuing
Work History
Standard Chartered
Nedbank
Standard bank
Swaziland Building Society

Retail sales plummeted to record lows at start of lockdown - Stats SA

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's retail sales for April plummeted to the largest decline on record, Stats SA has announced. Sales were down 50.4 per cent for April 2020 compared to the same month in 2019.

"Seasonally adjusted sales at current prices slumped by almost 50 per cent under level 5 lockdown in April, compared with March. This is the biggest monthly fall in sales since 2002, when Stats SA started publishing monthly growth figures in the current series," Keshnee Naidoo, director for distributive trade statistics at Stats SA, said in a voice note issued in conjunction with the release of the retail sales data.

During April, lockdown restrictions were at level 5, which meant only essential services could operate.

May retail sales declined by 12 per cent, reflecting a rebound as some sectors of the economy slowly reopened.

ly reopened.

The comparisons were based on constant 2015 prices.

Prior to the lockdown, which was instituted on 26 March, retail sales increased by a steady 2.7 per cent in March as a result of panic buying by consumers.

It was expected that the ban on cigarette and alcohol sales during the month of April would impact the figures, according to a note issued by FNB economists prior to the data release. They also expected April's print to be the largest on record. The data for April shows that the biggest contributors to negative growth were textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods retailers; followed by all other retailers; hardware, paint and glass.

The largest contributors to the decline in May were 'other' retailers; food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores and general dealers.

News24

Can record low interest rates give SA's equity market the boost it's been looking for?

PRETORIA - Having had their fingers burnt by the mid-March market bloodbath, many investors took their money out of equities to seek safe haven in money markets and cash, among other things.

Banking group FNB was among those which recorded large deposits coming in from clients around March.

Sanlam Employee Benefits said it experienced 'a steep increase' in requests from members to switch their investment portfolios after the pandemic caused major market crash. Most of them moved their money from aggressive equity heavy portfolios to defensive strategies such as cash.

Given the fresh bruises from equities, the JSE all-share index down 17 per cent year-to-date and cash outperforming South African equities in 2018 and 2019, isn't cash the king to avoid volatility caused by COVID-19?

John Orford, a portfolio manager at Old Mutual Investment Group, said despite its low-risk profile, time for cash and money market investments was over, thanks to record low interest rates.

In South Africa, banks like TymeBank and African Bank, which boasted some of the country's best rates, have revised their annual interest rates. With a repo rate of 3.75 per cent, the lowest since 1973, Orford said during an investment webinar on Tuesday money that flocked into money market funds might soon need 'a home some-

where where returns are better' if central banks cut rates further.

"We've now got the lowest interest rates that we've had in nearly 50 years and it's likely that they could be cut further this week or in coming weeks.

He added while money market investors enjoyed north of 8 per cent in nominal returns in the past three years, if inflation growth picked up, the combination of that and low interest rates would deliver less appealing cash returns.

Orford said this was partly why the world had witnessed a disconnect between the gloomy state in the real economy and equity market performance.

For instance, the JSE ALSI has since recovered 27 per cent from the low of 2 727.86 points it recorded on 23 March despite the surge in coronavirus cases in South Africa and projections by the SA Reserve Bank GDP could contract by more than 32 per cent in the second quarter of 2020. He added the reason for 'little unusual' recovery in a bear market was because of sentiment shifting in favour of equities and expectation that companies' earnings would recover next year.

Old Mutual MacroSolutions, which is expecting real cash returns of just 0.5 per cent this year compared to 6per cent for South African equities, has since been using its cash to buy into companies like Naspers, Shoprite and Anglo American.

It is not alone in this upbeat view.

News24

LEARNING AT HOME

Accounting French D & T Technical Studies Geography

Monday to Friday

LEVEL: JUNIOR LEVEL (JC)

LESSON SEQUENCE: 38

TOPIC: VEGETATION SUB TOPIC: NATURAL VEGETATION IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

RATIONALE: The different areas in the kingdom have different types of vegetation therefore; we study this topic in order for learners to appreciate the beautiful scenery in the country which attracts tourists across the globe and to know its importance.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: Learners should be able to:

- Name the different types of vegetation found in Eswatini
- Describe the types of natural vegetation found in Eswatini
- Describe the uses of the natural vegetation

INTRODUCTION: The natural vegetation of Eswatini consists of mixed savanna, woodland and grassland due to the differences in climate, relief and soil across the different physiographic regions. It is important to protect the indigenous plant species as they are threatened by extinction.

LESSON DEVELOPMENT

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF NATURAL VEGETATION IN ESWATINI

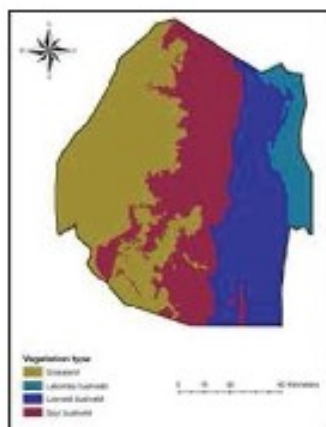


Figure1: The main vegetation types of Eswatini

TYPE OF NATURAL VEGETATION	REGION FOUND
Woodland (Indigenous deciduous forest)	Highveld: in the protected reserves and bushy fields. Subsaharan Range: in the deep ravines.
Savanna: tall grasses interspersed with scattered trees that are taller than during the dry season (trees or shrubs).	Lower Middledveld, Lowveld and Submontane. Matsiwa, where there is dry and warm, sub-tropical climate with seasonal rainfall.
Shrubland: large areas of taller short grasses, flowering plants and trees.	Upper Middledveld and Highveld where the rains are 800-1000 mm.
Sweet grassland: low in feed value and not suitable for grazing animals because the highveld does not receive enough rainfall, making the soil acidic and the vegetation has a thick cover.	Highveld
Mixed grassland: they are highly nutritious because minerals are brought to the soil surface instead of being washed downwards by rainfall.	Lowveld
Mixed grassland (pearl and sweet) however, the original vegetation has been replaced by crops since the rain is less than 1000 mm for agriculture.	Middledveld
Overgrazed	Highveld

Table1: distribution of vegetation

USES OF NATURAL VEGETATION IN ESWATINI

- **Ecosystem support:** Natural ecosystems prevent soil erosion and land degradation, they filter nutrients and serve as a defence against pests, diseases and natural disasters.
- **Food and beverages:** Edible wild plants supplement many people's diets, e.g. Edible vegetables (imbuya, chuchuzza), roots (Umjumbula), bulbs and tubers, fruits (guavas, emantulwa), seeds (Acacia Karroo roasted for coffee), and nuts (emagodomane).



Figure2: Acacia Karroo

- **Health and beauty:** the wild plants are used for traditional medicines, as repellents, for treatments of wounds and skin conditions, for perfume and for making soaps and cosmetics. For example, leaves of umsutane are used as mosquito repellent, guava leaves as medicine for stomach ache and

the seeds of the maginisa bush used to make soap.

- **Crafts:** Indigenous plants used to make dyes and tans, for construction materials, for basket making and for weaving, thatching, carving and making brooms, e.g. lukhwane for making sleeping mats and handicrafts.
- **Pharmaceuticals:** important drugs are made from plants and can become an important source of revenue for the country.



Figure 3: Lantana Camara, a medicinal plant

- **Grazing:** Grasslands support large herds of animals, especially the sweet grassland of the Lowveld can support livestock throughout the year.



Figure4: livestock grazing

CONCLUSION: The lesson was on identifying the types of natural vegetation in Eswatini, where they are found and their uses.

ASSESSMENT

1. What are deciduous plants? (1)
2. Give three types of natural vegetation found in Eswatini. (3)
3. Suggest five uses of natural vegetation in Eswatini. (5)

SEND US A COMMENT AND FEEDBACK ON OUR LESSONS

- FRENCH EPC, JC & IGCSE
- D & T JC & EGCSE
- PREVOC TECHNICAL STUDIES
- BOOK KEEPING / ACCOUNTS JC & EGCSE
- GEOGRAPHY JC & EGCSE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY PAGES 20-24

ESWATINI
Observer

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Check Feedback Corner every Fridays



FICHE PEDAGOGIQUE

Niveau : Form 5

Thème : Parler de son lieu de vie

Compétences : Compréhension Ecrite et Production Ecrite

Logique : L'élève sera capable de parler de son lieu de vie

Objectifs : A la fin de la leçon, vous devez être capable de

1. dire où vous habitez
2. mentionner différentes activités dans différents lieux
3. demander aux autres où ils habitent
4. Ecrire un texte sur votre lieu d'habitation.

Étape 1

La maison est un type de lieux où on peut vivre. Regardez l'image d'une maison ci-dessous.



Lisez le texte d'une jeune fille qui décrit la ville où elle habite.

Je m'appelle Mphumle. J'ai 17 ans et j'habite à Siteki. Siteki est ma ville. C'est une petite ville située dans le sud-Est du Swaziland. La ville est petite, il y a quelques magasins, des bureaux, un grand hôpital.

En ville, il n'y a pas beaucoup de maisons car la ville est très petite; juste quelques maisons sur la rue. La ville est entourée des villages.

La ville est dans la région de Lubombo, elle n'est pas très loin des frontières avec le Mozambique et l'Afrique du sud.

Exercice 1:

Lisez les phrases et écrivez vrai ou faux.

1. Siteki est une ville.
2. Siteki est en Afrique du sud.
3. Siteki est une grande ville.
4. Siteki a peu de maisons en ville.
5. Lubombo est une ville.
6. Lubombo est dans le sud-est du Swaziland.
7. Lubombo est à côté de Mozambique.

Étape 2

Mphumle explique précisément où elle habite:

Avec mes parents, nous habitons dans la ville même de Siteki, sur l'avenue principale qui va jusqu'au marché.

Il y a beaucoup de belles maisons, et nous, nous habitons dans un appartement.

J'aime mon quartier car il y a des magasins, un grand supermarché et ce n'est pas loin de l'arrêt des bus.

Il n'y a pas de cinéma, pas de piscine, et pas de centre de divertissement pour les jeunes.

Mais moi, je suis contente de rester ici, dans cette ville qui est entre la campagne et la ville.

Exercice 2

Répondez aux questions.

1. Où précisément habitent Mphumle et sa famille?
2. Quel type de logement la famille loge-t-elle?
3. Pourquoi aime-t-elle ce quartier? (Écrivez deux raisons)
4. Quels sont les inconvénients de cette ville? (Donnez deux)
5. Comment se sent-elle de vivre au milieu de la campagne et la ville?

Étape 3

On peut habiter à la campagne. Regardez les images ci-dessous qui caractérisent la vie à la campagne.



L'oncle de Mphumle habite à la campagne. Lisez son texte ci-dessous.

Mon oncle, lui, habite au village. Il aime le calme de la campagne. Là, il écoute seulement les chants des oiseaux et les cris de ses animaux, car il a une ferme.

Dans la ferme de mon oncle, il y a des vaches, des chèvres, des moutons et des poules. Il y a aussi un grand champ de maïs à côté des bananiers, des manguiers et des avocats. Il s'occupe toujours de ses arbres fruitiers et de ses troupeaux. C'est très reposant d'aller vivre chez mon oncle pendant le congé.

Sa femme, Takhona, travaille dans la ferme pendant toute la semaine. Elle s'occupe du poulailler et des cultures.

Elle préfère se rendre en ville pendant son temps libre pour se détendre. Elle déteste la campagne, elle déteste la vie paysanne.

Exercice 3

Répondez aux questions.

1. Où habite l'oncle de Mphumle?
2. Est-ce que c'est le silence total à la campagne?
3. Qu'est-ce que son oncle a comme biens?
4. Quel est le moment idéal pour aller chez son oncle?
5. Entre la vie en ville et la vie à la campagne, qu'est-ce que Takhona préfère? Pourquoi?
6. Quelle est le travail de son oncle?
7. Quelle est l'occupation principale de sa femme?

Étape 4

On peut aussi habiter dans une grande ville. Regardez l'image suivante d'une cité.



Maintenant, Mphumle veut se renseigner sur la cité de Dakar, où sa tante habite. Elles se parlent par téléphone.

Mphumle : Allô, tante Jacqueline!

Tante : Allô Mphumle! Ça va?

Mphumle : Assez bien tante.

Tante : Tu arrives quand à Dakar?

Mphumle : Bientôt, tante. Mais d'abord parle-moi de ta ville.

Tante : Bien, Dakar est une très grande ville industrielle et commerciale. Il y a beaucoup de circulation, beaucoup de bruits et trop de monde. Malgré cela, j'aime cette ville parce qu'elle est située au bord de l'océan atlantique et c'est une très belle ville.

Mphumle : Où habites-tu exactement, tout près de l'océan?

Tante : Oui, j'habite dans un quartier de haute classe de Dakar, Plateau. Il y a beaucoup de jeunes de ton âge qui s'amuse à la plage pendant le week-end.

Mphumle : A part la plage, qu'est-ce qu'il y a d'autre d'intéressant pour les jeunes de mon âge?

Tante : Le cinéma, la bibliothèque, le musée, le gymnase et bien d'autres activités de loisir pour ton âge.

Mphumle : Et tes enfants, mes cousins, seront-ils à la maison pendant les vacances?

Tante : Non, malheureusement. J'habite seule dans la maison. Tous les deux habitent dans un appartement tout près de l'université.

Exercice 4

Répondez aux questions.

1. Quels sont des inconvénients de la ville de Dakar, selon la tante?
 - a) Le bruit
 - b) Le manque de verdure
 - c) Le manque de sécurité
2. Pourquoi la tante de Mphumle aime-t-elle cette ville?
 - a) Parce qu'elle est belle
 - b) Parce qu'elle est proche de l'océan
3. Que font les enfants aussi âgés que Mphumle le weekend?
 - a) Ils vont à la plage
 - b) Ils vont au cinéma
 - c) Ils vont à la bibliothèque
4. Dans la ville, quelles autres activités peut-elle faire? Choisissez la meilleure réponse.
 - a) aller voir un film, faire de la natation, lire un roman à la bibliothèque
 - b) Lire un livre à la bibliothèque, regarder un film, fréquenter un théâtre
 - c) aller voir un film, faire la lecture à la bibliothèque, fréquenter un musée
5. Pour voir ses cousins, où est-ce que Mphumle va-t-elle aller?

Exercice 5

Maintenant écrivez un texte sur votre lieu d'habitation.

Mentionnez:

- Si c'est en ville ou à la campagne?
- Le type d'habitation?
- Les activités pour les enfants?
- Les avantages et désavantages?

Réponses possibles

Exercice 1

1. Vrai
2. Faux
3. Faux
4. Vrai
5. Vrai
6. Vrai
7. Vrai

Exercice 2

1. Sur l'avenue principale (qui va jusqu'au marché)
2. Un appartement
3. (Any)
4. (Any)
5. (Any)
6. Il y a un grand supermarché
7. Il y a des magasins
8. Il n'est pas loin de l'arrêt des bus
9. Il n'y a pas de piscine
10. Il n'y a pas de cinéma
11. Elle est contente.

Exercice 3

1. A la campagne/ Dans une ferme/ Dans un village
2. Non, il y a les chants des oiseaux et les cris des animaux
3. Il a dans sa ferme: des vaches, des chèvres, des moutons et des poules.
4. Pendant le congé.
5. La vie, pour se détendre
6. Fermer
7. Elle s'occupe du poulailler et des cultures.

Exercice 4

1. a) Il y a beaucoup de circulation
2. b) Il y a trop de monde
3. c) Il y a beaucoup de bruit
4. Elle aime cette ville parce que
5. Elle est située au bord de l'océan atlantique
6. C'est une très belle ville
7. Ils s'amuse dans la plage
8. a) Ils vont à la plage
9. b) Lire un livre à la bibliothèque, regarder un film, fréquenter un théâtre
10. c) aller voir un film, faire la lecture à la bibliothèque, fréquenter un musée
11. b) Pour voir ses cousins, où est-ce que Mphumle va-t-elle aller?

GLOSSAIRE – GLOSSARY

Entouré - surrounded
Divertissement - Entertainment
Un chant - song
Des cris - Cries
De haute classe - High class / elegant
Un manguiers - mango tree
Un bananier - banana's tree
Biens - property

Se détendre - To relax
Paysanne - peasant
Un gymnase - gym
Le logement - housing
Le quartier - the district
Inconvénients - disadvantages
Avantages - advantages / Benefits
Au milieu - between

Caractérisent - characterize
Se renseigner - ask about
La cité - the city
Selon - according to
Meilleure - better
Fréquenter - to frequent
L'arrêt - stop
Malgré - despite
Précisément - precisely

PREVOCATION TECHNICAL STUDIES FORM 4

WOODWORK CARPENTRY (LESSON 1)

1. PREPARED BY: Collins Simapapa
2. TOPIC: Classification of timber
3. LESSON RESOURCES

For this lesson, you will need a two-quire note book, pen, coloured pencils.

4. RATIONALE:

To you, the learner, to have adequate knowledge and understanding of how a tree grows, felled, transported as logs, identified and classified, so that you can select and use the right type of timber for your tool bodies, furniture production and building construction purposes.

5. LESSON OBJECTIVES:

By the end of lesson, learners should be able to:

- Describe how a tree grows, felled and transported to processing mills.
- Identify and describe the parts of a tree.
- Describe the function of each part of the tree.
- Distinguish between the soft and hardwoods.
- Identify and use soft and hardwood to produce an artefact.

6. What is timber?

Timber is a natural product of solid wood from a tree which has been sawn to sizes suitable for the furniture production and building construction industries. It is felled in the forest to get logs and transported to the saw mill by so many ways. Felling is a process of cutting down trees.

TRANSPORTATION

When the trees have been felled in the forest, logs are cut into the required sizes. In the beginning the logs were pulled by oxen to the side of the road or near the river ready to transport them to saw or paper mills. Later in the late 1800 and early 1900, the high-wheel loader was used to strap the logs beneath and load them in the truck.

In the 1930s the oxen were replaced by tractors. The cheapest form of transport is the use of river's current to float floating tree trunks down stream, by either log driving or timber rafting. However, some logs sink because they have a high content of resins and they are called deadheads. Cable logging, which involves a yarder, is also used to pull the logs along the ground from the forest to where the truck is waiting to load and transport them. The other form of transport used is a heavy-lift Helicopter. It removes the cut trees from the forest using cables attached to it to the log loading bay. Some of the transportation methods are shown below.

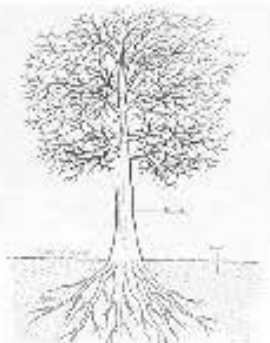
7. The study of timber can not be complete without studying the living tree.

THE TREE

The life of a tree begins very much like that of any other plant. To the Carpenter And Joiner it is the plant which produces the material that forms the basis of the Craft, namely wood (or timber). The growth of a tree is affected by soil and the climate in which it grows. Soil has a considerable effect on the texture of timber. While climate influences the rate of growth which, in turn, affects the uses to which the timber can be put.

The growth cycle is not the same in all trees. To begin with, these trees which produce timber for commercial use are called 'exogens' (outward growers). This means the additional growth which grows every year takes place on the outside of the stem (or trunk) just underneath its bark, while the inner most continues to mature. This period of annual growth begins in spring and ends in late summer.

A. PARTS OF THE TREE



B. FUNCTIONS OF THE PARTS OF THE TREE

(i) ROOTS

- The roots anchor the tree firmly into the ground.
- They absorb water and mineral from the roots to the leaves.

(ii) TRUNKS

- Trunk or stem conducts sap from the roots, stores food and supports the crown (i.e. branches and leaves).

● THE CROWN

- The crown consists of the branches, twigs and foliage (leaves). The main function of the leaves of the crown is to process the solution of the water and mineral salts into food for the tree. The food is produced by a process called 'Photosynthesis'. The leaves absorb daylight energy, via the green pigment (chlorophyll) and convert a mixture of carbon dioxide from the air and water or sap from the roots.



However, during darkness this process is reversed. The leaves take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide and this is known as respiration. Transpiration is a process of a tree losing water to the surrounding area.

8. Timber is classified into two groups. Mention these groups.

- (a) Softwoods
- (b) Hardwoods.

9. CLASSIFICATION OF TIMBER

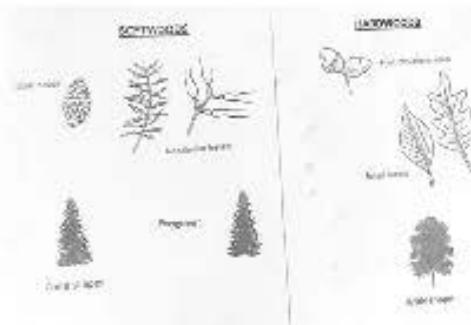
CHARACTERISTICS OF SOFT AND HARD WOODS

NO.	SOFTWOODS (CONIFER TREES)	HARDWOOD (DECIDUOUS TREES)
1.	Seeds are enclosed in a cone	1. Seeds are enclosed in the fruit
2.	Long needle-like leaves	2. Broad leaves
3.	Ever green leaves	3. Deciduous (shed leaves in winter)
4.	Easy to work on	4. Hard to work on
5.	Green shaded	5. Broad and wide shades
6.	Grows mainly in colder and cooler temperate climates	6. Grows in warmer temperate climates
7.	Grows quickly	7. Grows slowly
8.	Cheap to buy	8. Expensive to buy

SOFTWOODS

10. TYPES OF SOFT AND HARDWOODS.

The following are some of the examples of softwoods: South African Pine, Spruce, Redwood and Douglas fir, while the hardwoods are: Meranti, Saligna, Mahogany, Teak, Beech and Acacia. However, this lesson will focus on the following woods: South African Pine, Spruce, Douglas fir, Saligna and Meranti



(a) SOFTWOODS:

(i) South African Pine (S.A.P.)

- This timber is found in South Africa
- CHARACTERISTICS OF S.A.P.
- It is creamish or cream white in colour
- It is open grained
- It usually has got knots

ADVANTAGES OF SOUTH AFRICAN PINE

- It is cheap
- It is strong and fairly durable
- It is readily available
- It has straight grains
- It can be easily worked on
- It is easily obtainable
- It receives nails, glues, screws and stains well
- It also receives finishes such as paint and varnish well, especially after being sealed with sanding sealer.

DISADVANTAGES OF SOUTH AFRICAN PINE

- Knots affect the appearance and strength of timber
- It is not very attractive
- It sometimes has a bluish stain from a harmless fungus

USES OF SOUTH AFRICAN PINE

- It is used in building construction works
- It is used in making furniture
- It can be used as a substitute of hardwood is stained.

(ii) WHITEWOOD (SPRUCE)

CHARACTERISTICS OF WHITEWOOD (SPRUCE)

- Plain creamy white
- ADVANTAGES OF WHITEWOOD (SPRUCE)
- Fairly strong
- Easy to work on
- Very resistant to splitting

DISADVANTAGES OF WHITEWOOD (SPRUCE)

- It has small hard knots
- It contains resin pockets
- It is not durable

USES OF WHITEWOOD (SPRUCE)

- General inside work
- Whitewood furniture

(iii) DOUGLAS FIR

- This type of wood is commonly found in Canada and United States of America.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DOUGLAS FIR

- Attractive reddish brown
- Cream sapwood
- ADVANTAGES OF DOUGLAS FIR
- Available in long and wide boards
- Knot free
- Straight grain
- Slightly resinous, therefore water resistant
- Fairly strong, tough, durable and easy to work

DISADVANTAGE OF DOUGLAS FIR

- Splits easily
- Open grain with pronounced annual rings

USES OF DOUGLAS FIR

- General construction work, masts, ladders, plywood.

- (b) HARDWOODS
- (i) MERANTI

Meranti grows mainly in Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MERANTI

Dark red or pale brown in colour

ADVANTAGES OF MERANTI

- Red meranti is like mahogany but cheap

DISADVANTAGES OF MERANTI

- It does not receive very well.
- It can be difficult to varnish if not sealed.
- It can be fairly hard to work with and tend to blunt tools

USES OF MERANTI

- It is used for interior joinery and for making furniture
- It is used in construction works
- It can be used for facing plywood
- It can also be used for outdoor work if properly sealed

(iv) GOMU (SALIGNA)

Saligna is indigenous to Australia. It grows well in Eswatini especially in the Middleveld. It is classified under the eucalyptus trees.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SALIGNA

- These are different species, but it is usually reddish or dark brown

ADVANTAGES OF SALIGNA

- It is hard, close grained and straight grained
- It takes finishes well
- It is durable
- It is fast growing

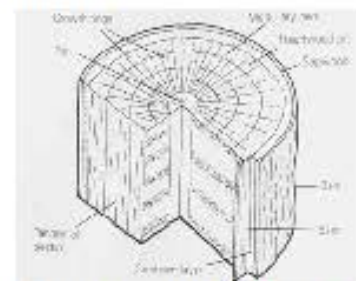
DISADVANTAGES OF SALIGNA

- It can split and warp easily
- Some species can be hard to work, needs to be laminated in thin strips to minimise warping.
- It needs a lot of water when growing

USES OF SALIGNA

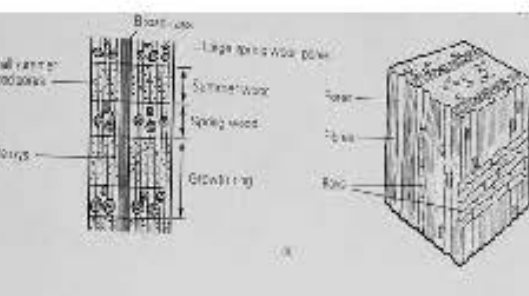
- For making furniture
- It can also be used for structure works.

11. THE STRUCTURE OF A TREE



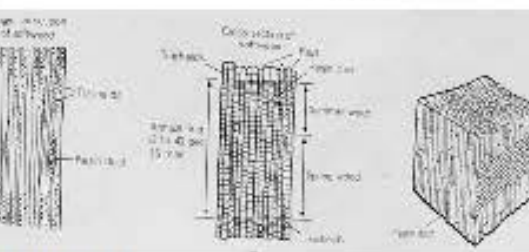
The structural parts of a tree are common in both hardwoods and softwoods. Apart from these, there are some structures that are peculiar to hardwoods and are not present to softwoods, and vice versa.

- The hardwood is composed of pores, fibres, paracyma, or soft tissue and rays. See the figures below:



- The structure of softwoods (non-porous woods), is simpler than that of hardwoods. It consists mainly of two types of cells, namely tracheids and rays. The softwoods do not have pores and fibres in their structure. See the illustrations below.

NOTE: The most used timbers in Eswatini are, saligna, meranti and S.A.P.



12. YOUR ACTIVITY

Copy, as your notes, the pieces of information from sub-headings 6-13. Do not sketch the illustrations, but cut them out and paste them in position in your notes, where necessary colour them as well.

13. REFERENCES

- Dlamini S. et al (2008), Junior Secondary Design and Technology (Learner Book), Macmillan Botswana.
- Sackey J. K. N. (1999), Woodwork Technology, Macmillan
- Brian P. (2002), Carpentry and Joinery, Edward Arnold.
- Carlton C. et. (1989), Design and Technology, Thomas Nelsons and Sons Ltd (UK).

SUBJECT: BOOKKEEPING
SUBJECT CODE: 520
JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS: 2018 – 2020
TOPIC: THE TRIAL BALANCE
LESSON 27

BOOKKEEPING

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, learners should be able to:

1. Define a trial balance
2. Explain the purpose of a trial balance
3. Enter transactions in the ledger from subsidiary books, balance ledger accounts and prepare a trial balance.

INTRODUCTION

A trial balance is a list of balances extracted from the ledger at a particular date. At this point, you can now record transactions in the books of accounts observing double entry, post them to the ledger and balance the accounts. It is important to remember that the trial balance is not part of the double entry system but simply a list of debit and credit balances. If all entries have been entered, posted and balanced correctly, the debit balances should be equal to the credit balances.

PURPOSE OF A TRIAL BALANCE

- To check the correctness of the double entry system (whether accounts were debited or credited correctly?)
- To check the accuracy of recording
- To check the accuracy of calculations when balancing accounts

EXAMPLE

Let us record Nicola's transactions in the correct subsidiary books, post to the ledger, balance accounts and extract a trial balance as at 31 January 2020.

Nicola started her own business on 1 January 2020. The following is a list of her transactions for the month of January 2020.

- January 1 Started business with E3850 cash.
 2 Paid E3500 of this opening cash into a business bank account.
 4 Invoice received from E414 from D. Bellin.
 5 Bought machinery, paying by cheque, E2500.
 7 Bought goods for resale paying cash, E323.
 10 Sold goods on credit to E595 J. Adams.
 11 Nicola took goods from inventory for her own use, E98.
 12 Returned goods to D. Bellin, E70.
 19 Sold goods for cash, E328.
 22 Bought computer on credit from TVC Ltd, E1450.
 24 Made payment to D. Bellin by cheque in full settlement after deducting E44 cash discount.
 29 Paid wages E530 to employee by bank transfer.

Let's identify subsidiary books for each transaction: Jan- 1-cash book, 2-cash book, 4-purchases journal, 5-cash book, 7-cash book, 10-sales journal, 11-general journal, 12-purchases returns journal, 19-cash book, 22-general journal, 24-cash book, 29-cash book.

Date	Details	Fo.	Disc.	Cash	Bank	Date	Details	Fo.	Disc.	Cash	Bank
Jan 1	Capital			3850		Jan 2	Bank	c		3500	
2	Cash	c			3500	5	Machinery				2500
19	Sales			328		7	Purchases			323	
						24	D. Bellin		44		300
						29	Wages				530
						31	Balance	c/d		355	170
				4178	3500					44	4178
Feb 1	Balance	b/d		355	170						

Date	Details	Fo.	Debit	Credit
Jan 4	D. Bellin			414
31	Debit purchases a/c		414	

Date	Details	Fo.	Debit	Credit
Jan 10	J. Adams		595	
31	Credit sales a/c			595

Date	Details	Fo.	Debit	Credit
Jan 12	D. Bellin		70	
31	Credit purchases returns a/c			70

Date	Details	Fo.	Debit	Credit
Jan 11	Drawings		98	
	Purchases			98
	Goods taken for personal use.			
Jan 22	Computer		1450	
	TVC Ltd			1450
	Computer bought on credit			

Nicola's ledger for the month ending 31 January 2020							
Date	Details	Fo.	Amount	Date	Details	Fo.	Amount
GENERAL LEDGER							
			Capital account				
			Jan 1 Cash 3850				
			Sales account				
			Jan 19 Cash 328				
Jan 31	Balance	c/d	923	Jan 31	Debtors		595
			923				923
			Feb 1 Balance b/d 923				
			Machinery account				
Jan 5	Bank		2500				
			Purchases account				
Jan 7	Cash		323	Jan 11	Drawings		98
Jan 31	Creditors		414	Jan 31	Balance	c/d	639
			717				717
Feb 1	Balance	b/d	639				
			Wages account				
Jan 30	Bank		530				
			Purchases returns a/c				
			Jan 31 Creditors 70				
			Discount received a/c				
			Jan 31 Debtors 44				
			Drawings account				
Jan 11	Purchases		98				

			Computer a/c			
Jan 22	TVC Ltd		1450			
			TVC Ltd account			
				Jan 22	Computer	1450
PURCHASES LEDGER						
			D. Bellin a/c			
Jan 12	Purchases returns		70	Jan 4	Purchases	414
Jan 29	Bank		300			
Jan 29	Disc. received		44			
			414			414
SALES LEDGER						
			J. Adams account			
Jan 10	Sales		595			

Date	Details	Fo.	Debit	Credit
	Cash		355	
	Bank		170	
	Capital			3850
	Sales			923
	Machinery		2500	
	Purchases		639	
	Wages		530	
	Purchases returns			70
	Discount received			44
	Drawings		98	
	Computer		1450	
	TVC Ltd			1450
	J. Adams		595	
			6337	6337

ACTIVITY 1

Record the following transactions of P. Phopho for the month of February in the relevant subsidiary books, post to the ledger and extract a trial balance as at 29 February 2020.

- Feb 1 Started business with E20 000 cash.
 Feb 2 Deposited E15 000 cash into the bank.
 Feb 5 Office computer bought by cheque E2500.
 Feb 8 Goods bought from M. Moon E3000 (less 20% trade discount and S. Stars E2500).
 Feb 10 Rent paid E800 cash.
 Feb 11 Office stationery purchased for E100 cash.
 Feb 14 Invoice received from M. Moon E1500.
 Feb 15 Credit sales to D. Khumalo E1000 less 10% trade discount.
 Feb 18 Paid S. Stars E2375 by cheque, E125 was given as cash discount.
 Feb 20 Goods returned to M. Moon E50.
 Feb 24 D. Khumalo paid by cheque E800.
 Feb 28 Goods bought from S. Sky E2000 less 15% trade discount.
 Feb 27 Returned goods to S. Sky that were worth E500 before deducting trade discount.
 Feb 28 Bought pens and pencils for E20 cash.

(Solution will be available in lesson 28)

CONCLUSION

This lesson reminded us that, the cash book consists of two accounts: the cash account and the bank account. The trial balance is a list of balances extracted from the ledger, prepared on a particular date to check the accuracy of double entry. Remember that an amount of an account with a balance brought down (b/d) on the debit side is placed on the debit column of the trial balance. An account with a balance brought down (b/d) on the credit side is placed in the credit column of the trial balance. If no errors have been made, the total debits should be equal to the total credits.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY JC – LEVEL

RESISTANT MATERIALS

TOPIC: Threading
LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- State what threading is?
- Name the tools used to make internal threads.
- Name the tools used for cutting external threads.
- Name the devices for holding threading tools.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome dear learner to our Eswatini Observer Virtual learning forum. This is a lesson brought to you by a team of design and technology school teachers. Our topic today is on Threading.

Screwing is a temporary method of fastening parts together. Methods of cutting screw threads include the use of the centre lathe. For bench work, however, taps and dies are used.

Taps and dies are tools used to create screw threads, which is called threading. Many are cutting tools, others are forming tools. A tap is used to cut or form the

female portion of the mating pair (e.g. a nut). A die is used to cut or form the male portion of the mating pair (e.g. bolt). The process of cutting or forming threads using a tap is called tapping, whereas the process of using a die is called threading.

COMPARISON OF THREAD CUTTING



TAPS:

A great variety of thread taps are available with varying advantages and disadvantages:

Taper Tap (8 - 10 Tapered Threads)



and are typically what you will have in a tap and die set.

A taper tap has quite a lot of taper to help it ease into cutting threads gradually. Typically, the first 8 to 10 threads are tapered. Taper taps are the most common types of taps

The second tap is in between the taper tap and the bottoming tap because they have 3 to 5 threads tapered, which is more than a bottoming tap less than a taper tap. This is used to deepen threads started by the taper tap. It is also used to finish threading holes drilled right through thicker material.



Bottoming Tap (1 - 1.5 Tapered Threads)



with a taper tap first, and then finish the bottom of the hole with a bottoming tap.

A bottoming tap has almost no taper at the end because it is designed to thread all the way to the bottom of its reach. Bottoming taps are useful for threading blind holes. It's desirable to thread most of the hole

TAP WRENCH:

A tap wrench is a hand tool used to turn taps or other small tools with square shanks.



Cutting internal threads using the tap and tap wrench

DIES:

There are two types of dies, split and solid. The most common dies you will find are solid dies, these are good for most general use. A split die is intended for when you are making very extensive cuts, especially in hard materials. A split die is a die, usually round, which is cut on one end, and there is a little set screw threaded in between the split. The metric sizes range from M3 to M24 in a set, but it is more usual to have a smaller set in the workshop.



DIE HOLDER / STOCK:

The diestock or holder is used for holding the die when cutting external threads.



Cutting external threads using a stock and die

LESSON SUMMARY:

- Taps and dies are tools used to create screw threads.
- There are 3 types of taps- Taper, Second and Bottoming.
- There are 2 types of dies- Split and solid.
- A tap wrench is used for holding taps when cutting internal threads.
- A die stock / holder is used for holding dies when cutting external threads.

SELF ASSESMENT QUESTIONS:

1. What are taps used for?
2. How many taps are provided in each size? Name them.
3. Produce a sketch of a tap wrench.
4. What is a tap wrench used for?
5. What are dies used for?
6. Name the 2 main types of dies.
7. What is a die stock used for?
8. Produce a neat sketch of a die stock.

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- D & T JC & EGCSE
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MONDAY TO FRIDAY PAGES 20-24

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Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Ramaphosa signs new law to tighten border control

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday finally signed into law the Border Management Authority Bill.

This was confirmed by the Presidency said in a statement.

The bill was passed by the National Assembly in March after it was returned for concurrence after the National Assembly passed it with amendments.

"The legislation addresses a need identified by government and diverse stakeholders in the economy for an integrated and well coordinated border management service that will ensure secure travel and legitimate trade in accordance with the Constitution and international and domestic law," the statement said. The Presidency said the new Border Management Authority

would replace the current challenge of different agencies and organs of government all playing different roles in managing aspects of border control.

"The integrated authority will contribute to the socio-economic development of the Republic and ensure effective and efficient border law enforcement functions at ports of entry and borders."

The Presidency also said the new law provided for the establishment, organisation, regulation, functions and control of the Border Management Authority, the appointment of its Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners and officials.

The new legislation also provided for their terms of office, conditions of service and functions and powers.

"Furthermore, the law provides for the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Consultative Committee, Border Technical Committee and advisory committees, for the review or appeal of decisions of officers, and the definition of certain things offences and the levying of penalties.

"The legislation therefore contributes to the security of the country and the integrity and ease of trade and the general movement of persons and goods in and out of the country," the Presidency added. *iol news*

Anti-apartheid struggle stalwart Mlangeni dies

PRETORIA - Struggle stalwart and the last surviving Rivonia Trialist Andrew Mlangeni has died. He was 95.

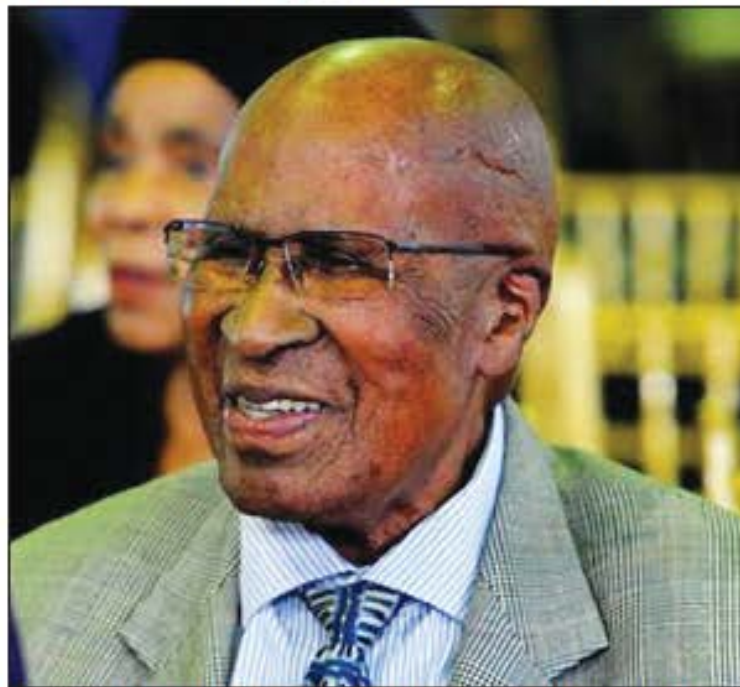
In a statement, President Cyril Ramaphosa said he had learnt "with deep sadness of the passing away overnight" of Mlangeni.

The ANC stalwart was admitted to 1 Military Hospital in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, on Tuesday following an abdominal complaint.

Ramaphosa said: "The passing of Andrew Mlangeni signifies the end of a generational history and places our future squarely in our hands. 'Until recently, we were able to sit at Bab' Mlangeni's feet and draw on his wealth of wisdom and his unfailing commitment - even at his very advanced age - to a better life for all South Africans."

"With his passing as the last remaining Rivonia Trialist, Bab' Mlangeni has indeed passed the baton to his compatriots to build the South Africa he fought to liberate and to reconstruct during our democratic dispensation. 'He was a champion and exemplar of the values we need to build a South Africa that provides dignity and opportunity for all and which takes its rightful place in the global community of nations."

"My thoughts are with the Mlangeni family today and with all who have had the blessing of meeting and being touched by Bab' Mlangeni's passion for achieving a better society as well as his passion for a life that is well-rounded, adventurous, healthy and embracing of people from all walks of life," Ramaphosa said. Mlangeni was born on June 6, 1925 - the ninth child in a family of fourteen. In 1951, he joined the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) and in 1954 he joined the ANC. In 1961, he was among the first to be sent for military training outside the country.



RIP: Struggle stalwart and the last surviving Rivonia Trialist Andrew Mlangeni.

According to South African History

Online, on his return in 1963, he was arrested after state witnesses told the court that he was one of the people responsible for recruiting and training an armed force. He was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island along with former president Nelson Mandela, Denis Goldberg, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada and several other struggle icons. *News24*

Agrizzi stands by his state capture claims against Mokonyane

JOHANNESBURG - Former Bosasa COO Angelo Agrizzi on Tuesday said that he stood by his state capture story and only wanted the truth to come out.

Agrizzi reacted to former Cabinet minister Nomvula Mokonyane's blanket denial of all the damning allegations he has made about her at the state capture commission of inquiry.

Quoting William Shakespeare during an interview on Radio 702, Agrizzi said: "The lady doth protest too much, methinks" - a line from the play Hamlet. He said that he would be stupid to take on a for-

mer Cabinet minister if he was not sure of his facts. Agrizzi also denied claims that he had a sexist agenda against Mokonyane, and said that his legal team would be taking up these allegations.

During her testimony at the commission on Monday, Mokonyane said that it was a lie that she was paid to influence the Hawks and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to drop investigations into Bosasa. Among the most damning allegations made by Agrizzi was that Mokonyane was paid R50 000 every month to quash Hawks investigations into Bosasa corruption.

But the former minister denied the claims.

"In so far as Angelo Agrizzi is saying about my influence and the arrangements with Advocate [Nomgcobo] Jiba and Anwa Dramat, I've never had that kind of relationship [with them]," Mokonyane said. She also denied that Bosasa didn't take her son to a rehabilitation programme on her request, but because he was picked up on the streets.

Mokonyane said Agrizzi was confusing her two sons, and that showed that he didn't know her family.

EyeWitness News

Two Cabinet ministers in hospital due to COVID-19

DURBAN - As South Africa's COVID-19 infections continue to soar, Cabinet Ministers Gwede Mantashe and Thulas Nxesi have both been hospitalised due to COVID-19 a week after they had tested positive for the virus.

Mineral Resources Minister Mantashe was admitted into hospital on Monday at the advice of a family doctor. His wife, Nolwandle, who is also COVID-19 positive, is recovering at home. had contracted the virus.

"We will continue to give the Mantashe family all the support they need during this time. We wish both Minister Mantashe and Mrs Mantashe a speedy recovery from this invisible enemy and we are quite confident that they will emerge victorious against the coronavirus," said Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu.

Yesterday the country's confirmed COVID-19 positive cases reached 373 628 while there have been 5 173 deaths caused by the virus.

On Tuesday, Labour Minister of Employment was admitted to hospital after spending time in self quarantine at home having tested positive for the virus last week.

"His admission to hospital comes on the advice of his medical doctors, in order for him to have access to better medical attention and proper monitoring," Mthembu said.

Nxesi and Mantashe now form part of a list of other ANC leaders from around the country who tested positive for the Coronavirus, including Gauteng Premier David Makhura, North West Premier Job Mokgoro and Newcastle Local Municipality Mayor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba. Last week the Presidency said that Nxesi had tested positive for the first time following a fourth round of tests since the outbreak of the virus in the country. Other members of the executive who have also tested positive for the Coronavirus also include

Political Bureau

'Govt has not committed to fund SAA rescue plan - Tito Mboweni

THE South African Government has not committed to fund a restructuring plan for struggling South African Airways (SAA), Finance Minister Tito Mboweni said in court papers on Tuesday.

Administrators took over SAA in December after almost a decade of financial losses, and last week creditors approved the restructuring plan, which requires at least R1-bln of new funds, on the understanding the government would find the necessary cash.

Mboweni said in an affidavit filed in the

High Court that funding options the government might explore included approaching institutions for investment of pension funds, private equity or other partners who might want a shareholding in a restructured SAA. The minister was responding to a court case launched by opposition party the Democratic Alliance, which wants to block

Mboweni from using emergency powers to channel more public funds to rescue the airline. Mboweni and Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan sent a letter last week to SAA's administrators committing to "mobilising funding" for the plan.



REVEALS: Finance Minister Tito Mboweni.

Focus on World News

Global News

Trump says virus in US will get worse before it gets better

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump warned on Tuesday that the "nasty horrible" coronavirus will get worse in the U.S. before it gets better, but he also tried to paint a rosy picture of efforts to conquer the disease that has claimed more than 140 000 American lives in just five months.

He also professed a newfound respect for the protective face masks he has seldom worn. He pulled one from his pocket in the White House briefing room but didn't put it on.

After a three-month hiatus from his free-wheeling daily virus briefings, Trump returned to the podium, keeping the stage to himself without the public health experts who were staples of his previous events but keeping close to scripted remarks prepared by aides.

Besides declaring support for masks as a way to fight the pandemic, he admonished young people against crowding bars and spreading the disease.

It all marked a delayed recognition by Trump that the economic reopening he's been championing since April — and, more importantly, his re-election — were imperiled by spiking cases nationwide.

AP

Biden pledges free Pre-school as caregiving proposal

NEW CASTLE, Del. - Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden outlined a sweeping plan on Tuesday aimed at breathing life into the coronavirus-battered U.S. economy by investing US\$775 billion in caregiving programmes for children, the elderly and the disabled.

As part of the proposal, which Biden said would create five million jobs, he pledged to provide all three-year-old and four-year-old children access to free preschool. He also promised to make it easier for aging relatives and loved ones with disabilities to receive home or community-based care. "We're trapped in a caregiving crisis within an economic crisis within a healthcare crisis," Biden told educators at a campaign event in New Castle, Delaware. *Reuters*

GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS CASES EXCEED 15 MILLION

SYDNEY/LONDON - Global coronavirus infections surged past 15 million on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally, with the pandemic gathering pace even as countries remain divided in their response to the crisis.

In the United States, which has the highest number of cases in the world with 3.91 million infections, President Donald Trump warned: "It will probably, unfortunately, get worse before it gets better."

The top five countries with the most cases is rounded out by Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa. But, the Reuters tally shows the disease is accelerating the fastest in the Americas, which account for more than half the world's infections and half its deaths.

Globally, the rate of new infections shows no sign of slowing, according to the Reuters tally, based on official reports.



After the first COVID-19 case was reported in Wuhan, China, in early January, it took about 15 weeks to reach 2 million cases. By contrast, it took just eight days to climb above 15 million from the 13 million reached on July 13.

Health experts stress that official data almost certainly underreports both infections and deaths, particularly in countries with limited testing capacity.

The official number of coronavirus

cases at 15 009 213 is at least triple the number of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to World Health Organisation data, while the death toll of more than 616 000 in seven months is close to the upper range of yearly influenza deaths.

With the first wave of the virus still to peak in several countries and a resurgence of case numbers in others, some countries are reintroducing strict social distancing measures

while others relax restrictions.

Stung by low approval ratings for his handling of the epidemic and downplaying the risks during the early stages, Trump made a significant shift in rhetoric on Tuesday, encouraging Americans to wear a face mask.

While the epidemic worsened in the United States, Trump's focus ahead of a presidential election in November has been on reopening the economy, and governors in the hard-hit states of Texas, Florida and Georgia continue to push back hard against calls for stricter restrictions.

In Brazil, more than 2.15 million people have tested positive including President Jair Bolsonaro, and more than 81 000 people have died. While Bolsonaro has played down the outbreak, its scale has made Brazil a prime testing ground for potential vaccines.

Reuters

Zimbabwean Government pleads for forces ahead of protest

HARARE - Security sector chiefs in Zimbabwe have warned soldiers, police, air force and prison officers against insubordination, as calls for mass demonstrations on July 31 mount.

Civic society and the opposition in Zimbabwe are gathering support to demonstrate against corruption and a failing economy. This is at a time when President Emmerson Mnangagwa has put in place a 6pm-to-6am COVID-19 curfew.

In a statement, Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said the country's security arms were troubled by social media pleas from the public urging them not to obey orders.

"We have noted with concern recent social media postings urging members to disregard lawful orders, commands and instructions given by their commanders while performing duty," he said.



WORK WITH US: Security forces in Zimbabwe have been warned against insubordination ahead of the July 31 protests.

He said the messages were a propaganda tool to "cause alarm, despondency and divide the security services."

Government workers, including the military, police and Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) earn less than US\$50 (R850) a month - although security officers get more favourable COVID-19 allowances compared to

nurses and teachers.

Police officers that spoke to TimesLIVE said morale was low because of the meagre salaries and they are going to be deployed to police their families and friends who are faced with the same situation.

"How do you expect us to tell our friends what to do when we are hungry like them? In the past, we have

had police officers also taking advantage of the chaos - especially during the January 2019 riots, where colleagues engaged in looting," said one officer.

Journalist-activist Hopewell Chin'ono and opposition politician Jacob Ngarivhume, leader of Transform Zimbabwe, were on Tuesday arrested on allegations of urging Zimbabweans to rise up.

Their arrests have drawn worldwide condemnation.

The Elders, an international non-governmental organisation of public figures and elder statesmen, said in a statement: "We are closely monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe following the arrest of an opposition activist and local journalist. Inclusive dialogue and national renewal is only possible in a climate of transparency, trust, freedom of speech and rule of law."

Sowetan Live

BRIEFS

'No evidence of meddling in vote'

LONDON - There is no evidence of Russian meddling in the 2016 Brexit referendum and Britain's spies did not take their eyes off the ball on Russia, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said on Wednesday.

"There needs to be some evidence that there's an issue there - which there isn't," Shapps told Sky when asked if there should be a further investigation of possible Russian meddling in the European Union referendum.

The British parliament's intelligence and security committee said in a report published on Tuesday that there were open source indications that Russia had sought to influence the Brexit campaign. *Reuters*

'Mnangagwa declares curfew in Zim'

HARARE - President Emmerson Mnangagwa said that from yesterday security forces should enforce a dusk to dawn curfew in Zimbabwe as part of measures to curb the spread of coronavirus. In a speech to the nation on Tuesday evening, Mnangagwa said that social, religious, and political gatherings remained banned. He said that for the first-time, local transmissions of COVID-19 were now exceeding imported ones. Lockdown restrictions were massively eased in Zimbabwe since the first lockdown imposed on 30 March. In addition to the dusk-to-dawn curfew, businesses would now have to close by 3pm and inter-city travel remained banned. *AP*

Michael Cohen seeks release from jail

NEW YORK - Michael Cohen, US President Donald Trump's former lawyer, asked a federal court on Monday to release him from prison, saying he was put back behind bars in retaliation for stating his plan to publish a book about the president.

Cohen was released from a federal prison in May due to concerns over exposure to the novel coronavirus.

He had completed about a year of a three-year sentence for his role in hush money payments to two women, as well as for financial crimes and lying to Congress about plans to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. *Reuters*

Hospitals 'overwhelmed' by COVID-19 surge

ANTANANARIVO - Hospital officials in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo say they are struggling to cope with a rush of coronavirus patients despite the distribution of a herbal drink touted as a remedy by the president.

President Andry Rajoelina has been promoting an infusion derived from artemisia - a plant with proven anti-malarial properties - as a homegrown cure for COVID-19.

He has brushed off warnings by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that there are no published scientific studies of the drink - which has been called Covid-Organics - and that its effects have not been tested.

AFP



CHURCHES MUST UNITE IN PRAYER - PRINCE MASITSELA

PRINCE Masitsela has said this is the time when the Church needs to unite and pray to God to heal our land from the coronavirus.

Prince Masitsela said there was nothing that is above God, stating that if the body of Christ would come together in prayer, the pandemic will be defeated. He was speaking at the National Church in Lobamba yesterday during the Somhlolo Festival of Praise service. The service was streamed live on all local electronic media, as well as a number of social media platforms.

The Prince represented the King as an observer at the service. He said he was not given a message to deliver at the service but was tasked to observe. He said the speech was his opinions and observations based on his knowledge of how His Majesty felt about the church which he said he is passionate about.

He said for His Majesty to command that such a service be conducted on the special day of King Sobhuza II birthday was a sign that he attaches importance to the issues of religion. "The National Church is a very important part of us as a nation, mainly because it was commissioned by King Sobhuza II, who said this will be a place wherein the nation would gather in prayer whenever there was something that troubles the nation. For His Majesty to command to be in this place, shows how he is seriously concerned about this pandemic. His Majesty believes that when we gather in this manner and cry before God, we will definitely find a solution," he said. The prince said Eswatini are blessed to have a King who loves and recognises God at all times. He said the



UNITE: Prince Masitsela making his remarks during the Somhlolo Festival of Praise Service at the National Church yesterday.

King's wish is for the nation to be healed from the pandemic. "Because our King knows that God is the source of all things, he has commissioned this service which follows a sequence of similar services where we prayed as a nation. Ours is to believe that God will answer our prayers as we gather in prayer. Our King puts God first in all he does, hence as a nation we must recognise and honour our King as per the command from God. I am a testimony that when you pray sincerely to God especially in this church God, really answer the prayers," he said.

The prince also urged the nation to honour the King with the peace he constantly asks as a gift from the Eswatini. He said the source of peace was God in Heaven. The service was attended by a number of

church leaders and congregants from various denomination. The service ensured that the social distancing of two metres between congregants was observed, sanitising and the wearing of masks was also observed. Preachers on the day included Bishop Dorah Mabasa, Bishop Dlamini, Reverend Matron Thwala, Reverend Jane Ndaba and Reverend Simon Ndzima. Prayer sessions were conducted by Bishop Stephen Masilela and Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini, the Senate President, while Reverend Mandla Dlamini gave the vision and background of the Somhlolo Festival of Praise.

Home Affairs Minister Princess Lindiwe who was joined by Princess Lomathemba and senior government officials from the ministry were also in attendance.

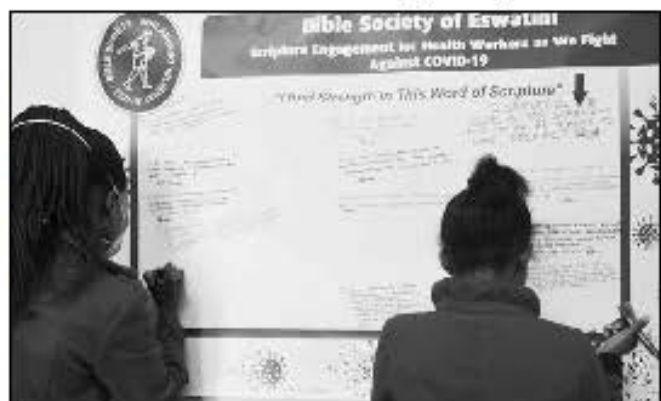
Bible Society Eswatini opens spiritual healing for frontline workers

IN an effort to give moral and spiritual support to the health-care workers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bible Society Eswatini is making visits to various health centres to engage health care workers on the Bible understanding.

The purpose of the sessions, according to Bible Society Project Coordinator Cebile Simelane is to get the health care workers to open up and speak about the inspiration they get from the Bible, as they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic on their day to day work. She said such sessions are helpful to the health care workers because what has transpired is that they do not have time to reflect and talk to

each other about the effects of the pandemic on a daily lives.

She said the most critical issue is that of safety, as they also feel vulnerable at times because they have to deal with people some of whom tend to be positive cases. "We have received positive feedback from the health workers who has shown keen interest in the sessions and have come up with a number of scriptures which they say inspire them as they go about with their duties," she said. Meanwhile, Pastor Lawrence Simelane, who is the assistant to project coordinator said they have visited a few institutions and are looking forward to going to more, especially those who are dealing with the pandemic.



WRITE: Nurses writing the Scriptures from the Bible which give them strength as they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in their various places of work during one of the sessions.



BY PASTOR VICTOR MACDONALD

PROVERBS 24:11-12

Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watching over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?

Sunday evening used to be the only time I don't feel so much pressure. Having preached the day before, I am generally in an easy mood. So, one of the Sundays, I sat down with my son and watched Schindler's List, the award-winning Nazi movie directed by Steven Spielberg. Schindler was a German businessman who was accredited to saving more than a thousand Jews by hiring them in his factories.

THE REGRETS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

At one point those factories were just "bogens cover" that gave Schindler what looked like a legitimate platform to "buy Jews" in order to preserve them from certain death. He was awarded "Righteous of the Nation", one of Israel's highest awards. The saddest part of the movie for me was at the very end when the war had ended and Schindler was standing with the Jews he had saved.

You would have thought that he should be happy having saved more than a thousand people from death. But Schindler was weeping. What made him cry was not what he had achieved but what he could have achieved. It wasn't the Jews he saved that made him cry; it was the Jews he didn't save that broke his heart. I could have done more, I could have saved more Jews was his cry. Here is a "righteous man sobbing in regret."

On Saturday, I drove to BAPHIWE CLINIC at Mvutjini to be tested for Coronavirus. While there, waiting for others to be tested also, I saw the dangers that health workers pass-through trying to save other people's lives. I saw how the lady took her time to talk to every patient and still answer their questions. Convincing those who tested negative to take precautions to always use their

masks most especially, when they are with people.

I thank God for using such people to save lives. When I asked for the Siswati meaning of BAPHIWE, I was told that it means that "we have been given sons - by God". So, Mrs Ivonne Kayoni is like Mr Schindler who saved the lives of the Jews; today, she's saving the lives of Eswatini.

Then my mind left Kayoni and Schindler and focused on us. What are we doing today that will leave us to sob in regret when our last day comes? First, "I could have Witnessed More; Soul winning has to fall on hard ground. The prosperity preachers and teachers have succeeded in a complete takeover of evangelical Christianity changing its mission from "winning souls" to making money.

I remember the days when soul winners were everywhere. They did not let you rest. Today, you can go a month and have no one confront you about the state of your soul. Our churches have become halls for making money instead of incubators for souls. When our last day on earth finally arrives, we will look at the folks saved from hell and sob in regret? I am sure they will be weeping gnashing of teeth for the

righteous.

Many will cry "I could have won more souls", "I could tell someone about Christ Jesus". Second, "I could have Given More." The eschatological clock is moving so quickly. Within the last twenty years, technology has moved so quickly that the technological framework for the Anti-Christ is fully and firmly in place. Now there is a global pandemic, followed by global racial riots. Who knows what's coming next? Any discerning person can discern that we are running out of days. One of these days the rapture will take place and folks will get to heaven leaving behind great wealth in their accounts on earth. Then there will weep and gnashing of teeth.

I could have given more will be the cry of many, I could have tithed more, I could have given more, for soul winning and real missions. But it will be too late. Third, I could have Prayed More. The full power and efficacy of prayer will be fully revealed to us on the other side of eternity. When we get there and see the much that our little prayers accomplished on this side of the Jordan, there will be weeping and gnashing of

teeth.

I would have prayed more, I would have fasted more. These will be the sad echoes of righteous regret. But it will be too late. Kayoni and Schindler made me stop and think. What can I change now so I don't experience the weeping and gnashing of the teeth of the righteous? I am going to share my faith more and reach the lost. I will give more to missions. I will pray more. I will help more people. I will convince my partners to give more food to the needy. I will give more scholarships. I will pray more for those Doctors and nurses who are toiling day and night to save lives. I will pray more for those who are at the forefront of the fight against crime (the Police). I will pray more for wisdom and understanding for those in Authority.

What about you?

BAPHIWE, God has given us more sons to take care of. How many people do you care for? How many people are you using your position to help? How many have you assisted? In case, you have forgotten, there are sons and daughters that God has put under your care.... BAPHIWE.



REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS



Comedian Diamond here to stay

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

UPCOMING comedian Diamond is determined to claim a stake in the industry through positively impacting the people.

The 20-year-old comedian produces work that inspires and motivates comedy lovers to continue supporting the industry.

He is concerned that many artists are fond of dissing each other on social media platforms instead of spending time creating quality work. "Entertainment, comedy specifically, is my middle name."

"I wish to be a recognised entertainer, not only in Eswatini but worldwide. People out there need amusement to relax their mind and I'm ready to cater for their interests."

"My two unique strengths are comedy and acting. Both as you would notice are based on flaunting one's talent."

"There is no better way that empowers people than each individual being told of his or her strengths," Diamond, real name Mancoba Dlamini, said.

He hails from Esikhaleni Selusekwane near Lwandle in Manzini.

Diamond said his love for comedy and acting was developed in 2010 whilst doing Grade Four.

There was an event at his school and he decided to be part of the comedy production.

"It so happened that I was cast as the main character and that was a dream come true for me. I performed so well some people began asking where this talent had been hidden. My best was yet to come though as several years later whilst at Ngwane Park High School, I was crowned the funniest pupil."

"That was during the speech and prize giving day. From then, I never looked back and now run a successful meme page @diamond-memes on Facebook and through this I constantly share my work with the people," he said.

He describes his memes as insightful and uplifting. To him, comedy is now a lifestyle as he looks at pursuing his studies in comedy and acting soon.

Diamond's work is constantly paraded on Facebook and Instagram.

SWAMAs MUST BE MORE INCLUSIVE - NEWCOMERS

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

NEWCOMERS in the music industry have come out to say they would love to see a more inclusive MTN SWAMA Awards ceremony this year.

The country has seen an influx of artists in the music industry, who have made a name for themselves.

Seeing that the pandemic has affected a number of events, these artists felt the awards ceremony should not be cancelled.

They said they would love to see a ceremony that includes almost every artist in the industry.

Most said they would like to remain anonymous for personal reasons, but they plead with authorities not to cancel the awards.

"I believe that these awards help us do better. They encourage us to work harder and in general help celebrate the hardworking artists. I would really love to be part of these awards as well because it would be my first time and I would love to find out what I would need to improve as an artist," said one singer.

Another singer said she would love to witness local artists being awarded for their great work.

"It does not matter that we couldn't perform, but music was still being made and artist deserve to be rewarded for their work, especially during these times," she said.

One deejay said although it would be hard to host the event but if the



WINNERS: Buddy Masango was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award last year. (C) Mzwaa won Best Collaboration for Lutsandvo featuring Velemseni. (R) Sands performs at last year's ceremony.



awards team decides to go ahead, they should make sure they include every music genre.

"With all the logistics that are needed to host anything online, we understand that it would be hard for them to host it but it is doable. It is also important that we understand the situation that artists are going through right now."

"We need every income we can get, especially for us comers. It is hard to make it in this industry without the pandemic, so with lockdown rules in place it is even worse for us," he said.

Some artists believe that the country needed to host the awards ceremony because it would cost less

organisers will save a lot of money because they will not need many things.

"This in turn will help artists and we beg SWAMA to look into adding the awards prizes," she said.

Although SWAMA has not taken a stance whether the awards will be hosted or not, artists seemed hopeful that it would be at least hosted online.

The awards have seen many artists being awarded for their work in the industry.

Last year, they were held in December and artists walked away with awards, big winners of the night included Nothando Hlophe, Popzin and Antidote Music stable.

"I believe that these awards help us do better. They encourage us to work harder and in general help celebrate the hardworking artists"

and that would mean more money for the winners.

"There is always a silver lining to every bad situation, and I believe that in this situation it is that the

Another music video from Zoe Genesis

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

YESTERDAY was a special day for Zoe Genesis as he dropped a new music video.

The song is dubbed 'Phree' featuring Oxygen.

"It was so humbling to see people approach us to tell us they can't wait for the video," said. The song, according to Zoe, is an African love song that speaks about allowing a connection to set you free. And it speaks to allowing it to be beautiful.

"I just wanted to do things differently and spell 'Free' in my own way. So I decided to substitute the 'F' with 'Ph' because the pronunciation is the same," she said.

Genesis mentioned that they squatted for unpopular locations around the country that can easily be manipulated. They chose locations in Manzini and Mbabane.

She said the video will be available on YouTube. Speaking to MTN Spotlight finalist Oxygen, he shared that he was happy about the release of the music video.

He said he had always wanted to work with

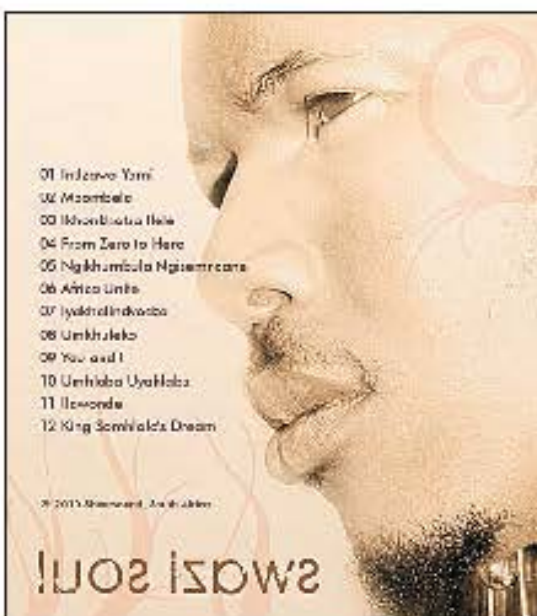


Director Kwenu. The quality and sound of the video and song, respectively, are other things that make him happy.

"This is all means a lot to me because my team is progress oriented and they make sure that

things get done, and working with Zoë Genesis was an amazing experience.

"Her ideas and work ethic are something that made it easier for me to also push myself in terms of working harder," he said.



01 Indzawo Yami
02 Mzombela
03 Mzombela Hela
04 From Zero to Hero
05 Nkhumbula Ngwenyane
06 Africa Unite
07 Nyakholo Indzawo
08 Umkhuleko
09 You and I
10 Umkhoba Uyakholo
11 Ilawonda
12 King Sombela's Dream

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BHOLOJA'S 'INDZAWO YAMI' ON THE RIVER

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

EVEN after spending years in the music industry, Bholoja is still raising the Eswatini flag high.

The singer's single 'Indzawo Yami' was featured on one of South Africa's most watched soapies *The River*.

This also became one of the country's many proud moments as social media users congratulated the singer.

The *River* is a South African television series created by Phathu Makwarela and Gwydion Beynon. It is an M-Net original production produced by Tshedza Pictures.

Bholoja has hoisted the flag of Eswatini since he started his music career.

He has become one of the country's biggest exports from the arts industry. The song featured on the series is part of his esteemed album 'Swazi Soul,' which was recorded in France in 2009. He has made collaborations with a number of local and international artists as well. His growth as an artist has seen him share the stage and studio with great names in the music scene, such as Hugh Masekela, Erika Bach, Jimmy Dindhu, Sipho 'Hotsticks', Judith Septhuma, Tshepo Tsola, Ray Phiri, Nqubeko Mkhata, Bhaka Mkhethwa, Nduduzo Matse, Floewe, Switch, Fanaza, KrTC, Lokua Kanza, Tony Cox, Steve

Newman, Kalid Kuen, Vincent Bucher, Tao Rawao, Oliver Mkhudzi, Freshly Ground, Kimle Ayo, Simphiwe Dana and many more. Bholoja has won countless awards. These include Best Upcoming African Musician 2009 Artist at Visa Pour la Creation hosted by Culture France.

Best Swazi Album (Swazi Soul) 2010 South African Traditional Music Achievement (SATMA) Best Album (Swazi Soul) 2012 Swaziland Tlhlabani Awards Artist of the Year 2012 and Swaziland Tlhlabani Awards. For three consecutive years, he won the Best-Selling Swazi Artist and Most Popular Swazi Artist categories, also at the Swaziland Tlhlabani awards.

80 Script is back

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

AFTER a long break, 80 Script is back in the music scene.

This was confirmed by the artist on Tuesday.

He mentioned that the industry hasn't been the same since he left.

"Immediately when I posted that I was back into the music, Eswatini couldn't hold back but exchange thoughts of what I meant.

"I know it can easily come across as delusions of grandeur, but to be honest, the game was not the same without me. It's like the game needs a leader, a pioneer, a trailblazer. But on a good note, we have a rich new vein of talented young artists. They just need to start making bigger moves and take the culture further than me. I changed the game and now watch me do it again," he said.

He said he took a break to get his private life in order.

"Now it's the perfect time to start anticipating a project. I've got plenty of music in the bag already because I've been recording in isolation but over and above that, I've grown the enterprise during my absence," he said.

Furthermore, 80 Script revealed that he has started producing his own songs.

"I co-manage a huge company under the stewardship of a great leader and mentor, I've entered the film space, and I've been writing a book.

"So, there's a lot to expect from me. I didn't leave the game for fun. I left it because I needed a new answer for the question of 'What is my motivation?'" he stated.

"I have no regrets. I stood up for something that I felt was the right thing to do at the time. Even if my method or approach may have been offside. I don't even care if I was right or wrong in my claims. I've moved on with my life

and I'm doing great where I am. Other than that, I said what I said at the time. I can't take it back.

"I can only learn from the whole episode, and move on. The one thing I can say I lost from it was a good harmony with a good dude I used to do good business with. That's why, if you're reading this, I just want to say I'm sorry bro. We did a lot of great things together. Godspeed," he said.

80 Script further mentioned that one lesson he learnt was that music was an all or nothing type of industry.

"It's like running a business. You have to be willing to do it hard and diligently even when the money, the following, the likes, the retweets and all aren't coming in yet. You also learn a great deal of patience because you never know when the hit song or the big break is coming.

"I wish to share more about my story in an upcoming special I am doing with Mangaliso 'El Foe' Masilela. As far as achievements are concerned, I'm one of the most accomplished artists in the kingdom and I feel like I'm just getting started. My life has

been renewed, so I get to do it all over again, but bigger this time, much bigger," he shared.



Ms Africa finalist Zinhle doing her part

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

MS Africa finalist Zinhle Xaba is working hard to secure her place in the finals.

Xaba, who joined the competition via Facebook, said she was honoured to have also acquired sponsorship from local organisations.

She said since she was looking for sponsors to help strengthen her chances of winning, she said she needed partnerships with non profit organisations as she would have to raise E35 000 for the African Foundation.

So far she has received sponsorship from Phumula Guest House Manager Antonette Reid.

"The sponsorship package is accommodation whenever I need it and a venue for my photoshoots and any event I want to host around Nhlalanga for the Ms Africa pageant," she said.

She also said she was currently doing her charity work around Njlanini, which included distributing sanitary towels to those in need.

"I can use the guest house for my photoshoots. A pageant journey requires a lot of photoshoots for my profile, articles and magazine features, so I am blessed to have a free venue for them. I can have different themes as they have a garden, a very big space, which is their wedding venue and a conference space,"



WORKING HARD: Ms Africa finalist Zinhle Xaba

she said. She said the sponsorship has made her life easier, as she would be able to do half of the work conveniently, which would also help her spike her chances of winning the competition.

"I would like to thank Phumula Guest House manager Antonette for believing in my journey.

This sponsorship means a lot and I will do everything in my power to make them proud. Phumula staff as a whole has been so good to me and I am hoping for a long term relationship with them," she said.

"My agency Esinamandla Entertainment and Promotions Agency and I have designed my campaign T-shirts, which will be sold for raise funds for the char-

ity drive and also enhance my pageant fees," she added.

Xaba said the T-shirts were sold to everyone who was willing to support her pageant journey.

"They will also be used in the events that are in the pipeline, including family days for fundraising. They cost E130 each, you place your order with us at 7681 2612/796 47984," she added.

Xaba is a 23-year-old lady currently studying at the University of Eswatini, Kwaluseni campus.

"I love photography and modelling. I take pictures at every chance I get," she said.

The crowning for Ms Africa might be held in November if all goes well.

Duke Deep to release Dark Podtape Episode

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

ESWATINI DJ Duke Deep will be dropping his project dubbed; 'Deep and Dark Podtape Episode' on August 4.

This was revealed by the artist yesterday.

"If you are a fan of melodic techno or international Deep House and trance music, this is the right place for you. The podcast was launched on May 8 and the support has really been amazing from all over the planet," he said.

The mixes are uploaded on his YouTube channel and on hearthis.com. The first episode of the pod-tape was played on

Tshwane FM the past weekend.

The talented young deejay signed under Kitsu Music, has been receiving a lot of international attention for his online mixes.

"I'm very happy because lots of people will get to know more about the Podtape, and will also be encouraged to put more effort on my hustle and everything I do concerning my music career," he

added.

Duke Deep is a purveyor of melodic techno, trance and Afro deep house spiritual dance grooves and a feel-good atmosphere. His emotive and groovy selections are his own therapy.

For him, it's all about introducing new music to different crowds and playing music that gets you tapping your feet and nodding your head without realising it, regardless of the tempo, release date and genre.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

'SK KHOZA A VICTIM OF REVENGE PORN'

MIDRAND - The Queen star Sthembiso "SK" Khoza has apologised for video clips and photos of him and naked woman that trended on social media.

While they have been deemed scandalous by users, revenge porn such as sexually explicit material that is leaked online is illegal in SA and those found guilty of such a crime could be fined a hefty R300 000.

In a public apology issued to his family, Mzansi Magic and Ferguson Films for embarrassing them, Khoza said: "This past weekend, inappropriate video images of myself were leaked online and I would like to profusely apologise to my family, friends, employers and fans for embarrassing them



and myself.

"I have put Ferguson Films, my family, and Mzansi Magic in a position I totally regret and wish I could take back. My actions were unacceptable and I can only beg for forgiveness," Khoza continued.

But legal expert Hannes Brouwer of Cavanagh & Richards Attorneys tells Sowetan that according to the Films and Publications Amendment Bill signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa last October, Khoza and the women in the clips are

victims of revenge porn.

"If the person is not identified/cannot be identified in the publication [a person found guilty will get a] fine not exceeding R150 000 or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both," Brouwer explained.

"If the person is/can

be identified in the publication [a person found guilty will get a] fine not exceeding R300 000 or imprisonment not exceeding four years or both."

According to the Bill, revenge porn is defined as "any person who knowingly distributes private sexual photographs and films in any medium, including through the internet, without prior consent of the individual or individuals and where the individual or individuals in the photographs or films is identified or identifiable in the said photographs and films, shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon conviction."

Mzansi Magic declined to respond to Sowetan questions on the leaked material that featured one of their talents and what the channel's stand on revenge porn was.

"It's a matter you need to raise with the Fergusons," said Philly Kubheka, head of PR and publicity for local entertainment channels.

The Queen showrunner Lauren Nell failed to respond to Sowetan's email, text and call on the matter.

"Sorry signal [is] really bad. Can't hear you," said Nell in a text after her cellphone line cut off. (Sowetan LIVE)

Nicki Minaj confirms pregnancy

HOLLYWOOD - After months of speculation, American superstar Nicki Minaj has finally revealed to the world that she is pregnant with her first child.

The musician confirmed the good news with a series of snaps on social media on Monday, including one on Instagram of her dressed in an elaborate bikini, clutching her baby bump.

She simply captioned the post: "preggers."

In perhaps one of the most artistic snaps from the glam maternity shoot, she is seen dressed in a silver veil, as she holds her baby bump in front of a kaleidoscope. Nicki also thanked fans for their support and well-wishes. It may not come as too big a shock to her fans, especially after she announced late last year that she was retiring to start a family. "I've decided to retire and have my family. I know you guys are happy now. To my fans, keep reppin me, do it until the death of me," she wrote.

This will be Nicki and hubby Kenneth "Zoo" Petty's first child together. According to New York Times, the rapper hinted in June last year that she planned to marry Kenneth, and in August changed her Twitter name to Mrs Petty.

Of course, the internet was overjoyed by the news and quickly filled timelines with messages of congratulations, earning Nicki a spot on the local Twitter trends list. (Sowetan Live)



Pandemic delays premiere of new telenovela Isono

MIDRAND - BET Africa telenovela Isono has taken a drastic decision to suspend production and push back its premiere date as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rock the local TV industry.

Producers Clive Morris Productions confirmed to Sowetan yesterday that they decided to suspend production indefinitely earlier this month.

While other daily dramas such as Mirhango, The River, Isibaya, Generations: The Legacy, Scandal! and more have in the last two months taken temporary production breaks because of COVID-19, Isono suspending production is the most extreme measure taken yet.

"Due to the increase and peak of COVID-19 in SA, a decision was made to temporarily postpone production to support the first priority which is health and safety of the cast/crew and all involved in the Isono production," said Lala Tuku, Managing Director at Clive Morris Productions.

"COVID-19 has presented our industry with unprecedented challenges. We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation in South Africa and will make a decision to commence production when it is best possible to resume." The much-anticipated show that boasts a star-studded cast of Nthathi Moshesh, Rami Chuene, Natasha Thahane, Senzo Radebe, Anga Makubalo and Bohang Moeko was expected to debut next Monday. The channel has also pushed the premiere date back indefinitely.

Billed as the "first African telenovela to air to an international market" the ambitious production was set to air weekdays to audiences across Africa. "We are excited to launch BET Africa's first scripted telenovela to market. As viewers will soon discover, it will be worth the wait," said Monde Twala, senior vice-president and general manager for ViacomCBS Networks Africa.

"At this stage we have not communicated the new premiere date and can assure viewers it is coming soon to screens." (Sowetan Live)

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Zodwa on Gomora tonight.



Sizakele puts Mbomvu on the spot, and shows him who is the real boss. Nthweni tells Jabu the truth about her baby.



The brother's relationship reaches boiling point and the battle lines are drawn between Nonka and Siphele. Ghabanga and Noncedo's relationship continues to be tested and Fikile struggles to keep up the charade.



Things go south in Thathi's first real hijacking and Gladys isn't aware of how dangerous the game she's playing with London is. An unwelcome guest shows up at the tavern.



Undiwe is out for blood while Flora bumps into an old crush.



The Khozas prepare to exchange blows with an old rival. Thato finally takes control of his love life in the most shocking way.



Igosi apologises to Didi and they decide to be friends again. Gugu's pregnancy test brings forth surprising results. Tenda reveals a secret to Gzara that could get Mpho into trouble.



Will love be enough for Kabi? Jerah's disbelief convinces Mpho he must've made a mistake. Nonke finds out the truth that's been hidden from her all her life.



Babette is stunned by Clement's version of events regarding the night of the factory fire. The tension between Lissy and Glenda ends in a dramatic face off.



Chumani manages to stay in control of the bizarre circumstances he has created. Phindie gets a tip off but finds out she is horribly wrong. Dintle is thwarted and struggles with the idea that her work is worthless.

MEME OF THE DAY

You haven't met a crazy person until you meet someone who says "lol" in real life

Photo: @No Chill in Nzwazi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Take inventory of your habits and behaviours, Capricorn. Look to certain patterns and note the ones that do and don't work for you. You'll more than likely feel an urge to break free from repetition and create new paths that allow for other opportunities to come along. You may not even be consciously aware that in many ways you're beating a dead horse. Don't continue to waste your energy on paths that go nowhere.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

You may feel smothered by certain individuals and loved ones who hang on you like barnacles on a rock, Aquarius. You're a big part of their emotional support system and they rely on you for strength. Today, however, you could get frustrated by this extra weight. You'll more than likely want to rip those barnacles off in order to give you more breathing room. Freedom from others' emotional baggage is the key for today.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may end up scaring people with your dramatic, emotional outbursts, Pisces. Your behaviour is likely to be erratic. The smallest things could set you off on a crazy train. The root of these issues probably has to do with a need to be loved, and you feel like others don't give you the attention you think you deserve. Try not to let your happiness depend so much on others' actions. The most important love is self-love.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You might surprise a few people with your words and actions, which could seem out of character for you, Aries. Don't be surprised if you don't think or act like your normal self. There is a streak of the oddball inside you that wants to have its day in the spotlight. Let that part of you shine through by wearing your plaid pants with a polka dot shirt and furry orange hat. Wear bright, expressive colors that show off your willingness to stand out in a crowd.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You could feel like a giant wrecking ball that's anxious to break down existing structures. Perhaps you're upset about a new development in your town, the country's political system, or the power structure within your home. Regardless of the exact reason, you're certain that change needs to happen in order to make progress. Often one must tear down an existing structure before a better one can be built.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Keep pen and paper close by, Gemini, and have the number of the patent office on hand. You're apt to come up with some original ideas that could be revolutionary. You're likely to be more intrigued by gadgets and electronic devices than

usual. You have the power to make cunning observations about how things work. You may end up with a brilliant idea on how to improve the efficiency of an appliance in your house.

Cancer June 22 – July 22

You may have endless ideas streaming through your head but little patience to see any of them through to the end, Cancer. Perhaps you're so busy jumping from one thought to the next that you don't take any of them far enough to know whether or not they're worth pursuing. Write thoughts down as they come to you, and go over them later when your mind is in a quieter state.



Leo July 23 – August 22

It's OK to change your opinion, Leo. You may pride yourself on being the solid one who always has an answer or knows exactly where to go. You may look upon others as fickle, indecisive, or flake. It's important that you not shut down your thinking after making a decision about something.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You may feel a strong need to express your individuality, Virgo. You don't want to blend into the herd, unseen as you walk down the street. You want to be the sheep with the blue wool, the person skipping instead of walking. Find a place or group that lets you be yourself and not worry about what other people think about your style. Your originality is inspiring. Don't squish it.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Going with the flow may not necessarily appeal to you today, Libra. This is one time when you may want to be the fish swimming upstream while the school heads downstream. Feel free to go your own way regardless of what others have to say about it. You may get pressured by your loved ones to act a certain way or go somewhere special. Don't do these things just to please them. Do what pleases you.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

There are a few emotional surprises coming your way, Scorpio. You might act a certain way under normal circumstances, but today you're apt to take a completely different route. Perhaps you don't know why you suddenly feel comfortable about a situation that you'd normally be quite skeptical about. Nevertheless, this feeling is possible. Don't bother questioning your emotions. Simply roll with whatever circumstances come your way. You'll open many doors for yourself.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

You're apt to need emotional freedom, Sagittarius. Perhaps you sense that you're being coerced or manipulated into feeling a certain way and feel trapped in the situation. If you can distance yourself, you're likely to see that you're indeed getting caught up in someone else's drama. Right now it's imperative that you find an outlet where you can express yourself freely without feeling like you have to act a particular way.



COMICS



BUCKLES

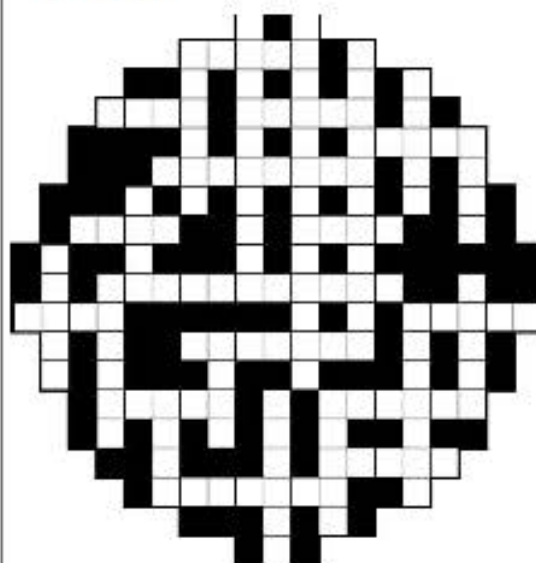


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



GLOBAL WORD-FIT 10

Can you fit the words from the list correctly into the grid?



4 letters

APIA
CHAD
IRAN
LAOS
MALI
ROME
SUVA
UTAH

5 letters

AMMAN
ARUBA
CHINA
GHANA
INDIA

LA PAZ

MALTA
PARIS
SALEM
WALES

6 letters

AUSTIN
CYPRUS
MANILA
NASSAU

7 letters

EQUADOR

GEORGIA

HOUSTON
8 letters
SLOVENIA

10 letters

EL SALVADOR

11 letters

NETHERLANDS
SAN SALVADOR

13 letters

CAYMAN ISLANDS



LEXUS OR CURA

My husband can't activate our Amazon Echo, because he keeps forgetting its name, Alexa. "Just think of the car Lexus and add an a at either end," I suggested.

The next time he wanted to use our new toy, he looked a bit puzzled. Then he remembered what I'd said and confidently called out, "Acura!"

Did You Know

1. Deer can run up to 35 miles per hour.
2. An octopus has three hearts.
3. Some worms can jump.
4. Crocodiles can live up to 100.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Tuesday's Quiz

1. Based loosely on the book by John Buchan, the film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Robert Donat is the best of those made. Name it.

Answers:
A. The Thirty-Nine Steps

Today's Movie Quiz

1. Starring Gregory Peck, this film of 1956 was based on the novel by Herman Melville.

Answers:
A. Moby Dick
B. Moby Doo



M-NET BRINGS BLACK IS KING

...A Film by Beyoncé, to Africa on August 1

ON that night, M-Net will also be available to Dstv Compact Plus, Compact, Family and Access viewers!

M-Net, the MultiChoice Group's flagship channel on Dstv Premium, has acquired the rights from The Walt Disney Company to screen Black Is King across Africa. The film by Beyoncé, is based on the music of The Lion King. The Gift from last year's release of Disney's The Lion King. The teaser and trailer about this new visual album are already taking the world by storm.

More good news is that M-Net will bring Black Is King to the continent within 24-hours of its debut on Disney+. The M-Net screening is scheduled for Saturday, August 1 at 20:00. And, Dstv customers who don't have access to M-Net can shrug off any FOMO (fear of missing out). As a special treat for those subscribing to other Dstv packages, the MultiChoice Group will open M-Net to Dstv Compact Plus, Compact, Family and Access for two hours on the night that Black Is King arrives in Africa. Furthermore, Dstv Premium customers will be able to enjoy it on Dstv Catch



Up for 30 days.

"Showcasing this landmark visual album and global television event to as many of our loyal viewers as possible, MultiChoice Group and M-Net yet again cement their reputation as Africa's most-loved storyteller," says Yolisa Phahle, MultiChoice Group CEO. Video

Entertainment. "We're very excited to be part of this global event, but what makes Black Is King even more important for us, is that it shines the spotlight on the many phenomenal African creatives who were involved in the project – both on screen and behind the scenes." Christine Service, Senior Vice President

of The Walt Disney Company Africa, adds: "Black Is King is a powerful, relevant and timely creative and celebratory expression of identity that we felt was important to be shared with fans across Africa as it launched globally on Disney+. We're thrilled to continue the journey that started with The Lion King."

Starring featured artists from the film's music soundtrack as well as guest appearances, Black Is King tells the story of a young king's journey through betrayal, love, and self-identity. Guided by his ancestors, father and childhood love, he earns the virtues needed to reclaim his home and throne.

Thus, it reimagines the lessons of last year's The Lion King for today's young kings and queens in search of their own crowns. The film was in production for a year, with a cast and crew that represent diversity and connectivity.

Black Is King features an impressive list of diverse voices on its creative team, including directors Emmanuel Adjei (the film Shahmaran), Blitz Bazawule (the film The Burial of Kojjo), Pierre Debusschere (Mine and Ghost videos for Beyoncé), Jenn Nkiru (BLACK TO TECHNO film), Ibra Ake (creative director and producer on This is America video for Childish Gambino), Dikayi Rimmasch (CACHAO, UNO MAS film), Jake Nava (Crazy in Love, Single Ladies, Partition videos for Beyoncé) and co-director and long-time collaborator of Beyoncé, Kwasi Fordjour.

The list of additional co-directors and second unit directors adds to the crew's global representation, including Dafe Obo, Julian Klinecicz, Derek Milton, Meji Alabi, Joshua Kissi, Alexandre Moors and Deon van Zyl.

Filmed in various locations, the film's cinematography captures beautiful people and landscapes across continents, starting in New York, then Los Angeles, South Africa, West Africa, London and Belgium. From all those places came an extraordinary cast of actors and dancers that influenced the film's rich tableau and vibrant choreography.

The new trailer provides a glimpse of some of the special guests in the film. They include models Aweng Ade-Chual and Adut Akech, supermodel Naomi Campbell, Tina Knowles-Lawson, author and Academy Award®-winning actor Lupita Nyong'o, singer Kelly Rowland, Pharrell Williams and JAY-Z, among others. Many artists featured on The Lion King: The Gift album also make appearances.

Among the well-known Mzansi stars featured in Black Is King are Connie Chiume (Gomora), Nandi Madida (The Road), Nyaniso Dzedze (Binnelanders) and Warren Masemola (The River).

The changes she's made after joining Mam'Sonto's crew.

We were all surprised when Thathi dropped her mission to put Mam'Sonto behind bars, and further joined her hijacking crew and started calling all the shots. Here's what she's done right so far, as well as the things that have gone wrong horribly wrong:

HITS:

She has one car under her belt

Thathi may be new in the game, but sis' helped the crew steal a top-of-the-range Jeep from her friend, Lorraine.

Actually, Mazet deviated from the initial plan and drove off with the car. But it was Thathi's idea to target Lorraine, even though her plan only involved stealing valuables.

MISSSES:

She made things personal

This was her first mistake. Going after Lorraine and lawyer Stuart to make them pay for how they mistreated her was a bad move! Sis' even tried to reach out to Lorraine after the hijack! Could anyone be more careless than this though? The worst part was her going over to the workshop, which resulted in Stuart identifying her, Mazet and Mam'Sonto!

She changed the game

Mam'Sonto and Mazet are clear on their line of business. In came Thathi and managed to convince Mam'Sonto from hijacking to car jacking, much to Mazet's disapproval.

Nothing seems to be going right at the moment, the new guy was shot dead and they're racing against time

Thathi's hits and misses – Gomora



to clean up the mess. Their biggest nightmare is Stuart, who not only

identified all of them when he woke up from the concussion, but also

escaped. This could possibly mean jail time for all of them!

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Ibrahimovic double gives rampant Milan another win

MILAN - Veteran forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice in the first half to give AC Milan a 2-1 win at 10-man Sassuolo on Tuesday as they remained unbeaten since the restart of the season and guaranteed a place in the Europa League.

After a match which saw goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma make his 200th appearance for the club at the age of 21, Milan immediately confirmed that coach Stefano Pioli's contract would be renewed until 2022.

In doing so, the club ended widespread and long-running reports that the 54-year-old would be moved aside at the end of the season to make way for German Ralf Rangnick.

Milan, unbeaten in 10 games in all competitions, moved up to fifth with 59 points, enough to guarantee them at least a place in the Europa League qualifying rounds next season.

Ibrahimovic, who returned for second stint in January, got in front of his mark-

er to head in from Hakan Calhanoglu's cross in the 19th minute.

Eighth-placed Sassuolo, themselves in the middle of an impressive run, levelled three minutes before halftime when Calhanoglu was judged to have handled following a long VAR review and Francesco Caputo converted the penalty.

Yet Milan regained the lead in first-half stoppage time when Calhanoglu threaded the ball through to Ibrahimovic. This time, the 38-year-old Swede calm-

ly flicked the ball past goalkeeper Andrea Consigli with his first touch and scored into an empty net.

Sassuolo then had Mehdi Bourabia sent off in first-half stoppage time and were unable to offer much of a threat after the break as Milan comfortably saw out the game.

Ismael Bennacer struck the post for the visitors and Consigli made a stunning double save from Giacomo Bonaventura.

Reuters



'OLYMPICS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS'

TOKYO - The delayed Tokyo Olympics could not be held next year if conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic continue as they are, the president of the organising committee said yesterday.

In an interview with Japanese broadcaster NHK, Yoshiro Mori said he was hopeful the situation would improve and suggested a vaccine was the key.

"If this kind of situation (with COVID-19) continues, is it possible to hold the games?" Mori was asked by NHK.

"If current situation continues, we couldn't," Mori replied, speaking in Japanese.

The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled to open on July 23, 2021 — a year from Thursday. A small, 15-minute ceremony without fans is scheduled for today at the new national stadium to mark the date.

The International Olympic Committee and Japanese organisers have repeatedly expressed confidence the games will take place, though they have offered few details on how they can happen in the middle of a pandemic.

The IOC and organisers have also said the Olympics will not be postponed again and would be canceled.

"It would be too much for us to answer each of these hypothetical questions," Mori said. "I don't think this situation will last for another year."

Researchers have said a vaccine could



Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee President Yoshiro Mori speaks during a press conference in Tokyo. Mori says the delayed games could not be held next year if conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic continue as they are.

be six-to-nine months away, which Mori said was the key. Some, however, question if young athletes should be a priority, and if all would agree to be vaccinated.

"Whether the Olympics can be done or not is about whether humanity can beat the coronavirus," Mori said. "Specifically, to develop a vaccine or drug is the first point."

Organisers and the IOC say they want to simplify the games to help reduce the soaring costs. But officials cannot say now if fans will be permitted next

year, or if athletes will face quarantines. They say few details will be available until the fall.

Plans call for the full contingent of 11 000 Olympic athletes and 4 400 Paralympic athletes to be competing at 42 venues.

About 1 000 deaths in Japan have been attributed to the coronavirus. Tokyo has seen a rising number of daily cases in the last few weeks, which reached a high of almost 300 last week.

But the numbers are relatively modest for a metropolitan area of 14 million. AP

Guardiola seeks more consistency from Man City



MANCHESTER - Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola said the individual achievements of his players must be viewed in relation to the team's success and consistency after Raheem Sterling's brace sealed a 4-0 Premier League win over Watford on Tuesday.

City forward Sterling's first-half goals took his league tally to 19 goals for the season, but Guardiola reminded his players that they were 15 points behind champions Liverpool having played one match less.

"It's important for Raheem to score goals but we cannot forget we finished a long way off the champions.

"This is not good for us," Guardiola told reporters.

"Of course, we've been much better than the other 18 teams. The distance from second to first is big, the distance between second and third is big too, but it's not enough.

"The personal achievements must

always be related to the achievements of the team, which has not been perfect."

The result meant that Guardiola's side have won four league games in a row for the first time this season and the Spaniard said his team had to be more consistent to challenge for the title in the 2020-21 campaign.

"We all still need to know we're far away from Liverpool. This was the first time we've managed to win four in a row in the league. Two seasons ago, we managed 18, last season we managed 14," Guardiola added.

"This shows how poor the consistency has been this season because we've had the same team. This happened because something was wrong and I need to discover what it was ahead of next season."

City finish their campaign with a home match against relegated Norwich City on Sunday.

Reuters

'I won league for Pirates'

JOHANNESBURG - Ex-Orlando Pirates midfielder Gert Schalkwyk has issued a reminder to Buccaneers fans about how the 2010/11 Absa Premiership title ended up in their hands.

The 38-year-old says the popular belief that he failed to deliver at the club after moving from Kaizer Chiefs in 2009 is wrong.

While he could not reproduce the form that made him a household name with Amakhosi, he actually played a huge part in helping Pirates win the league during their trophy-laden 2010/11 season.

Schalkwyk was loaned to Maritzburg United by then-coach Rudi Krol, yet the treble the Dutchman won that season would not have been possible without a significant helping hand from the player he let go.

"I didn't fail at Pirates because Pirates wanted me to go to Maritzburg to help them escape relegation," Schalkwyk tells KickOff.com.

"And who made Pirates win in 2011 the league? Because I was the one who was scoring goals for Maritzburg against Ajax [Cape

Town] so that Ajax can't win the league. People mustn't forget that hey.

"It was the last game of the league, Pirates was playing against Arrows and us Maritzburg we were playing against Ajax. So if Ajax beat us, they win the league. So us we have to beat Ajax and Pirates beat Arrows so then they can win the league. Ja, so and I was the one that was scoring goals in that game."

The Urban Warriors collapsed on the final matchday of the PSL season after playing to a 2-2 draw at home with Maritzburg, handing Schalkwyk's parent club Pirates the title on a superior goal-difference.

Schalkwyk scored one goal and also won Maritzburg a penalty when his shot was adjudged to have struck Nazeer Allie's hand. Diyo Sibisi made no mistake from the spot-kick.

Interestingly, Schalkwyk also scored in a 3-0 home victory over Ajax in the first round of that 2010/11 season, strengthening his claim as he actually helped take six points off Foppe De Haan's side.

Kick Off

Villa out of relegation zone

BIRMINGHAM - Dean Smith has urged Aston Villa to finish the job after they climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone as Trezeguet clinched a price-less 1-0 win against Arsenal on Tuesday.

Smith's side have their survival fate in their own hands after the Egypt winger's first-half strike at Villa Park.

Watford's 4-0 thrashing against Manchester City earlier on Tuesday had opened the door for Villa to escape the bottom three.

And Villa seized their chance with a first home Premier League win over Arsenal in 18 attempts dating back to 1998.

Villa are now fourth bottom and have moved ahead of third-bottom Watford on goal difference, with Smith's men on -26 compared to the Hornets' -27.

They head to West Ham for their final game of the season on Sunday, while Watford visit Arsenal and second-bottom Bournemouth, three points from safety, travel to Everton.

There are a multitude of permutations that could decide relegation, but Villa will be safe if they can better Watford's result on what is

certain to be a dramatic finale.

If Villa and Watford both win, goal difference or goals scored will decide who goes down.

"It is a big boost, that's for sure. We knew we had to get that win to catch Watford and now we have got the season in our own hands," Smith said.

"That's all you can ask going into the last game. It was a great performance and an even better result against a good team who just beat two of the best teams in Europe.

"We have taken the season to the last day. Watford can go and win at Arsenal so we have to make sure we win at West Ham."

Having secured an FA Cup final place by beating Manchester City on Saturday, Gunners boss Mikel Arteta made six changes and Arsenal looked a shadow of the team who impressed at Wembley.

"Emotionally and physically it's been a very demanding week but I saw a team who wanted to fight until the end," Arteta insisted.

Arsenal cannot finish higher than eighth and must win the FA Cup final against Chelsea to qualify for next season's Europa League.

AFP



MANCHESTER UNITED AXE CLEARLY STILL RANKLES WITH DAVID MOYES

MANCHESTER - The story of David Moyes and Manchester United is well known.

The Chosen One. The man cherry picked by Sir Alex Ferguson to lead the club after their most successful period under their most successful manager but who lasted just 10 months before being given the boot.

Where it all went wrong remains a thorn in the side of the Glaswegian. He accepts his failings but maintains he wasn't given enough time to establish himself and demonstrate the qualities required for the job.

That's a line he has always stood by. Indeed, in an interview with Sportsmail in August 2014 - his first newspaper interview following his sacking after those 10 turbulent months in charge at Old Trafford - he spoke about how he wasn't 'given time to succeed or fail'.

On Tuesday, as he pondered last night's clash between his West Ham side and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United, his mind was cast back six years.

Moyes's time at United is often used as a yardstick when assessing how others have done or are doing.

It is perhaps why despite praising the work Solskjaer has done, the Scot felt obliged to

remind everyone of how little time he got.

"Ole had a difficult start," said Moyes. "I think the difference between Ole and me is Ole has been given time. But I have to say he's doing a really good job."

Of course, there are those who agree with Moyes. Roy Keane was one of the first to criticise his sacking when it happened.

Keane blamed Ed Woodward, who only months prior had taken over from long-standing chief executive David Gill, saying Moyes deserved more time and that the club's vice-chairman needed to 'take a long hard look at himself'.

Many will also say he was doomed from the start but is it really fair to suggest he wasn't given enough time? How long do you leave something before it becomes rotten?

Indeed, there have been many questions asked of Solskjaer. There are still those who believe he isn't the man to lead them back to the glory days. To address Moyes's point, though, that Solskjaer has been given more time you have to assess just how well he has done in the job, particularly in the early days.

Solskjaer won his first eight matches in charge, and 14 of his first 17. That doesn't

represent what Moyes calls 'a difficult start'. It represents quite a fantastic start. After all, who can forget those growing, excitable calls from Gary Neville and Rio Ferdinand for Solskjaer to be given the job full-time?

By contrast, Moyes won only three of his first eight games, and eight of his first 17 Premier League games.

Time isn't the only 'difference', as Moyes puts it, between him and Solskjaer. Those around United speak of Solskjaer having cultivated a brilliant atmosphere in the dressing room. He has managed to bring Paul Pogba back into a side he appeared destined to leave and has also helped to revitalise Anthony Martial while giving Mason Greenwood the opportunity to thrive.

One of Moyes's biggest failings at United was not being able to convince his most senior players to support and buy into his plans and overall philosophy.

Nemanja Vidic, Ryan Giggs, Rio Ferdinand and Robin van Persie all had their problems with him. Ferdinand has spoken of how Moyes would wait until the last minute to reveal his team selection, a decision that 'was enough to turn you into a madman'. *Daily Mail*

Ronaldo targets more records as Juve close in on title

MILAN - Cristiano Ronaldo is eyeing more records as Juventus head for Udinese today with a ninth consecutive Serie A title within their grasp.

Ronaldo scored a double on Monday against Lazio to bring his tally to 51 Serie A goals since arriving in Turin in July 2018.

The 35-year-old not only became the first player to achieve a half century of goals in Italy, Spain and England, but was also the fastest, doing so in 61 league games.

Last year the five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored 21 goals in his first season in Italy, but thanks to his brace against Lazio he brought his tally to 30 this term, with four games remaining. Another goal would see him match former Italy World Cup winner Felice Borel, who was the last player to score 31 goals for Juventus in the 1933-34 season.

For Ronaldo the title of top scorer - 'Capocannoniere' - is up for grabs, as he is currently level on 30 with Lazio's Ciro Immobile.

And he could even overtake Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski, the top scorer in Europe with 34 goals in the Bundesliga this season.

There is also the record of Argentine teammate Gonzalo Higuain, who was Serie A top scorer under Sarri at Napoli in the 2015-16 season with 36 goals.

"Cristiano is unpredictable," said Sarri. "If he puts his mind to something, he's very determined."

"Not only physically, but, above all, mentally: he is a champion with his feet, but also with his head. Very important victory! We're almost there guys! Let's go," Ronaldo wrote on Instagram after the Lazio game.

Juventus can seal the title with a win over 16th-placed Udinese.

Otherwise they could win their 36th Scudetto on Sunday, at home against Sampdoria, giving Sarri, 61, his first league title.

It would allow them to start preparing for the Champions League, and overturning a 1-0 first-leg deficit against French club Lyon in the last 16 next month.

"Juventus are still the best side in the league," said Inter boss Antonio Conte, who coached the Turin side to the first three titles in their current run of league triumphs.

Daily Mail

Khuzwayo is yearning for a comeback

DURBAN - An ankle injury forced Brilliant Khuzwayo to retire at the age of 29 last season but he hasn't given up his dream of doing what he loves.

Khuzwayo also joined a few players in the elite league to have played for both of South Africa's football giants - Chiefs and Pirates.

It doesn't look like Khuzwayo wants to rush into a return to action as he insisted that his focus is primarily on staying healthy and he will only play if cleared to do so by medical experts.

When he joined Pirates, many felt that he would easily fill the void left by his 'home boy' Senzo Meyiwa, but he never got to fulfil the wishes of the Bucs faithful.

Some have even linked him to a possible return to his first professional club, AmaZulu, following the departure of Moeneeb Josephs.

IOL SPORT

Mbappe to stay at PSG next season

PARIS - Paris St. Germain forward Kylian Mbappe has ended speculations around his future and confirmed he will stay put at Parc des Princes next season.

Mbappe has been linked with a move away from PSG with Premier League champions Liverpool and recently-crowned LaLiga winners Real Madrid reportedly showing interest in acquiring the Frenchman's services.

"I'm here. I am in the project for a fourth year," Mbappe told beIN Sports. "The 50th year of the club is an important year for the club,

the supporters, everyone, so I will be there no matter what."

"I will try to bring back trophies with the team and give the best of myself," he added.

Mbappe is currently one of the hottest properties in world football and despite being just 21-years-old, he boasts of an illustrious trophy cabinet.

He has won the Ligue 1 four times (once with Monaco and thrice with PSG) since breaking on the scene in 2015. Not to forget the FIFA World Cup trophy that he helped France win in 2018.

This term as well Mbappe was wrecking havoc in the French top-tier before the season was called off due to Covid-19. The youngster had scored 30 goals and provided 17 assists in just 33 games across all competitions for PSG.

LANS



Watford's Foster says club low on confidence

WATFORD - Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster said the team are suffering a crisis of confidence after Tuesday's 4-0 Premier League defeat by Manchester City left the club mired in the relegation zone.

The club's 19th defeat in 37 games this season came only two days after Nigel Pearson became the third manager to be sacked by Watford in the current campaign. It left them 18th in the table ahead of Sunday's clash with Arsenal. "The confidence is so crazy low. I don't know why it is or why it should be ... you get into a state of trying to minimise as much damage as you can, but it's a dangerous way to approach games," Foster told Sky Sports.

"We're well versed with what goes on in this club. It is what it is. You get used to it in football nowadays ... you've got to roll with the punches." *AFP*



SPORTS MEDICINE SOLUTIONS

By: Melusi Luthele
melusiluthele@gmail.com CELL NUMBER: 7907 2356



HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY

CLINICAL OUTCOMES FOR ADULT ATHLETES

HYPERTROPHIC cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a genetically determined heart muscle disease most often 60 to 70 per cent caused by mutations in one of several sarcomere genes which encode components of the contractile apparatus of the heart.

It is a heterogeneous, unpredictable disease that can cause sudden cardiac arrest and death even in young athletes.

It is not rare as it occurs in one out of 500 people. Guidelines recommend athletes with HCM be disqualified from competitive sport as a precaution.

It is assumed that the haemodynamic load of intensive exercise, associated with raised neuroadrenergic output on a pathological substrate of myocardial disarray and fibrosis, may trigger ventricular tachyarrhythmias and sudden cardiac arrest.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

Many patients with HCM have no or only minor symptoms; thus, affected individuals are often diagnosed because of family screening, detection of a murmur during routine examination, or the identification of an abnormal ECG.



However, among those who come to clinical attention at referral centres, left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT) gradients and symptoms of dyspnoea, fatigue, chest pain, and syncope are the most common clinical manifestations.

Patients with mild to moderate limitation usually experience slow progression of symptoms with advancing age in association with a modest

deterioration in LV function.

While many patients with HCM are asymptomatic, others develop one or more of the following symptoms:

- Dyspnoea on exertion
- Fatigue
- Atypical or anginal chest pain
- Presyncope and syncope, particularly during or immediately following exertion
- Palpitation

HCM AND THE RISK OF SPORT

While a cautionary approach is recommended in the current guidelines, the athlete and parents' aspiration for continued sport participation and the lure of fame or financial benefits mean that patients commonly ignore medical advice.

This behaviour is not uncommon among patients with HCM not just

athletes. Clinical experience is that about one-third of patients with HCM disregard medical advice and continued to engage in competitive sport activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

● Participation in competitive athletics for asymptomatic, genotype-positive HCM patients without evidence of LV hypertrophy by two-dimensional echocardiography and CMR is reasonable, particularly in the absence of a family history of HCM-related sudden death.

● Athletes with an unequivocal diagnosis of LVNC and impaired systolic function or important atrial or ventricular tachyarrhythmias on ambulatory monitoring or exercise testing or with a history of syncope. Should not participate in competitive sports, except those that are low intensity.

● Pharmacological agents like β -blockers to control cardiac-related symptoms or ventricular tachyarrhythmias should not be administered for the sole purpose of permitting participation in high-intensity sports. Notably, such drugs may also be inconsistent with maximal physical performance in most sports.

● Prophylactic ICDs should not be placed in athlete patients with HCM for the sole or primary purpose of permitting participation in high-intensity sports competition because of the possibility of device-related complications. ICD indications for competitive athletes with HCM should not differ from those in nonathlete patients with HCM.

Have a productive week. God bless you all.

Bournemouth, Watford, Villa, (maybe) West Ham are in for a day of nail-biting survival Sunday

LONDON - It's going to be a Sunday afternoon of nerve-shredding tension with every twist and turn spelling doom for someone and blessed relief for someone else.

The Premier League relegation battle will go right down to the wire this weekend with two clubs set to fall through the trap door and into the Championship along with Norwich.

And in these difficult times it isn't merely a matter of top-flight prestige at stake but the heavy financial toll that will come from dropping out of those elite 20 clubs.

Norwich's relegation is already confirmed but for everyone associated with Bournemouth, Watford, Aston Villa and West Ham, 'Survival Sunday' promises to be a rollercoaster of emotions.

Sportsmail takes a look at each of the clubs and what they need to do to stay up.

How can West Ham stay up?

Back-to-back wins over Norwich and Watford means that West Ham and almost there and if they get a point or all three against Manchester United on Wednesday night they can relax entering the final day.

They are currently three points clear



of 18th but have that - albeit tough - game in hand and also a significantly superior goal difference to those beneath them.

So the Hammers need just one point from their remaining two matches - United away on Wednesday and Sunday's home fixture against Aston Villa - to make absolutely sure.

How can Aston Villa stay up?

Villa completely changed the complexion of the relegation battle on Tuesday night with their 1-0 win over Arsenal lifting them out of the bottom three for the first time in 144 days.

It helped that earlier in the evening relegation rivals Watford were thrashed 4-0 by Manchester City, dropping below them into 18th and seeing their goal difference become worse than Villa's into the bargain.

Villa are at West Ham on Sunday afternoon and will guarantee their survival by matching Watford's result in their game with Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium.

If Villa beat West Ham and Watford lose to Arsenal, then Villa will be fine. If both teams draw, Villa have the edge on goal difference by just one goal.

If both Villa and Watford lose on

Sunday, the only way Villa will be relegated is if Bournemouth win their match at Everton.

How can Watford stay up?

It's been a turbulent few days at Watford with their decision to sack manager Nigel Pearson followed by that 4-0 hammering at the hands of City that now sees them in the bottom three.

It means that the Hornets will need to get something from their visit to Arsenal on Sunday if they're to preserve their Premier League status.

If Villa beat West Ham, Watford will need to better their result by two

or more goals to overcome that goal difference and stay up.

If Villa draw at West Ham, a Watford win would see them safe. If Villa lose to West Ham, Watford only need a point to remain in the top-flight.

Perhaps the one saving grace for Watford is that Arsenal have nothing but pride to play for on Sunday and Mikel Arteta may rest some of his key players ahead of the FA Cup final the following weekend.

How can Bournemouth stay up?

The Cherries have really struggled since the Premier League's resumption and now they sit three points adrift of safety ahead of Sunday's games. But they're not mathematically down yet ahead of their trip to Goodison Park to play Everton.

However, Bournemouth will need to win that match and hope that both Watford and Villa lose their matches in order to secure survival. Anything less for Bournemouth and it won't be enough. Again, Everton don't have a great deal to play for which may help Bournemouth's cause but they'll only get their hopes up if news filters through that Villa and Watford have fallen behind in their games.



ATHLETES BEWARE: DOPING TESTS ANYTIME!

ESRC COMMUNICATIONS

Shu... Shukuma Eswatini! We are still the Eswatini Sport and Recreation Council (ESRC) and here to serve the nation.

We are extremely delighted that some of our sports codes are back in action. The wait has been devastating but we should all be thrilled that we are back on the field and doing what we love best.

A word of caution to all, as we have been insisting since the Prime Minister announced that some sports codes were now free to return to action, is that the Coronavirus is still very much around us. We need to tread carefully. Just like the Coronavirus is still around, so is the anti-doping mechanism. Our athletes should not be fooled because they can still be tested anywhere at anytime and without warning.

Remember, the presence of a prohibited substance in an athlete's sample is defined as doping. The use or



attempted use of a prohibited substance or method can also be described as doping. Athletes are also warned that refusing to submit to sample collection

after being notified is also doping. So does failure to file an athlete's whereabouts, information and missed tests. Tampering with any

part of the doping control process, possession of a prohibited substance or method, trafficking a prohibited substance or method are all doping.

Also, administering or attempting to administer a prohibited substance or method to an athlete, is also doping. Our athletes are strongly warned to be extra careful because they could be subjected to random tests without warning. The positive though is the fact that our athletes have some rights as well. For instance, athletes have a right to having a representative and if available an interpreter. An athlete also has the right to ask for additional information about the sample collection process. An athlete can request a delay in reporting to the Doping Control Station for valid reasons (as determined by the official).

If one is an athlete with a disability, that athlete has the right to request modifications to the sample collection procedure.

With rights comes responsibility. However, athletes have the responsibility to remain within direct observation by the anti-doping officials at all times from the point of notification until the completion of the sample collection process. Athletes have the added responsibility of producing appropriate identification, comply with sample collection procedures (failure to do so may constitute an anti-doping rule violation).

Lastly, athletes have the responsibility to report immediately for doping control, unless there are compelling reasons for a delay.

Yes, Zama uyazama

We were pleasantly surprised by news that the ESRC Business Development Manager, Zama Tasabedze has fully recovered from COVID-19 after previously testing positive for coronavirus. He is up and about and will soon be available for his day to day duties.

His recovery, has given all of us hope that indeed we can beat this pandemic together. The sporting fraternity should be equally delighted.

As most prepare to take to the field of play, they should be cautious when going about their business.

We will be vigilant. And we will not allow the health of our people to be compromised in the name of sport.



Stop the madness, please

DISAPPOINTMENT is an understatement. Words surely cannot even start to describe how we feel about the news that a certain community has defied the ban on football activities by allowing not just one game but a whole football tournament to proceed. Could this be true? Can such happen right under the nose of our revered leaders? Can the leadership even 'bless' such a tournament? It is very hard to believe. We at the ESRC are shattered by such irresponsibility if it indeed happened.

We will say it again: We need to be smart as

a people to beat this scourge. We cannot endanger the lives of the innocent in this manner. If this really happened, then we must be afraid. Very afraid.

Football, everyone knows is a high risk sport when it comes to the coronavirus that seems to be spreading like a veld in winter.

It is a contact sport and it is actually impossible to practice social distancing when playing football.

The idea involved trying to keep possession of the ball with the opponent trying hard to win the ball.

The long arm of the law is already in motion, we presume and those found to be on the wrong side should definitely fry.



CONTACT US:

Business Development Manager: Zama Tasabedze zama@sportscouncil.org : +268 76021767
Media Officer: Dumisani Ntlwane ntlwane@sportscouncil.org.sz : +268 76691992/ 79691992
Marketing Officer: Zwakele Simelane zwakele@sportscouncil.org.sz : 76072323

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If you love what you do, you will stay up all night and it won't feel like work." - Thabo Quthosa



● Chelsea are prepared to offer English keeper Dean Henderson £170 000 a week to try to tempt the 23-year-old, who is on loan at Sheffield United, to join them from Manchester United. (*Manchester Evening News*)

● Henderson will look to move out on loan again unless he gets assurances from Manchester United that he will have a serious chance of competing with Spain keeper David de Gea, 29, to be first choice. (*Times - subscription required*)

● Chelsea will also try to sign Barcelona and Germany keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, 28, and are prepared to offer Spain international Kepa Arrizabalaga, 25, as part of any deal. (*Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish*)

● Chelsea will make a formal bid for Bayer Leverkusen and Germany forward Kai Havertz, 21, once they have secured Champions League qualification. (*ESPN*)

● England defensive midfielder Declan Rice, 21, will not be allowed to leave West Ham unless an offer is made that the club can't refuse, says manager David Moyes. (*Sky Sports*)

● Manchester City look set to win the battle to sign Valencia's Spanish winger Ferran Torres. Borussia Dortmund are also interested in the 20-year-old. (*Bild - in German*)

● Manchester United and Chelsea have joined Manchester City in the race for Bournemouth and Netherlands defender Nathan Ake, 25. (*Sun*)

● Did De Gea peak in 2017? Manchester United keeper David de Gea looks subdued after conceding a goal against Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-final. (*Sun*)

● Arsenal Manager Mikel Arteta is "confident" Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 31, will sign a new contract with the club. (*Independent*)

● Leeds United owner Andrea Radrizzani says "we'll see" over bringing 33-year-old Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani to the club after their promotion to the Premier League. Cavani left Paris St-Germain this summer after his deal ran out. (*Sky Sports Italia, via Football Italia*)

● Everton have agreed personal terms with Southampton's Denmark midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, 24, after the Saints accepted a £25m offer. (*Daily Echo*)

● Newcastle United Manager Steve Bruce would be kept on if Henry Mauriss, who is the rival bidder to the Saudi Arabia-led consortium trying to buy the Magpies, assumes control of the Tyne-side club. (*Telegraph - subscription required*)

NAOMI COMPLETES WR COVID-19 AWARENESS PROGRAMME

BY COLISILE SACOLO

RUGBY - MBABANE cheetah's senior rugby coach Naomi du-Pont has completed an online World Rugby awareness programme on COVID-19.

The six-month course was aimed at equipping rugby member associations about measures of curbing the spread of the virus in the sport. Du Pont thanked the ERU for allowing her to attend the course when reached yesterday.

"I would like to thank ERU for giving me an opportunity to take part in the important course, which taught us how we can prevent the spread of the virus in the sport. We were educated on several aspects such as dealing with sus-



DONE: Mbabane Cheetah's senior rugby coach Naomi du-Pont has completed her COVID-19 awareness programme.

pected cases during a match since rugby is contact sport.

"We also learnt how to set up a club facility which includes having sanitisers and other necessities," she said.

The veteran administrator further warned local rugby players to stay safe from the deadly pandemic.

"Let us all stay safe so that we can all be together as the rugby

family when we return to action," she added. Rugby was left out of the 10 sporting codes that were recently allowed to resume activities by government.

Nomads Juniors taking cautious approach to restart

BY JONGILE XUBA

GOLF - NOMADS Junior Golf Tournament will take a cautious approach to the return of competitions following the easing of golf by government.

This was disclosed by Nomads Junior Coach Meshack Zwane, who said they would not return to action soon despite their excitement over the return of golf in the country.

Zwane made the comments following the

lifting of the ban by government on low risk non-contact sports about a fortnight ago.

"We are currently working on ensuring we comply with government regulations upon our return.

"We are also waiting on a reply from the Eswatini Sports and Recreation Council on when we can compete.

"It is very important to be careful as we will be dealing with young children's lives," he said. Coming to the lifting of the ban, the coach

said they were very grateful to government for considering them. The junior national team further promised that they would play their part in stopping the spread of coronavirus by continuing to adhere to the health regulations. The Nomads Junior Golf Competition is played monthly where young golfers compete against each other with the best finishers winning prizes.



AIBA president sends message of hope to Boxing Associations

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

BOXING - THE International Boxing Association (AIBA) has sent a message of hope to its member associations to commemorate the International Boxing Day yesterday.

The international mother body, through its interim President

Mohamed Moustasane, encouraged countries to remain positive in the mist of coronavirus through a statement that was sent to the Eswatini Boxing Association.

"We would like to encourage our members to have hope during this difficult period as we are affected by the deadly pandemic.

"We call upon boxers to stay

safe and have hope that we will soon go back to the ring and continue with our beloved sport," he said.

Humbled

Meanwhile, EBA President Pearl Dlamini said they were humbled by Moustasane's statement when reached yesterday.

"We are very grateful to receive the message of hope from the

AIBA president and are confident that things will soon get to normal.

"We encourage boxers to stay safe and continue with individual training programme in order to stay fit," she said.

COVID-19 forced the suspension of the 2020 Olympic boxing Qualifiers that were scheduled for May in Paris, France.

ENSRC urges athletes to observe COVID-19 regulations

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SPORTS - THE Eswatini National Sports and Recreational Council has since urged the recently eased sporting codes to observe the COVID-19 precautionary measures.

This comes after Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini gave green light to the resumption of 10 sporting codes classified as a low risk sports in the country.

This was revealed by ENSRC Communications Officer Dumisani Ntshane when recently contacted. "Sports associations and athletes are encouraged to follow the necessary health guidelines in order to prevent the spread of the virus.



Spectators remain banned during competitions and training sessions and we will closely monitor associations in ensuring that the guidelines are followed."

"Adherence to social distancing measures and daily temperature screening and recording of all ath-

letes and personnel attending and conducting training should be done all the time.

Breaching

"Any association that will breach the guidelines will be banned from continuing with its activities," he said.

Some of the eased sporting codes include angling, athletics, cricket, cue sports, cycling, darts, equestrian, golf, shooting, tennis and table tennis.

All sporting codes have been on ice since the outbreak of the new pandemic four months ago.

GREEN MAMBA RECALL ON-LOAN PLAYERS

BY MELUSI MLOTSHA

SOCCER - CORRECTIONAL Services side Green Mamba have recalled their five players who are currently on loan to other premier league clubs.

The players are Mcebo 'Kitaza' Mdluli, 'Uche' Mamba (Tambuti FC), Siyabonga 'Msholoz' Mdluli (Pigg's Peak Black Swallows), Sifiso 'Mkhelele' Mdluli (Moneni Pirates) and Phumlani Ngwenya (Mbabane Highlanders). They have been told to rejoin the team at the end of the current season.



A source close to the matter revealed that the players were told about the news during their meeting with the management committee on Tuesday afternoon.

"The players were informed to return to the club at the end of the season so that they can be assessed by the technical bench during pre-season. They will have to finish their respective loan stints first before returning home," the source said.

Green Mamba Chief Executive Officer Mandla Sibiyi could not be drawn for comment on the matter after his cell-phone rang unanswered when tried yesterday.

The players were some of the seasoned campaigners at their respective loaned clubs.

Veteran winger Phumlani Ngwenya won the EPTC Charity Cup with Mbabane Highlanders while Sifiso Mdluli has been instrumental in the resurgence of Pirates.

The pair of Mcebo Mdluli and Muntu Mamba are both key players for Lubombo-based outfit Tambuti FC.

Meanwhile, 'Inyoka eluhlazana' are the reigning champions of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup after they beat capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders 2-0 in the final to take home the E1.4 million first prize carrot in March.



Zimbabwe-born soccer legend Stanford Ncube.

Ncube picks 'Skosh', Njabulo for Player of The Year Award

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - Zimbabwe-born soccer legend Stanford Ncube has tipped Young Buffaloes midfielder Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu and Njabulo Tfwala of Green Mamba as his front runners for the MTN Premier League Player of the Year Award.

The ex-Mbabane Swallows and Manzini Wanderers midfielder says the two players have been performing well for their respective clubs before the outbreak of COVID 19, which led to the suspension of football activities in March.

'Skosh' is a skillful and talented player. He has been consistent and

is my player of the year. If not 'Skosh', I would pick Njabulo Tfwala since he is also a great player," he said.

The Green Mamba playmaker (Tfwala) has continued to shine for the Correctional Services side after being named player of the tournament for the 2019/20 SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup during the tournament's prize presentation held at Happy Valley Hotel recently.

On the other hand Shabangu has helped Buffaloes win the E350 000 first round incentive.

Meanwhile, Ncube won the MTN League during his days with Swallows and further won the 2007/2008 Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Player of the Year Award.

ENTA, ENNA PRAISE SIBANYONI'S APPOINTMENT

BY JONGILE XUBA

SPORTS - Sport Associations have expressed their delight on the appointment of new Swaziland Building Society (SBS) Managing Director (MD) Mbali Sibanyoni.

Eswatini National Netball Association (ENNA) President Simangele Motsa congratulated Sibanyoni on her appointment, stating that they would support her during her tenure.

"The executive, sub-committee, clubs and athletes of ENNA would like to congratulate Sibanyoni for her appointment as Swaziland Building Society MD. May this new role take her to the highest level of success and may your work get appreciation from everyone.



Swaziland Building Society Managing Director Mbali Sibanyoni.

"The entire netball fraternity is behind you as you lead SBS to new heights," she said.

Meanwhile, Eswatini National Tennis Association (ENTA) Secretary General

Ncaba Mkhaliiphi said the announcement was great news as they have previously worked with the new MD in the past.

"First and foremost we congratulate Sibanyoni on her appointment as MD of one of the country's largest banks. We have worked with her in the past during the former MD's reign, so she understands the sport and our needs. We wish her all the best on her new journey and we will continue to support her and the organisation moving forward," he said.

Sibanyoni's appointment will be welcomed by the associations which are sponsored by the bank. The SBS, Elite Netball League and tennis competitions have been on the rise since partnering with SBS, gaining spectators and participation.

Fresh terms for Chiefs star at Naturena

JOHANNESBURG - Although Kaizer Chiefs announced that an agreement was in place for one of their stars to stay on beyond June 30, it's been explained that the player has to meet certain requirements.

Siphelele Ntshangase will have to put in an extra shift in the upcoming season to open the door for fresh contract talks at Naturena, the Siya crew understands.

He has been left out in the cold for much of coach Ernst Middendorp's time at the club so far, but Amakhosi exercised the added option in his initial contract from when he moved to there in January 2018.

However, he will now have to play

his way to the negotiation table to convince management that he is worth keeping beyond the current deal, which now ends in June next year.

Suggestions

It came as a shock that Chiefs took up the option, especially after Middendorp had publicly criticised him for his overall contribution, leading to suggestions that the coach had very little to do with the decision to keep Ntshangase at Chiefs for another 12 months.

His agent, Jazzman Mahlakgane, told the Siya crew following the announcement that the player would remain a Chiefs player for one more year that he was not surprised.

"I have always said that 'Stash' is one

of the best midfielders Kaizer Chiefs acquired, whether he was able to feature prominently or not in the coach's plans does not mean he has become a bad player overnight," said Mahlakgane in part.

"He is not a coward, the type of player that is going to chicken out from a challenge because he's not played for a year. We are very much aware of the statistics at Chiefs, but that does not take away the fact that - given a chance - he will rise, and at some point he could be the maestro at Chiefs. Give him a chance!"

The onus is on the player now to prove his worth.

Kick-Off

SRFA gives clubs a large share of their EFA carrot

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - THE Shiselweni Regional Football Association has channelled a larger share of their E300 000 Eswatini Football Association 'carrot' to clubs.

This follows the disbursement of the E300 000 carrot by the association to its affiliates, where the over 198 clubs will share E149 000.

Each team is expected to get E752.

They were followed by coaches who were handed close to E40 000 whilst the competitions committee got E33 000.

Referees were not left out of the goodies as they got E26 000.

Over 50 000 was directed into administration. This is according to a memo released by the association's Secretary Nkosinathi Kumene.

SRFA is part of the eight EFA affiliates that benefited from the E2.3 million that was released by the mother body to help mitigate the effects of coronavirus on local football.

The full SRFA distribution

Team	E149 160
Coaches	E39 600
Competitions committee	E33 000
Referees and referees committee	E26 000
Administration	E51 640

FIFA GIVES SAFA PERMISSION TO EXTEND SEASON BEYOND AUGUST

JOHANNESBURG - World football governing body FIFA has advised the South African Football Association (SAFA) that they will be allowed to extend the completion of the PSL season in terms of the Transfer Management System (TMS).

The local season was meant to restart on 18 July but SAFA had amended that to 1 August to allow match officials to adequately prepare.

The PSL had stated that they wanted to finish the current campaign by the end of August and that they would need at least six weeks to complete the remaining matches.

SAFA released a statement yesterday explaining their interaction with FIFA.



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

"FIFA has given SAFA the mandate to amend the start of the PSL next season (2020/2021) and this may require the association to amend the registration periods provided in the

TMS," the statement read.

Part of the letter from FIFA to SAFA reads: "As such, the association concerned should extend the end date of the ongoing season in the TMS, to reflect the match schedule. This may also require the association to amend the registration periods provided in the TMS."

SAFA CEO Tebogo Motlanthe said that match officials would be ready for the resumption of the current cam-

paign.

"We are glad with the clarification we got from FIFA and we have already started preparation of the referees. They will arrive at the camp in batches and I want to assure everyone that the match officials will be ready, come 1 August 2020 when the PSL kicks off," said Motlanthe.

Clubs have already returned to training in preparation for next month.

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Expect more signings - Ally

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER-MBABANE Highlanders boss Chief Ally Kgomongwe has promised more signings for the club in preparation for the new season.

This comes after the team secured the services of Mbabane Swallows midfielder Sibonginkhosi 'Gudas' Dlamini and youngster Siwahile Shongwe from Manchester United.

The South Africa-born businessman says the team still needs to beef up its striking force in order to compete effectively during the upcoming campaign.

"We have a good team and we have done well this season. Credit should go to the boys for their hard work throughout the season and this has been proven by the number of league draws. This shows that we have a good fighting spirit. We still need to sign four players including two strikers, one midfielder and a strong centre back,"

"We are still working around the clock to sign the right players together with my partners who will help the team to challenge for honours," he said.

Kgomongwe mentioned that there were people on the ground that were helping him scout players.

"Our intention is to give many teams a headache next season.

I'm underground now just like a snake hibernating in winter, when I come out it will be explosive," he added.

Despite being at his first year of the five-year contract, the Pretoria-based businessman helped Highlanders to end their eight-year trophy drought by winning the EPTC Charity Cup in August last year.

The crowd-pulling side further finished as SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup runners-up under the stewardship of Kgomongwe.

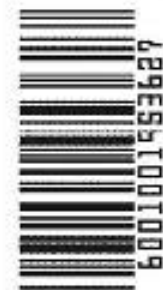
Highlanders recently parted ways with their four players including captain Jimmoh Moses, Bolanle Bidemi, Mthobisi Mazibuko and Phumlani Ngwenya.



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Your Dedicated Sports Feed

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SANDILE STAYS PUT AT BIRDS



- Lanky striker reportedly signed a one-year deal
- Former Sihlangu talisman also linked with Highlanders

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - THERE is no place like home!

The old adage seems to have rang true in the ears of want-away Mbabane Swallows striker Sandile Hlatshwako who is reportedly staying put with the club at least for another season.

The former Sihlangu forward is said to have penned a one-year deal with the red and white glamour side amid the strong interest from sworn town rivals Mbabane Highlanders.

A source close to the matter revealed that the star has extended his contract with Swallows after he was shown the exit door last month alongside other players in Vusumuzi Zungu, Siphamandla Dhlamini, Paito Dube

and Richard McCreesh, among others.

"It looks like the player will be staying at Swallows for another season after agreeing to the extension of his contract by one year. This has left Highlanders stranded as they were keen to secure his services," the source said.

Swallows Marketing and Communications Manager Mancoba Mabuza said the club would issue a statement over the renewal of contracts in due course when reached on the matter.

"Renewal and extension of contracts at Mbabane Swallows are communicated through a press release or press conference. A formal and official communication regarding extensions and renewals will be done in due course," he said.

Hlatshwako has been one of the seasoned campaigners for Swallows in the past five years after helping the capital city reach the group stages of both the Confederation Cup and CAF Champions League under the guidance of seasoned mentor Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati



Premier League champions win Anfield thriller

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool held off a Christian Pulisic-inspired comeback as the runaway Premier League champions overcame Chelsea 5-3 ahead of the trophy presentation at Anfield.

Jürgen Klopp's title winners got into the party spirit as they were involved in an eight-goal thriller on Merseyside in their final home game of an unforgettable season, though there was little sign of the late drama to come when they led 4-1. Naby Keita's right-footed rocket opened the scoring, and there was a long-awaited home goal for Roberto Firmino - his first in the league since March 2019 - early in the second half.

The impressive Pulisic helped the Blues battle back to 4-3, raising hopes of clinching the draw they required to make certain of a top-four finish, but Liverpool had the last word, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain slamming home to secure the win. Liverpool had laboured since crossing the line yet appeared hungry to mark the occasion by producing something special.



Their opener demonstrated one of the key traits that has helped end the 30-year wait to reign again, Keita helping to win possession as the hosts pressed high before unleashing a rasping shot that flashed beyond Kepa Arrizabalaga. A debatable foul call by referee Andre Marriner offered Trent Alexander-Arnold the opportunity to curl in a second goal with

a glorious free-kick, while the visitors' set-piece woes continued when their failure to deal with a corner allowed Georginio Wijnaldum to smash the loose ball in.

Chelsea pulled one back when Olivier Giroud reacted quickly to stab home from close range before half-time, but the game seemed up when Firmino finally ended his drought

by heading home Alexander-Arnold's inviting cross. Pulisic had other ideas, though. The United States international slalomed through to set up fellow substitute Tammy Abraham for a tap-in finish, then reduced the deficit to one by swivelling inside the penalty area and firing into the roof of the net.

Goal