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MPOLONJENI INKHUNDLA BUCOPHO BY-ELECTIONS...



NOMINEES: From right, Mpolonjeni Bucophho nominees Joseph Tfwala, Vusi Masango, Vusi Vilakati, Bongani Ndzabandzaba, David Tfwala, Gcina Gwebu, Lucky Silindza and Sicelo Dlamini. They were nominated during the Bucophho by-elections at Mpolonjeni Inkhundla. (Pics: Wonderboy Dlamini)

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ABOLISHED MINISTRIES, DEPTS GET E57M BUDGET

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- The discontinued Department of Taxes was allocated E22 million
- The defunct Customs and Excise got an unauthorised budget of E34 million
- The erstwhile ministry of enterprise and employment received E57 959.

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WOMEN DECLINE NOMINATION AT MPOLONJENI BY-ELECTIONS

STORIES BY WONDERBOY
DLAMINI
Siteki

THE widespread incidence of women showing less interest in political positions was witnessed during the bucophu by-elections at Mpolonjeni Inkhundla, where the only two women who were nominated declined to stand for the elections.

The Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) on Saturday conducted by-elections at Mpolonjeni, Lugongolweni and Kubuta Constituencies to fill vacant bucophu positions. Mpolonjeni was left without bucophu after Hawane Dlamini passed away in 2019.

Hundreds of residents descended to Mpolonjeni Umphakatsi to nominate potential candidates to stand for the elections later this month.

A total of 12 male candidates emerged as the ultimate nominees. During the



SCREENING: Voters going through the EBC checking point for eligibility at Mpolonjeni Umphakatsi.

nomination process, at least two women were nominated to stand for the elections. However, each of them declined the nomination.

First to have her name called out was Thembi Gwebu, an active resident in the community. When an EBC official asked if Gwebu was accepting the nomination, her response was negative.

Gwebu cited ill-health, saying she

could not withstand the pressure that comes with the duties of bucophu. "I am not well and I just want to concentrate on getting my health back on track before I can take up such responsibilities," she said.

Health

Gwebu said, however, she was hoping to stand for the elections in 2023 provided she is in good health. In fact, she disclosed that she also con-

tested the same position during the 2018 elections.

Another female resident, Vuyisile Vilane also declined a nomination.

When interviewed, Vilane said she felt she did not stand a chance to win against the male candidates who had already been nominated.

"It would be a waste of time to accept the nomination when there are already obvious candidates who have been nominated to contest for the same position," she said.

Vilane also pointed out that there was a number of residents who came from the same community, whom she will be voting for.

Meanwhile, EBC Elections Officer Siboniso Nhleko said it was worrying to note that women were still reluctant to contest in national elections.

Nhleko said the EBC was advocating for women to take charge and contest for leadership positions and ensure that both genders in all age categories were represented when making decisions.

"We are hoping to see more women taking part and contesting for the elections in 2023," he said.

One youth nominated for bucophu position

AT least one youth was nominated to stand for the by-elections at Mpolonjeni Constituency.

A considerable number of residents ululated and whistled when the name of Lucky Silindza (30) was called out on the fifth position of the nominations. When an EBC official asked if he was accepting the nomination, Silindza responded to the affirmative. Silindza said he was hoping to serve the community with diligence and ensure that residents of the area benefit from services provided by the inkhundla. He noted that the community has been lacking behind in many development projects since the time when it lost its bucophu. "If I win the elections, I will ensure that youth residents of the community take responsibility and contribute in the development of the community," he said. Moreover, Silindza noted that a large number of residents depended on farming for the upkeep of their families. He, therefore, pointed out the need to direct more funding to agricultural projects which could also be used to generate income. Silindza said agriculture was one way of ending poverty in the communities. He said there was also a need to refurbish the road system which was destroyed by the recent rains. "There are a number of things which requires urgent attention and I believe I have the ability to work on that," he said.

LUGONGOLWENI, KUBUTA NOMINATIONS A SUCCESS

THE nominations process for the bucophu by-elections conducted by the EBC at Lugongolweni and Kubuta Constituencies proceeded smoothly as residents came in their numbers.

The nominations exercise precedes by-elections which are expected to be held on March 27. Lubombo Elections Officer Siboniso Nhleko said the nominations process at Sitsatsaweni Umphakatsi under Lugongolweni went accordingly. Unlike during the civic and voter education exercise where a hand-

ful of residents attended, hundreds of residents came through for the nominations process. A total of six candidates were nominated to stand for the elections at Sitsatsaweni.

"We were also happy to have two women nominated and accepting the challenge at Sitsatsaweni," said Nhleko. Meanwhile, Shiselweni Elections Officer Buhlebenkhosi Magongo also reported a successful nominations process at Kubuta Constituency. He said a considerable number of residents took part in the nominations and they man-

LIST OF NOMINEES:

Vusi	Masango
Mbuso Jerome	Misetiwa
Hlabekisa	Mamba
Vusi	Vilakati
David	Tfwala
Bongani	Ndzabandzaba
Sicelo	Dlamini
Joseph	Tfwala
Lucky	Silindza
Gcina	Gwebu
Moses	Maziya
Mfanisibili	Gina

aged to come up with eight nominees. A positive response to the call of women empowerment was also noted as four women residents emerged as nominees to stand for the by-elections. The ministry of health erected stalls at the polling station to ensure that the electorate adhere to COVID-19 regulations and

Strict COVID-19 measures followed

THE EBC maintained a high standard in observing precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when hundreds of residents descended to Mpolonjeni Umphakatsi to take part in the by-elections.

The EBC collaborated with the Lubombo COVID-19 Awareness Team to ensure that the electorate followed all precautionary measures.

Elections Officer Siboniso Nhleko first commended the electorate for coming in their numbers to take part in the

by-elections.

Nhleko said this was an indication that the residents still believed in the power of their votes.

He further commended the residents for observing precautionary measures such as wearing their masks appropriately, washing their hands frequently and maintaining social distance.

Residents who had already participated in nominating their favourite candidates were advised to vacate the arena unless they were intending to nominate more candidates.

guidelines. "The nominations were generally a success as residents displayed a

high level of cooperation during the process," said Magongo.

Baby mama commits suicide at boyfriend's home

STORIES BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

AN 18-year-old girl committed suicide at her boyfriend's homestead.

Wakhile Motsa ingested a water soluble powder insecticide (which is used for the control of pests) called MASTA 900 last Friday.

Interviewed, her boyfriend Sibongo Dlamini said the deceased came to him carrying an empty glass of the soluble and told him what she had done.

"I never even asked why, I just ran to the store to purchase some milk and by the time I came back she was lying unconsciously on the floor with a white substance coming out of her mouth," narrated Dlamini.

He stated that he then asked a family member with a car to rush her to the nearest hospital, the Luke Commission

situated at Sidvokodvo.

This is where Wakhile succumbed to her death. Dlamini stated that they had not been involved in any altercation and he had reasons to believe that Wakhile was stressed by family politics.

Dropped Out

The 18-year-old girl leaves behind a baby boy, who is one year and seven months old. Wakhile, who previously lived with her parents at Mkhondvo, is reported to have dropped out of school due to her pregnancy.

She was chased away from home after her parents learned of her pregnancy. According to Dlamini, he then took her to live with him at his parental homestead in Nyalinyali.

The deceased had not seen or heard from her parents since the time when she was chased away and this had been troubling her ever since.

"Recently, I found her crying and when I asked her, she told me that one of the children here had beaten her baby.

Knowing her, I dug deeper and she ended up telling me that she had tried to reach out to her father but he did not respond to her calls," said Dlamini. Dlamini has reason to believe that this is the reason why Wakhile committed suicide as he stated that this was something that troubled the deceased very much. "I know that the parents probably blame me but I also blame them for not reaching out and forgiving Wakhile. We all make mistakes," said Dlamini.

Dlamini added that he was very hurt by the sudden death of Wakhile. He said he owes it to her now to take good care of their child. Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer (DPICO) Inspector Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the incident.

What has happened has happened - Father

FATHER of the deceased Mabandla Motsa said he was saddened to learn of the passing away of his daughter which has brought regretful feelings for him.

He said he had not seen Wakhile in a long while and there was really nothing he could say as he was trying to come to terms with what has happened.

In not so many words, Motsa said they were not happy to learn about the news of her death.

"We were notified about the sudden death of Wakhile but all the details about what happened can be sourced from the people she lived with when it happened," said Motsa.

He said what happened has happened and he believed there was nothing they could change now.

2 COVID-19 deaths, 12 test positive

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

TWO COVID-19 related deaths and 12 new cases were recorded yesterday.

This was confirmed in a statement by Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi, who said the 12 cases were from 459 test results. The deceased were two females from Shiselweni and Hhohho regions, bringing the total to 652 deaths due to COVID-19. Of the 12 cases, six were from Manzini, currently the region has 6 637 people who have tested positive. Hhohho recorded three cases and to date the region has 7 321 positive people.

Two cases were from Shiselweni and it now has a total of 1 477. No new cases were recorded from Lubombo, hence the region remains with 1 579 cases. Nkosi announced that 230 people have recovered from the virus, thus making it a total of 14 676. Meanwhile, active cases have dropped to 1 674.

The minister noted that the COVID-19 pandemic curve was still showing signs of decline but urged the nation to continue respecting the measures of preventing the spread of the virus. She said the goal is to halt the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the deaths associated with it. "Achieving this goal calls for a collective effort," she said.

WARM TO HOT WEEK AHEAD

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE first week of March is expected to be warm and hot in the Lowveld.

Temperatures are likely to exceed 30 degrees Celsius. Accu Weath-

er Service has predicted that today it will be cloudy and cool to mild in the Lowveld.

Scattered rain showers are predicted in the afternoon as well as in the evening. Temperatures will range between 12/24 degrees Celsius. Tomorrow, it will be cloudy with sunny intervals at

higher places becoming cool to warm in the Lowveld. Temperatures are expected to reach 27 degrees Celsius in the Lowveld. Meanwhile, on Wednesday it will be sunny and warm to hot in the Lowveld. Temperatures will be between 14/30 degrees Celsius. Similar weather patterns are expected on Thursday too, with temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius.

Today	
Mbabane	12/20
Mankayane	13/21
Manzini	15/23
Siteki	14/22
Mhlume	16/22
Big-Bend	18/24
Tomorrow	
Mbabane	13/22
Mankayane	14/23
Manzini	16/25
Siteki	15/24
Mhlume	18/26
Big-Bend	19/27

ABOLISHED MINISTRIES, DEPTS GET E57M BUDGET

STORIES BY PHEPHILE MOTAU
Mbabane

OVER E57.4 million of governments funds were allocated to discontinued ministries and departments.

This was revealed by Auditor General Timothy Matsebula in his report of the consolidated government accounts for the year ended March 31, 2020. Matsebula said discontinued ministries and departments were allocated unauthorised budgets worth over E57 432 601, of which E14 393 656 was released.

"I observed that E57 432 601 was allocated to abolished ministries and departments.

Furthermore, E14 393 656 was released to non-existing ministries and departments. Some ministries had limited budgets, yet funds were allocated and released to discontinued ministries and departments," he said. The report states that the ministry of enterprise and employment was allocated an unauthorised budget of E57 959, of which E4 829 was released. The discontinued Department of Taxes was allocated an unauthorised budget of E22 839 173 and E5 700 051 was released. The same goes for

- The discontinued Department of Taxes received an unauthorised budget of E22 million
- The defunct Customs and Excise was allocated an unauthorised budget of E34 million
- The erstwhile ministry of enterprise and employment got an unauthorised budget of E57 959



AMAZING: Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg presenting the budget speech in the House of Assembly last Friday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

the discontinued Customs and Excise department, which was allocated an unauthorised budget of E34 462 906 and E8 607 213 was released. Matsebula further said he also observed that there were unauthorised budgets amounting to E131 071 157 captured in the

Government Accounting System and disclosed in the Detailed Statement of Recurrent Expenditure – Appendix 7, which were not appropriated by Parliament.

This was noted when comparing appropriated budget as itemised in the Detailed Statement of Recurrent

Expenditure with the Approved Budget (Estimate) Book and Appropriation Act passed by Parliament, he said. He further said he did not get an explanation why unauthorised funds were allocated to non-existing and discontinued government entities.

Govt receives E208m dividends from public enterprises

GOVERNMENT'S dividends from public enterprises increased by 97 per cent in the year ended March 31, 2020.

This is according to the auditor general report, which was tabled in parliament last Friday.

The AG, Timothy Matsebula said in the financial year ended March 31, 2020, the government received dividends amounted to E208 058 115.27, which consisted of dividends received from Category A Public Enterprises of E99 847 832.32 and dividends received from Category B Public Enterprises of E108 210 282 95. "Comparing with previous year, there was an increase in dividends received of E102 427 370.83 (97 per cent), from E105 630 744.44 to E208 058 115.27.

Matsebula said the increase may be attributed to the wake-up call made by government to evaluate the performance of the public enterprises.

The largest increased in dividends was that of the Eswatini Electricity Company which increased to E92million from E12 468 900.30 the previous year.

This shows an increase of E79 531 099.70, which translates to 638 per cent.

Matsebula further said he observed that dividends received amounting to E1 120 902.79 were omitted in the Financial Statements.

These were dividends received from FINCORP of E247 832.32 and African Reinsurance Corporation of E873 070.47 (US\$59 592.00 x

14.6508) were not disclosed in the Detailed Statement of Revenue for the year ended March 31, 2020.

"This anomaly was revealed by a reconciliation of the dividends payment recognised by the Treasury Department with the Dividend payments schedule received from the ministry of finance for the year ended March 31, 2020," he said.

Projection

Matsebula added that during the fiscal year ended 31st March 2020, the actual recurrent revenue collection was E17 357 566 982.08 and was almost equivalent to the projection of E17 408 035 720.

"When compared with previous year's performance, both domestic and SACU revenue collections showed an increase of E1 853 265

953.36, which was 12 per cent higher than last year's overall revenue collections of E15 504 301 028.72," he said.

Matsebula said the Domestic Revenue Collections amounted to E11 039 413 598.08 and SACU Receipts amounted to E6 318 153 384.00 for the financial year ended March 31, 2020.

He added that there was an increase in SACU receipts of 8 per cent from a lower base of E5 843 952 484.00 in the financial year 2019 to E6 318 153 384.00 in 2020.

Matsebula said Domestic Revenue Collection showed an increase of 14 per cent from E9 660 348 544.72 in the financial year 2019 to E11 039 413 598.08 in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020.

3 projects get E228m unauthorised expenditure

THREE government projects incurred unauthorised capital expenditure, amounting to E228 693 807, which may lead to disciplinary actions, according to the Auditor General, Timothy Matsebula.

In his report as at March 31, 2020, Matsebula said the projects had no budget released but incurred actual expenditures. The details of the unauthorised capital expenditure includes the Lower Usuthu II Extension-Downstream Development, which incurred an unauthorised expenditure worth E201 112 909.

The other two are the Smallholder Market LED Production Project and the Water Harvesting, Small and Medium Dams.

He said unauthorised expenditures beyond the budget released were not only unlawful but also had a serious effect on the fiscal budget.

"This was in contravention of Financial and Accounting Instruction 0202 (ii), which states that controlling officers are responsible for ensuring that no amount is spent in excess of the amounts specified by Treasury Warrants," he said.

Misconduct

Matsebula said Section 107(3)(j) read with Section 34(7) of the Public Finance Management Act of 2017, also stated that "a public office and public officer, or other person with responsibility for government resources commits an offence of financial misconduct if, without lawful authority under this Act or other lawful authority, that person wilfully or negligently incurred unauthorised expenditures or makes unauthorised commitments.

"Any excess or any amount expended but not appropriated and which is not allowed under this section is treated as a loss of public moneys.

As stated in the Section 34(5), unauthorised expenditure may lead to disciplinary actions," Matsebula added.

He said he was concerned that spending public funds without having any budget released undermined the purpose of a warrant to Incur Expenditure which seeks to control cashflow, particularly in times of cash flow constraints.

He further said there was no response received from the controlling officer, thus Financial and Accounting Instruction 0315 (ii), which requires that the controlling officer should respond promptly to audit queries, was contravened.

Youth Council subvention overpaid by E10.8 million

THE Eswatini Youth Council subvention was overpaid by over E10.8million.

This was revealed by Auditor General Timothy Matsebula in his report for the year ended March 31, 2020.

He said an audit of the government expenditure to public enterprises revealed that there was an overpayment of subvention to Eswatini National Youth Council amounting to E10 867 500. "The actual amount paid was more than the budgeted amount," he said.

Matsebula said financial and account-

ing instruction 0103 stated that when a general warrant was signed, a treasury warrant will be issued to each controlling officer giving him authority to spend in accordance with the approved estimates, subject to any reservations which may be imposed.

He further said section 0202 of the financial and accounting instruction also states that the controlling officer was responsible for ensuring that no amount is spent in excess of the amounts specified in the treasury warrant.

"According to Section 34 (2) (a) of the Public Finance Management Act

of 2017, expenditure in excess of the amount appropriated under an Appropriation Act should be included in a statement of expenditure in excess which shall be laid before Parliament and referred to the Public Accounts Committee," he said.

Distorted

In the report, Matsebula said the overpayment of subvention was unlawful and distorted the fiscal budget. He said he then requested the controlling officer to provide justification for the overpayment of the subvention.

The AG said in his response, the

controlling officer acknowledged his observations and explained that the overpayment of the subvention was as a result of voucher 130068 where-in an amount of E1 207 500 was credited into the account of the parastatal under the year 2019/2020 instead of the rightful year 2020/2021.

He said the controlling officer said in efforts towards correcting the anomaly again, the ministry erroneously reversed an amount of E12 750 000 instead of E1 207 500 as per voucher 130287, thus resulting in the overpayment of subvention.

"He stated that the correction has since been made through Journal Vouchers 100250 and

100251," Matsebula said.

He said the response of the controlling officer is acknowledged; however, it was unsatisfactory as the narration of the purported correcting voucher (130287) indicated a transfer of funds instead of a correction.

"Also the resulting net effect of the correction is E11 542 500 instead of the rightful queried overpayment of E10 867 500, this therefore creates a further anomaly," Matsebula said.

He said he further observed that the ministry did not perform monthly reconciliations as the correction of the error was only effected in month 10 whereas it occurred in month 2 of the financial year 2020/2021.

FAMILY HOLDS CLEANSING CEREMONY FOR 'BLACK CAT'

BY PHEPHILE MOTAU
Mbabane

DECEASED traditional healer Elliot 'Black Cat' Fakudze's family held a cleansing ceremony for him.

This marked a month of Fakudze's demise after he was swept away in a car during floods caused by Cyclone Eloise.

Fakudze's vehicle was swept away at Mndobandoba Bridge. He died with two others.

His son Saddam Fakudze confirmed that they held the ceremony, where certain rituals were performed.

"Every family performs their own ritual, which was the same for ours," he said.

Sadaam said they would still hold a ceremony where his father's successor would be unveiled.

The ceremony was attended by other family members and traditional healers including DRC's Guensta Ikartachi and Dr Kunene from Buhleni.



CLEANSING CEREMONY: Guensta Ikartachi pictured with 'Black Cat's' son Saddam Fakudze during the cleansing ceremony following his father's demise. The cleansing ceremony was held at Fakudze's home in Mndobandoba over the weekend. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Sadam flanked by Dr Guensta and Dr Kunene who were part of the cleansing.

GUITAR MAN: Saddam Fakudze pictured with his father's 'tools of the trade' during the ceremony. The famous guitar which 'Black Cat' so much loved was also on display.




SIGUJANA: The late 'Black Cat's' consultation calabashes on display.



POSE: Ikartachi flanked by another Inyanga only identified as Dr Kunene and Saddam.




CONSULTING: Top Inyanga from DRC who is based in the country, Guensta Ikartachi leading the trio in the cleansing ceremony as they were captured consulting with the ancestors.



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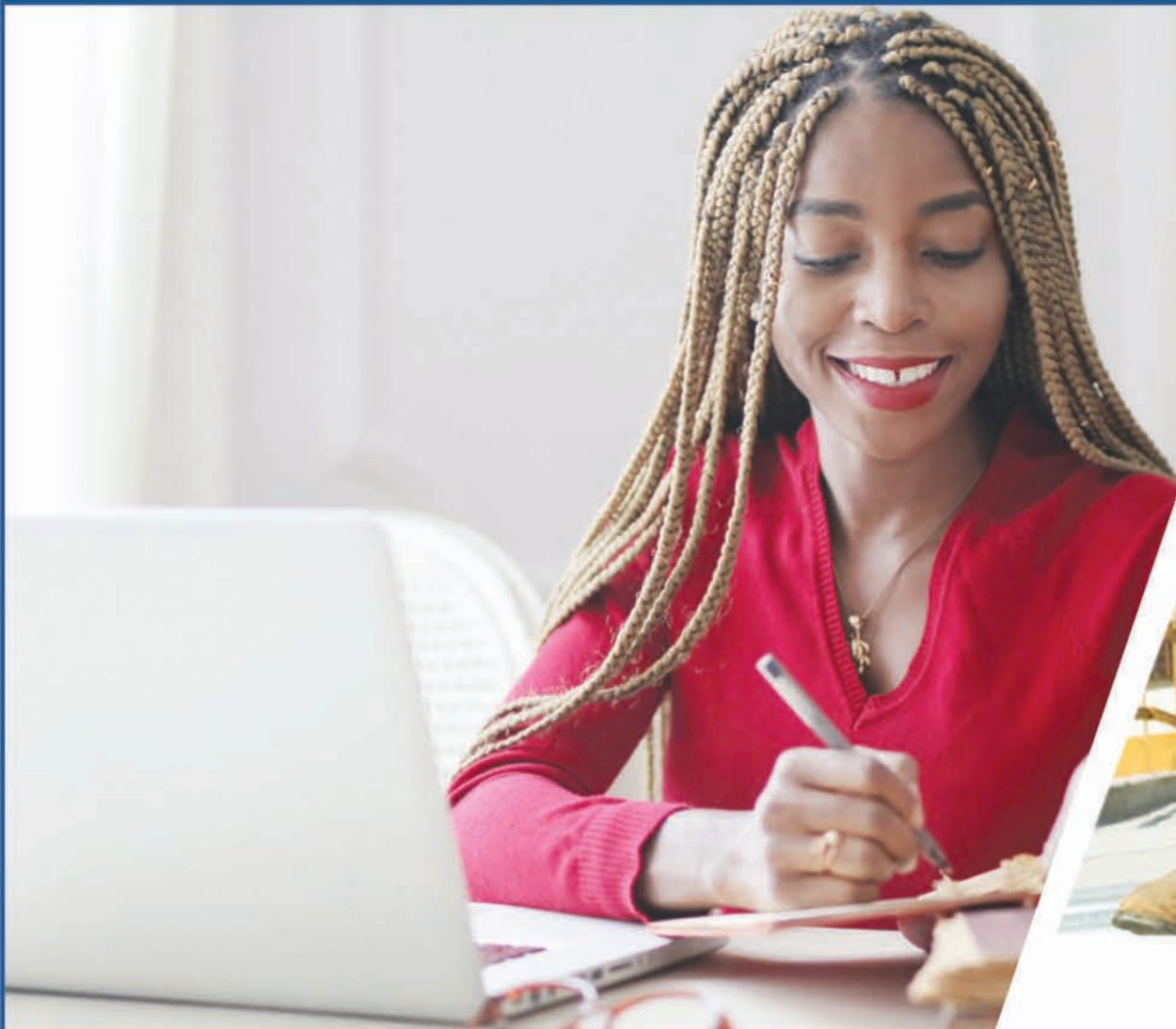
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- 90% of people employed by the funded Businesses must be Emaswati.
- Business Plan and Cash flow projections.
- Confirmation of market (orders and contracts where applicable).
- Valid Trading License.
- Management Accounts.
- Bank statements for the last six months.
- Form J and Form C.
- Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum and articles of association.
- Copies of IDs for the Directors.
- KYC documents for directors (business owner).
- Clean Credit record.
- Constitutions for Associations.

Informal Businesses:

- Business should be 100% owned by Eswatini citizens.
- Must have been in business when pandemic started or a start-up from COVID affected individuals.
- Provide proof of loss of employment or how business was affected by the pandemic.
- Business to have or open a transactor bank account with Eswatini Bank.
- Provide permit or any form of licence issued by approved authorities.
- To complete a bank application form.
- Business owner(s) to have a clean credit record.
- Copy of National ID.
- Proof of residence.

LATE JIMMY HLOPHE'S 'MISTRESS' HITS BACK

STORIES BY ANDILE NSIBANDE
High Court

THE battle continues as two women claim rights over money and assets of the late senator Jimmy Hlophe.

Both women at the centre of the controversy claim to have been married to the deceased.

First it was Elizabeth Nonhlanhla Hlophe who ran to court to claim rights over the man's assets, 24 years after the pair either wittingly or unwittingly found themselves living separately.

According to Elizabeth, her civil rights marriage to the deceased was never nullified as he had not divorced her. But the woman who had been described in the current litigation as the man's 'mistress' has declared that her long-term affair with the late legislator qualifies her for entitlement to some of his assets as well.

Bonsile Gwebu, who had been staying with the deceased at a home-stead he built for her around Sigcineni, claimed she became accepted as part



LEGAL DISPUTES: The late senator Jimmy Hlophe.

of the Hlophe family after the man decided to marry her through the traditional *kuteka* ceremony.

Assets

She became embroiled in the court battle after Elizabeth initiated legal proceedings against her and one of the man's sons, seeking an order compelling them to surrender some of the assets of the late legislator. The application by Hlophe's widow was opposed by both Gwebu and

Andile Hlophe, one of the deceased's sons. In her responding affidavit, Gwebu questioned the motive of the application by Elizabeth on the grounds that the latter had allegedly not featured in the deceased's life over the past 24 years. Gwebu told the court that she had actually lived with the deceased for the past 24 years, after the man's marriage with Elizabeth allegedly hit a nose dive.

She claimed that Elizabeth and the late Hlophe had already been separated when she got into a romantic affair with him back in 1997. She said the man subsequently married her traditionally in a union which she claimed was further sealed by the payment of dowry to her family. To further substantiate her claims that the man had a willingness to have her by his side, Gwebu alleged that the late senator described her as his wife when he made her a signatory in one of his bank accounts.

"We have been staying together ever since we met. I am advised that this, therefore, amounts to a universal partnership between me and

BANK SEIZES HLOPHE'S CAR

A financial institution has swooped in on the motor vehicle at the centre of the court battle involving the late senator Jimmy Hlophe's estates.

Information supplied to the High Court is to the effect that the bank seized the automobile on the grounds that it remained the financial institution's property subject to Hlophe settling a debt relating to its purchase. The bank had entered into an agreement with the late senator around October last year, where it reportedly gave him the rights to use the car until such time when he had fully serviced a loan relating to its purchase.

This emerged in court papers, where both Andile Hlophe and Bonsile Gwebu deny being in possession of the motor vehicle, which the late Hlophe's widow wanted to be surrendered to her as part of the late senator's estate. "To the best of my knowledge, I recall that on or about February 5, a Toyota Fortuner was surrendered to Nedbank Swaziland Limited,

my deceased husband," she said. The woman further brought to the court's attention the fact that she was the one who took care of the late Hlophe when he fell ill sometime in January.

"As I was traditionally wedded to the late Jameson Mandla Hlophe, I was also a sig-

being the lawful owner of the motor vehicle on the strength of a lease agreement entered into by the late Jameson Mandla Hlophe and the bank," contended Gwebu, in her deposed affidavit. The woman further refuted claims that she was in possession of a tractor belonging to the deceased.

She said according to her knowledge, a certain tractor was sold by Hlophe to Sidvokodvo Wholesalers around the year 2015. The court was further told that all bank accounts of the late senator had been frozen by the relevant financial institutions, on the strength that they belonged to a dead person. As a result, the pair, Andile and Gwebu denied having access to money which belonged to the deceased. The matter is pending at the High Court, where Elizabeth is represented by Mbabane lawyer Noncedo Ndlangamandla while Gwebu and Andile have engaged the services of lawyers from Masina Mzizi Attorneys.

natory to his bank account, particularly the Nedbank account as he registered me as his wife. This enabled me to make transactions on his behalf even after he had passed on. Most of the transactions I made were in respect to his burial and post-burial logistics," she said.

African migrants find safety with *Abahlali Basemjondolo* movement

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Durban

SOME Emaswati imigrants to South Africa have found a safety nest under *Abahlali Basemjondolo* (shack dwellers) movement.

This was discovered during a field trip undertaken by Southern African Development Community journalists who are part of the Southern African Changing the narrative about migration workshop which was hosted by Internews, Save the Children and Democracy Development Programme (DPP) in Durban.

The workshop aimed at telling the positive stories about migration, equip media practitioners with migration reporting skills as well as forming a network of journalists in the SADC region who will collaborate to tell inter-country stories.

Part of the exercise was a field trip to Khenane informal settlement, which is one of the four communities of shack dwellers it operates in.

Speaking during the visit to Khenane; Mqapheli Bonono, Deputy President of the movement, explained that under this movement they promote unity and equality.

"We do not discriminate against our African brothers and sisters," he said.

Bonono said the movement was currently in four communities in South Africa with a membership of 85 000. Bonono said through their idea of *buhlalism* they do not discriminate against any human being regardless of their nationalism.

Idea

"We believe in the idea that in the world there should be no borders and we should be able to communicate and interact with anyone without being blocked by borders," he said. He added that their philosophy is inclining with socialism and communism and fight against capitalism and oppression of black people which has led to a series

of attacks by black people towards one of their kind. Through this notion of *ubuhlalism* which promotes equality and a huge enemy of xenophobia, African migrants have found home in townships under this movement. Chairperson of Khenane Settlement Lindokuhle Mnguni stated that at the place alone they have Africans from Somalia, Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini, amongst others. Through this movement these African migrants have found home, a sense of belonging as well as protection from xenophobic attacks.

Through the movement the African nationals stay together with South Africans without discrimination.

The dwellers under this movement are taught self-reliance through sustainable

agricultural projects. The journalists were shown how *abahlali* plough crops such as maize, beans and vegetables to feed themselves and sell to make profits. Khenane women also rear and breed indigenous chickens and layers. The profits that they receive from these projects are reinvested to the community to improve their lives as they hold government accountable in some areas.

In most cases *imijondolo* or shacks settlements are known as dirty and unhygienic areas but this was not the case at Khenane and other settlements under *Abahlali Basemjondolo* movement. In these settlements hygiene takes the lead as these settlements are the cleanest. The yard and outdoor restrooms were cleaner than a suburb mall restroom.

Over E2M disbursed without an instrument

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE ministry of tinkhundla administration

and development has disbursed over E2 million without regulations governing it.

This is according to the auditor general's report for the year 2020 released on Friday.

The report states that since 2017, the ministry disbursed over E2 million of the Empowerment Fund without an instrument in place.

The report explains that Tinkhundla Empowerment Fund was allocated funds of E6 195 000 annually, and it still operating without any instrument for operational procedure, which governs its operations.

"This matter was reported in the auditor general's report for the year ended March 31, 2017 and was deliberated by Parliament and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The ministry was urged to table the Regulations within three months after adoption," states the report.

Even after it was reported, the AG stated that it was quite concerning that an amount of E2 615 774.09 was disbursed from the Empowerment Fund during the year ended March 31, 2020 without following regula-

...Hlane Inkhundla Centre incurs over E200 000 expenses

DISCONTINUED Hlane Inkhundla Centre still incurs expenses.

This is contained in the 2019/20 auditor's general report. The reports states that the discontinued inkhundla centre continued to incur utility expenses of E15 000 in the fiscal year March 31, 2020, and salaries of E217 933.44 for cleaner and night-watchman since October 2018 to November 2020. The utility expenses were in respect of the acquisitions of prepaid electricity units in the multiple of E5 000 and E10 000 for the discontinued constituency centre. The payments were processed through voucher number 110245, cheque number 02307 and vouch-

er number 080520, cheque number 02200, respectively. A total of E247 933.44 was spent in the past financial year to the centre.

Report

In response, the ministry explained that Hlane Inkhundla was declared as a sub-inkhundla under the Dvokodweni Inkhundla by the delimitation report, thus it is functioning as such. Further, the response from the ministry stated that the existing staff members are to ensure safety and general maintenance of the office.

"The ministry envisages using the structure as a service centre. The electricity units were purchased to keep the office operational," the

ministry stated. "The response from the controlling officer is appreciated. However, she did not provide any evidence to support the assertions made," states the AG. The report also draws attention to durable materials and equipment lying idle at the discontinued Hlane Inkhundla.

The auditor general in his report stated that the value of these items continues to diminish and the neglected items may eventually become unusable.

"Government items are exposed to theft and may be used for personal gain. The ministry was advised to ensure that these items are re-allocated to other deserving tinkhundla centres."

tory controls in the form of rules and regulations. As such, the report states that it was impossible to determine if the fund was operated in a proper manner and for the intended purpose.

Requirements

Worth mentioning is that Section 4(3) of the Public Finance Management Act of 2017 requires every special fund to be administered according to

the requirements of the instrument creating it.

To avoid risk that the funds may not be used for intended purposes, the report states that the ministry was urged to use legitimate regulations to administer the Fund for the benefit of the citizens of the country.

"In response, the ministry concurred with my observation and explained

that the ministry prepared a draft of the Tinkhundla Empowerment Fund Regulations 2019, which was at the final stage of approval by Cabinet and then to Parliament," further states the report.

The delay was caused by the ministry's consultations with the relevant stakeholders before it could be drafted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MANZINI TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2013

I/WE HEZEKIEL MDAMINI DLAMINI, the owner (s) of the property in question, hereby make a **Public Notice in terms of the Clause 1.5 of the 2013 Manzini Town Planning Scheme** that I wish to apply for a **SPECIAL CONSENT** to establish 3x1 bedroom units, on plot 35 Township STERKSTROOM

Anyone having objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the **Municipal Council of Manzini, P.O. Box 418, Manzini, M200 Swaziland** not later than 29/03/2021, that is 21 days from the last publication of the Notice namely on (date) 08/03/2021.

Doc.23812

ONLY 17 WITNESSES LEFT IN MKHOSI TOWNSHIP COMMISSION

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Manzini

THE Mkhosi Township Commission of Enquiry is only left with 17 witnesses to interview.

This was revealed by its Secretary General Nhlanhla Nkonyane.

The commission has so far interviewed over 50 witnesses including government officials from the min-

istry of housing and urban development and the chief executive officer from Eswatini National Housing Board.

The Municipal Council of Manzini is also expected to deliver its evidence. Among other issues that the commission is looking into is whether there were any corrupt practices in the allocation of plots at Mkhosi Township and what led to the project stalling for 20 years. The project which

stalled for 20 years has seen prospective plot owners failing to finish up payments on plots they were allocated after prices shot up at an alarming rate. This led to those affected writing a petition calling for an investigation into the issue. Most of the witnesses have maintained that they want their plots in the original sizes and prices that were agreed upon with the municipality back in the year 2000 when the year commenced.

MKHULU (65) ASSAULTS MAN WITH A WOODEN STICK, ARRESTED

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Pigg's Peak

A 65-year-old man from Ntokozweni has been arrested for assaulting a man with a wooden stick on his forehead and chest.

Elmon Ngwenya appeared yesterday before court where he was charged with an offence of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Ngwenya is alleged to have beaten Mbonani Ngwenya with a wooden stick once on his forehead and once on the left of his chest and thus contravened the assault offence. The accused was reported by the complainant to the police who was later apprehended.

He was remanded out of custody on his own recognisance in that he appears in court when warned to do so, does not interfere with crown witnesses especially Mbonani Ngwenya. He was also, ordered not to commit a similar offence while outside.

Meanwhile, Musa Myeni of Nkomazi was arrested for pummelling his wife with fists and for assaulting her with a rake on her waist. Myeni appeared yesterday before court where he was charged with an offence of

assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Giving evidence, Zanele Khumalo stated that she had been pulled by her hair and further beaten with fists on her head several times. She also said she was further hacked with a rake twice on her waist. Myeni was found guilty on his plea.

In mitigation, he pleaded for leniency and stated that he acted out of anger and was sorry for his actions. Also, he promised not to commit a similar offence.

The court noted that the accused was a first offender and that he had acted out of anger however it negated the act of assaulting his wife and advised him to report such matters in future.

He was sentenced to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of E2 000 however one year of the sentence was suspended for two years in that he is not found to have committed a similar offence.



Govt institutions not adequately capitalised - ENHB CEO

ESWATINI National Housing Board Chief Executive Officer Mduzuzi Dlamini has pointed out that government institutions are facing a challenge in that they are not adequately capitalised.

Dlamini said this during his appearance before the Mkhosi Township Commission of Enquiry. The enquiry which has been going on for weeks seeks to find out if there were any irregularities which occurred in the allocation of plots in the Mkhosi Township Project.

This project has stalled for over 20 years as it began back in 1999. The commission is headed by Chairperson Zonke Magagula; the Secretary is Nhlanhla Nkonyane while William Ndlela is the

Commissioner.

The commissioner wanted to know from the CEO if the Municipal Council of Manzini was capable of handling a project such as the Mkhosi Township Project.

Project

Dlamini said Council has been managing Manzini which is a big city so the municipal council has the capacity to work on the project as they have worked on other similar projects before. He said the Council budget was greater than that of ENHB.

"However, the council needs ratepayers to participate in order to be able to execute its projects properly," Dlamini noted.

According to Dlamini, govern-

ment institutions were not adequately capitalised in the country. He said this was despite that these institutions have land.

He made an example of Msunduzi Township which took quite some time to get approved and worked on.

On the Mkhosi Township Project, Dlamini said as ENHB, they were involved in the inception of the project but at later stages were not involved.

He also pointed out that the key delay in the Mkhosi Township Project might have been as a result of the municipal council inability to raise funds. The CEO said the project was not about viability but it was about funding.

MINOR DROWNS, BODY STILL NOT FOUND

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A family of an eight year old girl are distraught after she drowned at Luntsantsama River and her body has been missing for four days now.

The girl drowned at the river located just below the University of Eswatini (Kwaluseni) last Thursday at around 1 pm.

Information gathered was to the effect that the girl was playing with her friends of about the same ages near to the river. Sources said the river passes near the compound where the girl and her mother rented a flat.

While playing, the other children reportedly stated that the girl saw a container floating in the river so she went in to take it.

However, when she was in the river, the container was said to have floated away from the river bank compelling the girl to go after it.

Unfortunately, while she was in the middle of the river, the girl kept plunging in the water and resurfacing again. Her friends were said to have thought that she had decided to play in the water.

Their assumption was dismissed when they saw her take one last plunge into the water and never resurfacing again. The children ran back home to



SEARCHING: Scuba divers hard at work searching for the little girl's body at Luntsantsama River. (Pic: Bongliwe Dlamini)

report to the girl's mother what had happened at the river.

A search party went out to look for her and the police were called. However, when police scuba divers searched the river starting where the girl had drowned, they could not find her body on the first day. The search has been conducted through the weekend with no luck.

Puzzled

Since the river is a tributary that flows into the Lusushwana River, the search had been done until far down the stream near the Lusushwana River still with no luck.

What puzzled those who assist-

ed the police in the search is the fact that under water, there is vegetation big enough to have blocked the girl's body from being washed downstream. Some have the theory that the minor's body was submerged under water possibly at the same spot she drowned.

Even so, the police scuba divers have not found anything yet.

When sought for comment, the Acting Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni confirmed that the girl's body has still not been found. She said the police will continue searching for her body.



PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MANZINI MALL

Thwese Developments is proposing to develop a shopping mall in Manzini. This project is aimed at contributing to the country's economic development, improving the quality of life in the country and revolutionize Eswatini's retail industry through the provision of shops that are not currently available in the country. The proposed location for the development extends across multiple land portions between the Old Trade Fair and Manzini Bus Rank. The development comprises a three (3) level shopping mall and a hotel with conferencing facilities (conference centre restaurant, casino and nightclub). The hotel and conferencing facilities will be located across the Mzimnene river and connected by a bridge to the mall building.

In accordance with the Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Regulations, 2000, members of the public, interested and affected parties (IAPs) are notified of the above development. IAPs are encouraged to contact the underlisted for more information and to also express their view and concerns about the project.

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FODSWA applauds legislation amendment

BY ANDILE NSIBANDE
Mbabane

THE striking down of a piece of legislation which proscribed claims of compensation by victims of hit and run accidents has been received as good news by people with disabilities.

In fact, the judgment was described as an indicated that the cry of the disabled or those with disabilities are finally being heard.

This was according to Sipho Dlamini, President of the Federation of Organisations of the Disabled in Eswatini (FODSWA), which welcomed the ground-breaking judgment of the High Court of Eswatini in a statement that was sent to media yesterday.

"On February 19, a full bench of the High Court (sitting as a Constitutional Court) struck down Section 11 bis (1) (b) of the Motor Vehicle Accident (amended) Act of 2011 which proscribed claims for general damages by victims of hit and run accidents. This provision adversely affected hit and run accident victims and discriminated them from making claims for general damages like other victims who identified the accident caus-

ing vehicles," he said. This related to the court case of Muzikababa Benedict Sibiya v Minister of Finance and two Others in case no. 1743/18 [2021] 11.

The applicant was doing his third year of his Bachelor of Science degree studies, where he specialised in Animal Sciences at the University of Eswatini, when he was hit by a motor vehicle whilst walking home in the company of a friend back in 2013.

The accident left him unconscious and he was unable to identify the vehicle which knocked him. He suffered severe head injuries and underwent a brain surgery. Consequently, his academic performance was hampered. He failed his studies and lost his scholarship.

He then filed a claim with the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA) for compensation in order to pay for his tuition fees. However, MVA refused the claim on the basis of the impugned provisions. He then brought the application before the High Court to have Section 11 bis (1) (b) declared unconstitutional.

The court ruled in his favour, which was considered a victory by people with disabilities in the country.

FODSWA, the local organisation looking after the welfare of people under this category, noted that glob-



GOOD NEWS: FODSWA President Sipho Dlamini.

ally about 20 to 50 million people incur some form of disability as a result of road accidents.

This often results into the victims suffering disproportionate economic setbacks which cannot be relieved without the provision of adequate compensation. The organisation went on to state that in the kingdom persons with disabilities were characterised by poverty and lack of opportunities to enjoy equal access to, among other things, education and employment.

"This case marks a turning point for hit and run victims, especially those who have suffered some form of disability as a result of a motor vehicle accident," said Dlamini.

According to the organisation's

president, FODSWA believes that the impugned provisions exacerbated the exclusion of persons with disabilities and deprived their families of livelihoods resulting to life-long suffering.

In reaching its decision, the court relied on Section 20(1) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini Act No 1 of 2005 which provides for equality and non-discrimination.

"FODSWA welcomes and appreciates the court's approach as it complies with Eswatini's regional and international human rights obligations.

We implore the government to ensure non-discriminatory standards when drafting and applying domestic laws. It is important that the MVA legislation recognise intersectional issues that heighten social exclusion such as disability and limited access to education and socio-economic empowerment, resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

"We therefore, encourage the government to closely consult with all stakeholders, especially persons with disabilities to ensure that laws do not leave anyone behind. We look forward to the implementation of the judgment and hope it will bring relief for many persons with disabilities, who have been victims of the impugned provisions," remarked Dlamini.

Unsuspecting MoMo

BY KWANELE SIBIYA
Manzini

A spree of conning Mobile Money vendors their hard earned money by furnishing them with envelopes filled with papers under the pretense that it is money ended badly for a 27 year-old man of Logoba.

He was arrested by the police and charged with the offence of theft by false pretense.

Ntokozo Kita Mamba appeared at the Matsapha Circuit Court before Magistrate Mthokosizi Dlamini charged with theft by false pretense.

He committed the offence on February 18, at Eteni in the Manzini region.

The charge sheet states that Mamba did wrongfully, unlawfully and with intent to defraud, steal and misrepresented Siphelele Mndzebele and stole from her a sum of E1 500, in which he received as mobile money units transferred to his cellphone and handed over brown envelope with papers as payment, then ran away, whereas at the time he made the aforesaid misrepresentation well knew it to be false and thus committed the crime of theft by false pretense.

According to evidence recorded and submitted before court, on the day the offence was committed, Mamba approached Mndzebele who plies her trade as a mobile money vendor at Eteni, carrying a brown envelope filled with papers.

It was stated in court that the envelope was written E1 500 which was supposed to be deposited into a Mobile Money account through a cellphone number which was also written on the envelope, which Mamba

SEDCO NEWS

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SEDCO SmallEnterprisesDevelopmentCompany



COMPANY REGISTRATION

Registering your business may appear as a tedious and cumbersome process but SEDCO a government parastatal whose primary mandate is to help grow small businesses, has made it easier. Registering your business is a smart choice and as a small to medium-sized business (SME) owner, you want to establish and protect your unique brand. Not only does SEDCO facilitate the registration of a company but also helps in procurement of trading licenses as well as lodgement of company forms at affordable prices.

Why should you register your company?

Company registration is a process of turning your business into a legal entity. Before venturing into business and operating one should first register their business. Registering your business has certain advantages. Firstly, it enhances your identity and adds credibility to your operation: Registering a business makes it easy for potential customers to identify you as a legitimate operation. Also, it attracts business and funding

opportunities: To qualify for a business loan, you must have an official business registration. Investors are more likely to take you seriously if you're asking for investment in a registered business. It also establishes your company as a separate financial entity: When your business is registered, your personal and business finances will be treated as separate. This means that your personal assets cannot be seized to repay debts owed by your business and you cannot be held responsible for the debts unless you have personally guaranteed them. It protects you from personal liability: As a registered business, your company is now a separate legal entity. This means that any legal matters will be kept separate from your personal affairs.

Requirements

From afar, registering your business can seem like a long and strenuous process, but SEDCO makes it easier and quicker. You simply visit your nearest SEDCO office with the following requirements:

-Three company names in order of preference



-Company objectives
-Director's names, shares and contact numbers
-Director's graded tax number

Trading licence requirements

Acquiring a trading licence varies depending on the sector your business is under, location and the nature of the licence. The general requirements as follows:

*Memorandum certificate
*Form j

*Lease of agreement
*Director's tax certificate
*Director's ID copy (certified)

SEDCO also facilitates the lodging of company forms (Form C and form J) as well as the renewal of licences. For more information, visit any sedco branch nearest to you or call 24042811. You can also send an email to business@sedco.co.sz.

Vendor conned E1 500

claimed that it belonged to an elderly woman who had difficulty in walking and as such she had asked him to deposit the money into her Mobile Money account on his way to town.

According to Mndzebele, when leading evidence before court, Mamba told him that he was in a hurry, so he pleaded with her to swiftly deposit the money into the account of the elderly woman without verifying its content and further instructed her that she would verify later and given that the envelope was sealed, she did likewise.

Vanished

She said soon after depositing the money into the account, Mamba quickly vanished into the thin air and when she later unsealed the envelope, she had the shock of her life when she realised that inside the package were only papers which were cut to match the size of bank notes.

She told the court that soon after discovering the anomaly, she immediately tried to dial the number which was written on the envelope, only to discover that it was not available on the mobile network.

Thereafter, she said she reported the matter to the police who through the assistance of Eswatini MTN managed to trace Mamba until they found him and later apprehended him.

During his court appearance, Mamba's right to legal representation was explained to him and preferred to conduct his own defense.

The charge was put to him and he tendered a plea of guilty. He was found guilty as per his own plea.

Shortly after that, Mamba was afforded an opportunity to mitigate for a lenient sentence.

When mitigating for a lenient sentence, he pleaded with the court to be lenient on him when passing sentence on grounds that he was a first time offender. He told the court that he would never commit an offence of that nature in the near future ever again.

Mamba also informed the court that he had refunded the complainant sum of E1 390 as part of the money he had stolen from her.

Before meting out judgment, the presiding magistrate informed Mamba that in passing out sentence, he had considered the nature of the offence and the manner in which it happened.

"I have also noted the prevalence of the offence and considered your mitigation, therefore, I sentence you to spend 12 months in prison with an option of paying a fine of E2 000," he said.

Furthermore, Mamba was also ordered by the court to refund the complainant the remaining balance of E110.

He was also informed that the refund had to be made before the payment of the fine.



DANGER: A minor pictured attempting to cross the river where the Mbikwakhe bridge is expected to be constructed. Story on Page 13.

<div>  <div> TENDER PORTAL </div>  </div>		
PROCURING ENTITY	TENDER TITLE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
Works		
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	132KV Towers Soil Erosion Rehabilitation	17-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Edwaleni II to Stonehenge 132kV Line and Associated Substation line Feeder Bays Construction	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC)	Proposed Building Works For Mapelepele Cottage Development At Mlawula Nature Reserve	05-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Rehabilitation Of Mhlonhlweni And Mbazane Piggery Structures	05-03-2021 14:00pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Construction Of Feeder Canal Crossing And Link Road For Mbazane Project	12-03-2021 14:00pm
Malkerns Town Board	Re-Gravelling Of Unpaved Roads	17-03-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Design Review And Construction Of Drainage And Walk Ways In The Central Business District (C.B.D)	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF)	Construction Of Multi-Storey Apartments In Mbabane	16-04-2021 12:00pm
Vuvulane Town Board	Renovation Of Offices	16-03-2021 11:00am
Services		
Central Transport Administration	Hire Of Vehicles	12-03-2021 09:00am
Central Transport Administration	Printing Of CTA Printed Stationery	12-03-2021 09:00am
Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM)	Provision Of Cleaning Services	05-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA)	Review And Develop A Stakeholder Management Strategy And Implementation Plan	26-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Housing Board (EHB)	Security Services Enhlahlweni & Mbabane South Estate	19-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Housing Board (EHB)	Security Services Mbangweni, Checkers & Golf Course	19-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Housing Board (EHB)	Security Services Matsapha Mobeni Estate	19-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Housing Board (EHB)	Security Services Old Mobeni & Kuyehlela Estate	19-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Industrial Development Corporation (ENIDC)	Strategy Review And Development	12-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini National Petroleum Company (ENPC)	Provision Of Consultancy Services Of Transactional Advisor	16-03-2021 11:00am
Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC)	Consultancy Services To Conduct A Mid Term Review Of The ENTC 2019-2022 Strategic Plan	23-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Supply And Installation Of A Mobile Cold Room At Lukhetseni Packhouse	12-03-2021 12:00pm
Ezulwini Municipality	Provision Of Security Services	03-03-2021 12:00pm
Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA)	Consultancy Services In The Development Of The FSRA Performance Management System	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA)	Development Of Financial Services Regulatory Authority 3 Year Strategic Plan	05-03-2021 12:00pm
Mankayane Town Board	Preparation Of The Mankayane Town Planning Scheme	20-04-2021 10:00am
Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA)	Design Of A Performance Based Pay Structure And System	11-03-2021 12:00pm
Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA)	Provision Of Business Process Management Implementation Services	11-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Medical Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Service Of Fire Fighting Equipment	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Plant Hire & Towing Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Welding & Steel Fabrication Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Tree Felling & Bush Clearing Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Legal Support & Advisory Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	HR Support Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Maintenance Services	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Provision Of Law Enforcement And Nuisance Abatement Services	31-03-2021 10:00am
National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA)	Consultancy Services To Update Financial Management Governance Policy Manuals And Developing Operating Procedures Manual	05-03-2021 10:00am
National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA)	Evaluation Of Adolescent And Youth Friendliness In Health Facilities In Eswatini	12-03-2021 10:00am
Nhlangano Town Council	Public Private Partnership (PPP) For The Upgrading Of The Southern Country Club And The Nhlangano Golf Course	12-04-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Printing Of Council Documents	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Supplies		
Central Transport Administration	Supply Of New Batteries And Accessories For Vehicles And Motor Bikes	12-03-2021 09:00am
Central Transport Administration	Supply And Delivery Of New Tyres, Tubes And Accessories	12-03-2021 09:00am
Central Transport Administration	Supply And Delivery Of Lubricants, Oils And Greases	12-03-2021 09:00am
Malkerns Town Board	Supply And Delivery Of Refuse Skip Loader Truck	08-03-2021 12:00pm
Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Buildings Department)	Supply And Delivery Of Electrical Materials	26-03-2021 09:00am
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Office Furniture	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Road Signs & Street Name Plates	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Electrical Consumables	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Catering Services & Food Items For Social Centre Feeding Programme	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Ict Support Services, Office Equipment, Computer Hardware & Software Accessories	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Tryes And Tubes	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Road Marking Paints	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Corporate Gifts & Promotional Items	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Plumbing Materials	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Clinic Consumables, Laboratory Materials & Equipment	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Brush Cutters, Spares, & Accessories	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Cleaning Material	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Protective Clothing	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Toilet Paper	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Design, Construction & Building Material	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Light Duty Spares, Heavy Duty Spares, Oil, Grease & Accessories	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Manzini (MCM)	Supply Of Pre-Printed Stationery, Design & Printing Of Council Documents	24-03-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Supply Of Electrical Maintenance Materials	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Supply Of Personal Protective Equipment	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Supply Of Computers And Cartridge	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Supply Of Office Stationery	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Supply Of Cleaning Materials	01-03-2021 12:00pm
Expression of Interest		
National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBOARD)	Development Of Modern Trailers for Small Produce Collection and Distribution to All Outlets	02-03-2021 16:30pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Registration of Canteen Services Contractors	11-03-2021 12:00pm
Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA)	Supply Of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) & System	26-03-2021 12:00pm

The Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPRA) hereby invites suitably qualified and registered suppliers, eligible to participate in public procurement to submit tenders to the above listed Government departments, local Governments and state owned enterprises. Visit www.sppra.co.sz to view or download latest tenders.

@sppraofficial

95 nabbed for DD in February

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

ROYAL Eswatini Police Service (REPS) arrested 95 motorists for driving while under the influence of alcohol in the month of February.

This past weekend, which was the last weekend of February, the service arrested and charged 22 motorists

for contravening Section 91(1) as read with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

The Act stipulates that motorists should not have an alcohol content exceeding 0.38mg/l in their breath specimen.

Lower

The number of cases recorded this past weekend was lower than all the other weekends of the month.

Last Sunday, the police charged 23

motorists for contravening the Road Traffic Act.

On February 14, 24 motorists were arrested while on February 7, the police nabbed 26.

This means in the four weekends of February, the police charged 95 motorists for contravening the piece of legislation.

The numbers show a huge increase compared to January's cases. In the first month of the year, the REPS

charged 72 motorists for contravening the Road Traffic Act.

Confirmed

Acting Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the reports.

Mnguni once highlighted that the increase in DD cases was a concern to them as the sale of alcohol was still suspended.

She stated that this showed that as

a service they should continue working tirelessly to arrest people who are selling and brewing alcohol while it is prohibited in the country.

Increase

"The marula season is also suspected to be behind the increase in the number of DDs," she stated.

Motorists charged with contravening this Act are liable to five years imprisonment or maximum E5 000 fine.

Kombi conductor, marshal fight in public

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A kombi marshal and a conductor were arrested for fighting in a public space.

The marshal who is based at the Manzini-Mbabane Highway, Mduduzi Thwala (32) of Hlatikulu and the kombi conductor Melusi Nkomonye (27) of Lubulini appeared before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini at the Matsapha Circuit Court after they were arrested on Sunday.

The duo was charged with contra-

vening Section 37(d) of the Urban Government Regulations of 1969 in that while at Mahhala, they wrongfully and unlawfully disturbed members of the public by fighting. This act by the marshal and driver caused a standstill at Mahhala.

After their charge was read to them, Thwala and Nkomonye pleaded guilty. In mitigation, Thwala pleaded for a lenient sentence.

It was at this juncture that the kombi marshal revealed that they were fighting over a woman. Although neither of the two men elaborated on the exact reason that they fought.

Nkomonye conceded that his girlfriend who was also familiar with Thwala was the cause of their fall-out. He also apologised for breaking the law and promised that he will not commit the same offence again.

Before meting out judgment, Magistrate Dlamini noted the prevalence of such an offence in his court. He then sentenced the two men to two months community service at the Sigodvweni Police Station. The duo is expected to take some time off their day jobs as the magistrate ordered that they report for their community service at the station from Monday to Friday.



Sigodvweni Police Station.

Form Five pupil (19) drowns at Mtilane River

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Lozitha

THE country's flooded rivers have claimed yet another life after a Form Five pupil from Zombodze High School drowned while trying to cross Mtilane River at Lozitha.

The family of the deceased Ndabenhle Lushaba (19) has been left shattered and wondering whether the young man could have survived had the police and more importantly, the Fire and Emergency Services personnel reached the scene on time.

The incident took place on Tuesday near the foot bridge linking Lozitha and old Ludzidzini which was recently washed away by the heavy rains.

A source close to the matter said the deceased was last seen with two of his friends headed towards the dam-

aged crossing, but did not know why they were headed in that direction.

According to a family member who identified herself as his aunt, they were informed by one of the survivors that they attempted to swim across the flooded river since the footbridge was damaged.

"His friend told us that they were in front of the deceased and upon successfully crossing, they noticed that their friend was missing and suspected that he had gone under without taking into account that he may have drowned," she said.

She mentioned that the other two boys waited for their friend for some time before they decided to raise the alarm and informed his family and other community members. She said after they were informed that the deceased was missing, they decided to seek for help from other commu-

nity members and formed a search party along the river looking for any signs of the deceased.

They also informed the police about the incident but when the police and the Fire and Emergency officers arrived, the lifeless body of the deceased had already been retrieved from the river.

Another source close to the matter informed this publication that they did not believe the story narrated by the other boys and alleged that they may have been swimming in the river since there was no pressing reason for them to cross.

He said what bothered them the most was that when the Fire and Emergency Services officers arrived at the scene, they were stranded on the other side of the river and could not cross. "When they arrived here after some time, we had already retrieved the body. They only stood on the other side of the

river bank and instructed us on what to do," he said.

He mentioned that they were informed to turn his body face down and after doing so, water and food came out of the deceased's mouth. He said they believed that had the help came on time, they may have done something to save his life and further expressed his disappointment about the service they received.

National Fire and Emergency Services Public Relations Officer Herbert Shabangu confirmed the incident. He said the Matsapha Fire Station officers responded to the call but unfortunately when they arrived at the scene, they discovered that the community members had already retrieved the body.

He said the officers did all they could to gather information as they were stranded on the other side of the river bank with no way to cross. "If the body had not been retrieved, we would have attempted to search for it but

when we got there he was already dead and there was no need to conduct the search," he said.

He mentioned that as per procedure, the matter was reported to the police since it was already in the hands of the police and there was nothing they could do.

Acting Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the matter. She said when the police arrived at the scene, the boy had died and his body had been retrieved from the water.

“When they arrived here after some time, we had already retrieved the body”

QUARTET ARRESTED FOR BREAKING COVID-19 RULES

BY KWANELE SIBIYA
Manzini

DRINKING alcohol in public space, failing to maintain the appropriate social distance and failing to wear face masks has seen four women being arrested and sentenced for the offences.

Sebenele Simelane, Bongiwe Makhanya, Nomlindo Vilakati and Khanyisile Mhlanga appeared at the Matsapha Circuit Court before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini.

The quartet was on count one charged with contravening Regulation 15(2) as read with Section 24 of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Regulations of 2020.

Together

They committed the offence at Mfabantfu area in the Manzini District, wherein acting together in furtherance of a common purpose, they did wrongfully and unlawfully fail to maintain a social distance and to wear face masks without a valid reason and thus contravened the cited Act.

On count two, the partners were charged with contravening Section 27 (8) of the Liquor Act 30/1994, whereby they acted together in furtherance of a common purpose and thereby did wrongfully and unlawfully drink alcohol, behave

violently and disorderly in a public place where such action is prohibited by the said Act and thus contravened it.

Explained

During their court appearance, their rights to legal representation were explained to them. They all preferred to conduct their own defence and they pleaded guilty to all the offences.

The Crown accepted the pleas without leading evidence and they were found guilty as charged.

When mitigating for a lenient sentence, Simelane pleaded that it was a mistake for her to commit the offence.

Fact

Makhanya pleaded for a lenient sentence based on the fact that she would never drink alcohol again.

Vilakati, on the other hand, pleaded with the court on the basis that she had gone to buy bread at the supermarket and thereafter, she decided to hang around with her friends when she was arrested.

Mhlanga pleaded with the court to be lenient with her based on the fact that she would never commit the offence again.

They were all sentenced to spend three months in prison with an option of paying a fine of E300 each.

Committed officer praised for sacrifices

STORIES BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

MINISTRY of home affairs officer Mphikeleli Saul Magwaza has been praised for sacrificing his time to attend to 200 members of the public cramming the offices.

Magwaza works under the Civil Rights Department in Nhlangano. He won the hearts of many last Monday when he arrived in pyjamas to advise the people assembled at the offices for services they were to receive the following morning.

This was after he was made aware that people sleep in the verandahs while queuing for identity documents and birth certificates.

These included those who had made several trips to the department without making the number that the department usually attends to per day. It's now a trend in the government offices to find long queues for services such as IDs and birth certificates. A source said the office now attends to a specific number of people per day. On Monday, the list ended up reaching 300 people.

Mayibongwe Khumalo, who said it was his fourth trip to the department



COMMITTED: Mphikeleli Magwaza attending to the people he found queuing during the night at government offices. (Pic: Starsky Mkhonta)

mentioned that it was frustrating to be told to come back the next day as there was a limited number of people taken daily.

Attend

"This is my fourth trip today as I have been unable to make it to the first 50 people they usually attend to. I decided to sleepover with the hope

of being in the list of the 50 people to be first to be attended to tomorrow. For now I am number 23," said Khumalo.

Adding, Khumalo said it was consoling to see Magwaza attending to them at that late hour.

"We appreciate what Magwaza is doing, at least we now have a clue as

to why a limited number is attended to. For him to come here at this hour is highly appreciated. That is true public service because even if he does not come with solutions he makes us understand why they take a limited number. Thumbs up to him and may the other officers in public offices emulate him," said Khumalo.

Heavy rains hinder fixing of roads

THE unrelenting rains have delayed refurbishment of the roads within Nhlangano town.

The town council has embarked on fixing three stretch roads connecting main streets. One of the stretches is that behind the police regional headquarters leading to Benguni House.

The second one is the stretch below the Holy Trinity Church and the third one is that next to a complex housing several shops such as Bears Furniture along the busiest town's main streets.

Leading road construction company AG Thomas has been tasked with the project costing E3 million. The company is supposed to complete the refurbishment in three months (120 working days).

Nhlangano Town Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Apollo Maphalala said his office was fully aware that rains were a hindrance.

"Yes, rains are needed but it is a fact that sometimes our projects are disturbed if it continues raining without stopping. Concerning this project, we have been affected but I can't say the deadline will not be met. As far as we are concerned, the company is still within the time frame agreed upon. They are professionals and we have confidence in this company that it will do a perfect job," said Maphalala.



DESTROYED: One of the houses the Myeni family of Nsingizini under Hosea Constituency occupies. (Pic: Starsky Mkhonta)



HOMELESS: Some of Gogo Myeni's 12 grandchildren.

13 FAMILY MEMBERS ALMOST BURIED ALIVE

BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

A family of 13 was almost buried alive inside their house which collapsed due to heavy rains.

The Myeni family of Nsingizini under Hosea Constituency heard a strange noise and an earth tremor while in one of the huts which led to them storm-

ing out in full speed.

Gogo Nester Myeni (71), with her grandchildren were in the house as it was raining heavily.

According to Bucopho of Nsingizini Selby Gumbi, he was alerted of the incident and immediately rushed there. He said Gogo Myeni was confused as she was worried about her grandchildren.

"The old woman's big worry was

her grandchildren. She wondered what will become of them had the house collapsed while they were sleeping. There is no decent house in the homestead as all of them are crumbling. They were fortunate that the house collapsed during the day," said Gumbi. He said even the other houses were on the verge of collapsing anytime. "They need urgent help as the houses they call home are now more like

death traps. It's no longer safe for anyone there," said Gumbi.

Gumbi said in the family, the youngest is aged three years and others range from the ages of six to 19.

"The family cannot afford anything. The old woman has the responsibility of providing for the children. The social grant she gets it is not enough to cater for the family's needs," said Gumbi. Further, the family is living

in abject poverty as they rely on hand-outs. "There are children who are too young to understand the plight they face. Others were found crying because of hunger. We appeal to anyone who can provide food to the family to come forward. They sometimes go to bed on empty stomach," said Gumbi.

Gumbi said building material was also needed to assist in building decent houses for the Myeni family.

Gumbi said anyone willing to assist the family can contact him at 7628 6976.



STATEMENT ON ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY COMMEMORATION -1ST MARCH 2021-

Every year on 1st March, Eswatini joins the rest of the world to commemorate Zero Discrimination Day.

We use this day to celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life and live it with dignity. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination. On Zero Discrimination Day this year, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to take action to end the inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion that continue to persist around the world.

Discrimination and inequalities are closely intertwined. Intersecting forms of discrimination, be it structural or social, against individuals and groups can lead to a wide range of inequalities—for example, in income, educational outcomes, health and employment. However, inequalities themselves can also lead to stigma and discrimination. It is critical, therefore, when looking to reduce inequalities to address discrimination.

ESWATINI COMMITMENT TO END STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

The Kingdom of Eswatini has united in the global action to reduce stigma and discrimination related to HIV and AIDS through the creation of a supportive stigma reduction framework to inform implementation of the HIV and AIDS policy, advocacy and programming. The over-

all objective is to determine manifestations of stigma, discrimination and human rights violations against PLHIV in the Kingdom of Eswatini. The most common indicators of stigma and discrimination include rejection, isolation, moral judgments, self-exclusion and human rights violations. HIV related stigma and discrimination hinders access to prevention, treatment, care and support services. Among people living with HIV, stigma and discrimination contributes to late disclosure of HIV status and initiation on treatment as well as adherence to treatment.

The HIV stigma index report, 2019 presents a picture of the current situation in terms of stigma and discrimination among people living with HIV in the Kingdom. The most common reported stigma and discrimination was being targets of discriminatory remarks by other people and being verbally harassed. People Living with HIV (PLHIV) mentioned that discriminatory remarks are through different phrases such as “BMW”, “Li A”, “ingculaza”, “lifahlawane” and “phinduvuke” which portrays PLHIV as being promiscuous, sick and unproductive. Despite, this derogatory remarks against them, PLHIV have developed internal resilience and the survey depicts that HIV related stigma and discrimination is experienced by fewer people. However, discriminatory attitudes and prejudice against PLHIV exist in communities and manifests through gossip during social gatherings. Disclosure of HIV status is difficult for PLHIV. The survey presents the need for PLHIV, and HIV and AIDS programme implementors to plan, educate, raise awareness and implement HIV stigma sensitive programmes.

ENDING INEQUALITY

Inequality is growing for more than 70% of the global population, exacerbating the risk of division and hampering economic and social development. COVID-19 is further hitting the most vulnerable people the hardest, even as new vaccines against COVID-19 are becoming available, there is great inequality in accessing them. Many have equated this to vaccine apartheid. Confronting inequalities and ending discrimination is critical to ending AIDS. The world is off track from delivering on the shared commitment to end AIDS by 2030 not because of a lack of knowledge, capability or means to beat AIDS, but because of structural inequalities that obstruct proven solutions in HIV prevention and treatment. For example, recent research shows that key populations are twice as likely to acquire HIV if they live in a country with punitive approaches to sexual orientation than if they live in a country with supportive legislation.

Tackling inequality is not a new commitment. In 2015, all countries pledged to reduce inequality within and between countries as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. But it is not yet one that the world has delivered on. As well as being core to ending AIDS, tackling inequality will also advance the human rights of people who are living with HIV, make societies better prepared to beat COVID-19 and other pandemics and support economic recovery and stability. Fulfilling the promise to tackle inequality will save millions of lives and benefit the society as a whole. To do this, we must confront discrimination in all its

forms.

Despite the challenges that still persist, Eswatini has made significant strides in dealing with HIV related stigma and discrimination. But prejudice directed against PLHIV remain and manifests through demeaning reactions towards PLHIV at social gatherings, and the labelling of PLHIV with derogatory phrases. Despite, PLHIV have strong resilience as most were of the view that living with HIV has no effect in their lives. In fact, some have even developed negative attitudes. Disclosure of HIV status is still difficult for PLHIV. Family members and associates become aware of the HIV status of PLHIV through other people, and without the consent of PLHIV. This undermines the rights of PLHIV to consent for the disclosure of their HIV status.

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Ending inequality requires transformative change. Greater efforts are needed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and there is a need to invest more in health, education, social protection and decent jobs. But to achieve dignity for all, political, economic and social policies need to protect the rights of everyone and pay attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

We can all play our part by calling out discrimination where we see it, by setting an example or by advocating to change the law. We all have a role to play in ending discrimination and so reducing inequalities. Participate in this year's Zero Discrimination Day by shining a light on inequalities and doing your part in helping to address them.



GJA COMMISSIONS E1.3 MILLION BRIDGE

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbikwakhe

MANZINI RA Chief Gija has officially commissioned the construction of the E1.3 million worth low-level bridge at Nyonikayiphumuli in Mbikwakhe.

This was during his visit for identifying the site for the contractor to station their camp as well as blessing the commencement of the construction of the bridge on Wednesday. The bridge is one of the recently launched development projects to be constructed under Micro Projects.

The RA said he was encouraged by the commitment from the community members and urged them to work hand in hand to ensure that the project is a success. He said he was aware that the roads in the area were in bad condition and pleaded with the community to work hand in hand with government during the project implementation.

He assured the community that he will also conduct periodic visits during the construction of the bridge until its completion. He also noted that some of the homesteads have been constructed along the river bank and urged them to refrain from doing such



EXCITED - Kwaluseni MP Sibusiso Mabhanisi Dlamini addressing the crowd while RA Chief Gija and a senior member of the community listen.

after the recent damage caused by flooding rivers countrywide.

Kwaluseni MP Sibusiso Mabhanisi Dlamini said the development came at the right time as the roads and bridges in the area have been damaged by the recent rains. He said the community also welcomed the development and pledged to contribute 10 per cent of the total cost. "Each homestead is expected to contribute E50 and those who are unable to afford the fee, have volunteered their labour," he said.

He further mentioned that the development does not belong to the inkhundla but the entire community.

He said a number of bridges including one at Ngobalukhalo have been damaged by the recent

heavy rains. He said as the inkhundla committee, they fully welcomed the long overdue development which also includes the pro base road.

Chairperson of the local development committee for the bridge Mphikeleli Zwane said they were happy that all their hard work and commitment has finally paid off.

He also pleaded with the community members to come together and contribute to ensure that the project is a success.

One of the elders in the community identified as Babe Jama thanked the inkhundla and government for the development. He said the roads in the area are in a bad state and some are completely damaged and unusable.

Mbikwakhe youth gets thumbs up from RA

MANZINI Regional Administrator Chief Gija has hailed Mbikwakhe youth for their commitment to development after they volunteered to assist removing fencing in preparation for the upcoming probase road.

The youth have taken it upon themselves to prioritise development in the area by providing their services to underprivileged homesteaders who do not have the means to hire help for removing their fencing which will be affected by the construction of the pro base road in the area.

This was during his visit of the Nyonikayiphumuli low level bridge which will be constructed

beginning of next month.

Kwaluseni MP Sibusiso Mabhanisi Dlamini informed the RA that in preparation of the construction of the probase road, some of the homesteads indicated that they did not have the financial means to hire people to remove their fencing which will be affected by the road construction.

"The local youth decided to stand up and be counted by volunteering their services free of charge.

"This clearly indicates that they welcome the development in the area," he said.

The RA commended their commitment and urged them to continue prioritising devel-

opment in their community. He said they are the future of the community and he was proud that they decided to lead by example which should serve as encouragement for the youth in other communities.

"I am proud about what you are doing and if all communities would behave in this manner, the whole country would be better off in terms of development, this will be part of your profile

He further mentioned that there have been concerning reports that some of the local authority have been selling land in the area.

He encouraged the youth to advise their elders

Contractor heaps praises to community

THE contractor, Comnitech Pty Ltd has pleaded with the community not to vandalise their equipment.

This was mentioned by the Eugene Mnisi on behalf of the company Director Lungile Minisi who said they were committed to completing the project within the timelines.

He pleaded with the community to work hand in hand with them in ensuring the project is completed successfully.

Machinery

He noted that in some areas, there were reports that the machinery and equipment was vandalised and sometimes stolen which resulted in the projects

being delayed.

"We plead with the inkhundla to provide us with a resident who will be tasked with ensuring the equipment is safe," he said.

He mentioned that the project completion timeline is six months and assured that if the community worked hand in hand with



ESWATINI HOUSING BOARD

Tel: (+268) 2405 5000
Fax: (268) 2405 5224
Email: postbox@snhb.co.sz
Website: www.snhb.co.sz

Head Office: 5th Floor Sibekelo Building, Mbabane Office Park
P. O Box 798, Mbabane
Eswatini, H100

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Tenderers are hereby invited to submit proposals for the provision of security services for the below estates;

Tender No. 6 of 2020/2021 Security Services Matsapha Mobeni Estate
Tender No. 7 of 2020/2021 Security Services Old Mobeni & Kuyehlela Estates
Tender No. 8 of 2020/2021 Security Services Enhlanhlani & Mbabane South Estates
Tender No. 9 of 2020/2021 Security Services Mbangweni, Checkers & Golf Course

A document with terms, conditions and qualification criteria is obtainable, after the payment of **Seven Hundred and fifty Emalangeni (E750.00)** tender fee is deposited into **EHB FNB account 62335193926 held with FNB Mbabane**. Tender documents can be downloaded from **www.sppra.co.sz** and **www.ehb.co.sz**. Documents are to be downloaded from **18th February 2021 to 19th of March 2021**.

The will be no compulsory site visits held, Tenderers may undertake sites visits at their own accord.

Tender documents must be returned to the EHB and deposited to the designated tender box at the 5th floor Sibekelo Building, Mbabane EHB reception on or before **1200hrs on Friday, 19th March 2021**. Tender submissions should be in a sealed envelope marked with the **"Tender Name"** and addressed to **"The Secretary EHB Tender Committee, P.O. Box 798 MBABANE"**. Late, facsimile and emailed tenders will not be considered.

Tenderers are required to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the tender document. The original document must contain the following documents:

- Valid Trading license
- Valid Original tax compliance certificate
- Form J
- Colour copies of Directors' IDs
- ENPF compliance certificate (Not certificate of registration)
- Valid Labour compliance certificate
- Detailed Company profile
- Police Clearance for Company Directors
- Proof of payment for tender purchase
- At least three trade references
- Audited financial statements
- VAT registration if applicable

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

For further information contact the Procurement Officer, Mr. Lwazi Fakudze at (+268) 79060101/78060101 or **lwazi.fakudze@ehb.co.sz**.

DOC:23242



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Introduction

Chemonics, the Buyer, acting on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Global Health Supply Chain - Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) Project, under contract number AID-OAA-I-15-00004; Task Order AID-OAA-TO-15-00007 is soliciting offers from companies and organizations to submit proposals to participate with GHSC-PSM to develop Standard Treatment Guidance (STG) phone app.

The goal of the GHSC-PSM project is to provide supply chain management and technical assistance to United States Government funded global public health initiatives. To optimize treatment of common diseases and improve rational medicines use, GHSC-PSM project needs to develop and disseminate STG phone app.

Summary: Scope of work

The Eswatini Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List (STG/EML) were revised in 2021. To enhance the widespread distribution, availability and use of the guidelines, an electronic version will be developed in the form of a mobile application which be accessible to all healthcare practitioners, students, and other stakeholders via Google Play and Apple App Store, which host most of all electronic applications. Adherence and effective use of STGs results in uniformity of care through proper diagnosis and prescribing leading to better clinical decision making and quality of patient care. This results in rational use of medicines and the provision of cost-effective treatment options in the public and private sector. Given the widespread availability of electronic gadgets, an app is a convenient way of ensuring access to the guidelines by health care professionals.

Access to RFP Document

Interested Offerors must contact Africa Nxumalo at email address: **anxumalo@ghsc-psm.org** to request for a copy of the full solicitation (RFP).

Instruction to Submit Proposals

Offerors are invited to submit proposals in response to this RFP in accordance with Section I Instructions to Offerors of the RFP solicitation, which will not be part of the subcontract. The instructions are intended to assist interested Offerors in the preparation of their offer.

This RFP does not obligate Chemonics to execute a subcontract nor does it commit Chemonics to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals. Furthermore, Chemonics reserves the right to reject any and all offers, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of Chemonics.

Proposal Deadline

The RFP invitation is also accessible on Chemonics International website: **https://www.ghsupplychain.org/index.php/proposal/standard-treatment-guidance-stg-phone-app-development**. Please submit your proposals electronically only no later than Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5pm via the following email address: **ANxumalo@ghsc-psm.org**. Chemonics cannot guarantee that late offerors will be considered.

No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted. Chemonics is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.

DOC23698

ON THIS DAY

...March 1

1983 - The New Jersey Transit strike began. It ended on April 2.

1984 - The USSR performed a nuclear test at Eastern Kazakhstan, Semipalatinsk, USSR.

1987 - The Boston Celtics defeated Detroit 112-102 to post their 2,235th NBA win.

1987 - S&H Green Stamps became S&H Green Seals. The stamps were introduced 90 years earlier.

1988 - Soviet troops were sent into Azerbaijan after ethnic riots between Armenians and Azerbaijanis.

1989 - In Washington, DC, Mayor Barry and the city council imposed a curfew on minors.

1990 - In Cairo, 16 people were killed in a fire at the Sheraton Hotel.

1992 - Bosnian Serb snipers fired upon civilians after a majority of the Moslem and Croatian communities voted in favor of Bosnia's independence.

1992 - King Fahd of Saudi Arabia announced major political reforms that ceded some powers after 10 years of disciplined rule.

1992 - Bosnian Muslims and Croats voted to secede from Yugoslavia.

1993 - The US government announced that the number of food stamp recipients had reached a record number of 26.6 million.

1994 - Israel released about 500 Arab prisoners in an effort to placate Palestinians over the Hebron massacre.

1995 - The European Parliament rejected legislation that would have allowed biotechnology companies to patent new life forms.

1995 - Yahoo! was incorporated.

1996 - In Kuala Lumpur, construction was completed for the Petronas Towers.

1999 - The Angolan Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, exploded. Four other bombs went off in the capital.

1999 - In Uganda, eight tourists were brutally murdered by Hutu rebels.

1999 - Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones began their attempt to circumnavigate the Earth in a hot air balloon non-stop. They succeeded on March 20, 1999.

2002 - Operation Anaconda began in eastern Afghanistan. Allied forces were fighting against Taliban and Al Quaida fighters.

2003 - In New York, a \$250 000 Salvador Dali sketch was stolen from a display case in the lobby at Rikers Island jail. On June 17, 2003, it was announced that four corrections officers had surrendered and pled innocent in connection to the theft. The mixed-media composition was a sketch of the crucifixion.

2003 - In the US, approximately 180 000 personnel from 22 different organisations around the government became part of the department of homeland security. This completed the largest government reorganisation since the beginning of the Cold War.

2003 - Khalid Shaikh Mohammed was captured by CIA and Pakistani agents near Islamabad. He was the suspected mastermind behind the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.



Justin Drew Bieber
(born March 1, 1994)
singer, songwriter



Kesha Rose Sebert
(born March 1, 1987)
singer, actress



Women and Law

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GENDER DYNAMICS AND PANDEMICS

DISEASE outbreaks affect women and men differently, and pandemics make existing inequalities for women and girls and discrimination of other marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities and those in extreme poverty, worse.

This needs to be considered, given the different impacts surrounding detection and access to treatment for women and men.

Who is most at risk? Epidemiological analyses by WHO and the Centers for Disease Control showed that people who are at most risk death from COVID-19 belong to the vulnerable groups - including the elderly, chronically ill and immuno-compromised such as people with heart diseases, diabetes and respiratory diseases, who must be at the center of response efforts. With this said, it is important to pay key attention to the needs of older women in light of lessons from other infectious diseases, i.e. HIV, where the infection rates among older adults, primarily women have been a neglected area of focus and by extension a neglected area of response.

The purpose of this article is to shed light on the fact that pandemics and natural disasters or any national calamity for that matter makes existing gender inequalities for women and girls worse, and can impact how they receive treatment and care.

One may be asking how these gender inequalities are exacerbated, right? Let's look at gender norms in Eswatini for instance; women are not adequately represented in decision making positions, and as a consequence their general and sexual and reproductive health needs may go largely unmet.

This is simply because of the fact that we do not have women to make decisions on behalf of other women in the country. Women do not have autonomy over their general, sexual and reproductive decisions and this is compounded by insufficient financial resources to travel to hospitals and health care facilities.

When looking at men in our country, with patriarchal standards or norms by their side in terms of dominating decision-making positions, we may think that they are safe from the pandemic in that they have autonomy of their decisions but there is a downside.

Men may exhibit less health seeking behaviour as a result of our rigid gender norms, wanting to be viewed as tough rather weak, implying a



delay in detection and access to treatment for the virus.

Within the context of such norms, men may also feel pressure in the face of economic hardship resulting from the outbreak and inability to work.

When looking at our health force, still with the gender lense, most health workers are women, this emphasises the gendered nature of the health workforce and the risk of infection that female healthcare workers face.

Eswatini has a lot of nurses, doctors, social workers and other healthcare workers who provide the main part of healthcare interventions such as front-line interaction at community level, it is very concerning that they are not fully engaged into decision making and planning of interventions for the pandemic. We need more women in decision making positions, especially when our country is faced with such a pandemic.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

From a gender perspective, let us be aware that all vulnerable populations will experience this pandemic differently, for some the dangers may be magnified and for some they may not.

Let us take a look the following recommendations that we need to consider as a nation while we face this outbreak:

- Provide accurate and supportive care and messaging with the intention to enhance people's safety, dignity and rights.
- Ensure policies and interventions around response speak to everyone's needs, which is a fundamental step to understanding the primary and secondary effects of a health emergency on different individuals and communities. At the

same time the protection needs of women and girls must be at the center of response efforts.

- Ensure the response to COVID-19 does not reproduce or perpetuate harmful gender norms, discriminatory practices and inequalities. It is important to recognise that social, culture and gender norms, roles, and relations influence women's and men's vulnerability to infection, exposure, and treatment.

- Ensure that high attention is given to sexual and reproductive health and rights during COVID-19, given these issues can be severely impacted during outbreaks, including by adhering to strict guidance for infection prevention for safe pregnancies and childbirth, among other measures.

- Consider how these may differ among groups of women and men, particularly those most excluded such as those living in poverty, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, internally displaced persons or refugees, LGBTIQ individuals, and others who face intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

- Consider how the quarantine experience can be different for women and men, such as whether women's and men's different physical, cultural, security, and sanitary needs are being met. Recognise that the home may not be a safe place for some women and may indeed increase exposure to intimate partner violence.

- Update gender-based violence referral pathways to reflect changes in available services.

- Prioritise women's participation as their roles within communities typically place them in a good position to positively influence the design and implementation of prevention activities. Given their proximity to the local level, their sur-

veillance and insights can help signal the start of an outbreak and improve the overall health situation.

- Include women in decision making for outbreak preparedness and response, and ensure women's representation in national and local COVID-19 policy spaces.

- Incorporate the voices of women on the front lines of the response including health care workers and of those most affected by the disease within preparedness and response policies or practices going forward.

- Support meaningful engagement of women and girls at the community level, including their networks and organisations, to ensure efforts and response are not further discriminating and excluding those most at risk.

- Ensure that governments and global health institutions consider the direct and indirect age, sex and gender effects of the COVID-19 when conducting analysis of the impacts of the outbreak.

- Prioritise the collection of accurate and complete age and sex-disaggregated data to understand how COVID-19 impacts individuals differently, in terms of prevalence, trends, and other important information

Announcement

In respect of preventing new infections Women and Law has changed its work schedule during this tough period that is upon us. Please be advised that for legal advice and assistance, clients are requested to **call (+268) 7808 5252** between 09:00 AM and 04:00 PM on Mondays and our legal officers shall attend to them. There will be no physical consultations to ensure safety of clients and employees. The staff of the organisation shall be working in shifts on different days to ensure smooth running of all projects.

ESWATINI INCORPORATED: 2022 & BEYOND

'MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION'

ISSUE NO.166

VISION 2022 TARGET MISSED, BUT NOT GONE

HIS Majesty King Mswati III made this statement when he delivered the Speech from the Throne, the other Friday: "COVID-19 has set us back on our developmental programmes. We have a set agenda of reaching 2022 as a First World country."

The year 2020 presented us with numerous challenges from early in the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and adhering to the economically stifling regulations that had to be put in place.

"We are now in 2021 and there are no clear signs, as yet, that we are going to make much progress without eliminating COVID-19. There are, however, positive signs that it is being brought under control."

"Since we earmarked the year 2022 as the year to attain First World status, it is clear that we are not going to reach this target. We hope it will not take us too long to get back on track and attain it."

HOPEFUL

"It is not easy to even imagine which will be the rightful year to set as our new target while we are in the process of fighting this outbreak as we have no idea when it will actually end."

"Nevertheless, we have to chart a way forward. We are hopeful that this year will be one in which we can declare that this outbreak is over."

The above statement is not an admission of failure but a demonstration of leadership and understanding that current events, in particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our plans as a country and failure to recognise its huge negative impact would not have been wise.

The King's pronouncement should therefore not come as a huge disappointment but understood from the context that achieving the 2022 target was never going to be an event, but a process of many intervening actions, most of whom requires money and policies.

Some of the King's critics have tended to look at 2022 as a far-fetched dream and not as a government development policy programme.

Vision 2022 is nothing but the country's development programme developed through a process of extensive consultation and was launched by His Majesty the King in August 1997 at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre.

This was a 25-year development programme and is housed under the ministry of economic planning and development.

What His Majesty the King did after about 10 years of government not vigorously promoting this programme, decided to be its face and ensured that everywhere he went, he talked about Vision 2022.

The Vision was never a personal ego trip by the Head of State, but a broader government programme to propel the country towards a specific target.

The King when addressing the First

...the importance of understanding and contextualising the role of His Majesty King Mswati III in the Vision



Session of the 11th Parliament, he stated clearly what Vision 2022 was and what role the MPs and senators have to assist the country attain the target.

He said: "We welcome you to this august national assignment. Today marks the commencement of your work as you now form part of the legislative arm of government."

BASIC TENETS

We must emphasise your unique parliamentary cycle that places you as the legislature that should lead us to the year 2022 and beyond. The whole nation is looking upon you to work hard in developing our kingdom to possess all the basic tenets of a First World country. As you play your oversight function you should also come up with strategies and ideas that would assist in turning our challenges into great economic opportunities.

"These challenges include unemployment, job creation, poverty, sustainable economic development, provision of quality health services, education and social welfare for the whole nation. "You are urged to meet, workshop and brainstorm together to come up with the best possible roadmap to develop our nation. You are both the servants of the nation, and some of you have been here before, whilst others are new in this role; but the expectation is that you should take this baton from your predecessors and hit the ground running. After five years the nation should be proud that you have accomplished your mission with tangible results."

"What is required of you is to be honest, embrace the spirit of nationhood, be credible, and uphold integrity and respect to the people who voted for

you, as well as to all the institutions and authorities of our kingdom."

So when His Majesty the King spoke of Vision 2022, he was clearly to everyone to focus on the key development issues that we needed to do as a country in order to attain as certain stage of development, which ultimately would enable the nation to be classified as a First World country.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In fact, he understood that for the country to attain this level of development, certain key infrastructure projects were a prerequisite for such a country, hence he through the ministry of economic planning and development drove the Millennium Development Projects, i.e. the development of the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre, the King Mswati III International Airport, the construction of the Ngwenya to

Manzini Highway and now the construction of the Sikhuphe/Mbadlane and now Mbadlane/Manzini Highway.

Further, we have established the Royal Science and Technology Park and about to complete the International Convention Centre AND Five Star Hotel (ICC-FISH) at Ezulwini.

But this were not only the targets, but also in the health sector, the country has made tremendous strides, for which in his 2017 Speech from the Throne the King said the following: "The declining rate of HIV infection among our citizens is encouraging. However, it has not yet been eliminated. This means we still have our work cut out for us as Emaswati, to ensure that we meet our target of an AIDS free society by 2022! We continue to do everything within our ability to ensure there are no new infections." In his recent speech, he in fact reported that the country last year attained and surpassed the global target of 95:95:95 when it comes to issues of HIV and AIDS and indication that we were closer to our target of zero infections by the year 2022.

COLLECTIVE EFFORT

So in all his speeches when talking about Vision 2022, it was never about him and his personal target, but challenged and reminded all of us that this was a collective effort.

In his 2018 speech he said: "This year marks the last session of this Parliament. As such, it is a year of transition that presents another opportunity for us all to take this country to a higher level of prosperity. This requires the nation to actively engage in planning sessions that will generate alternative sources of income for the country and strategies that are in line with Vision 2022. The plans to be developed should address socioeconomic problems and cost-effective measures should be applied during implementation, to ensure that we achieve more with less. We should do this with the full knowledge and unyielding belief that no matter how great the challenge before us, God is on our side. We shall overcome!"

So the idea that Vision 2022 was and always about the King is misplaced and he has demonstrated that it was about the collective. As a leader he has to remain the focal person to galvanise our efforts towards the attainment of that target.

2022 as a target to attain First World status may have been missed, but the Vision has not gone. It is clear that COVID-19 did contribute to the delay, but certainly not depriving the nation of its Vision to attain First World status. Depending on how we deal with COVID-19, we remain steadfast to attain our target. But a warning must be issued to all those entrusted with national responsibility to ensure that they play their various roles diligently, for the task ahead remains great that we can allow personal egos to stand on the country's target.

The issue around corruption remains a concern and those entrusted with greater responsibility must deliver or else, it is time they are relieved of their duties. Their inaction continues to undermine the country's global rating and thereby compromising our appeal to attract big foreign investors who will contribute in our efforts to attain First World status.

Destiny Intl. comes through for elderly

BY SIMON SHABANGU
Ezulwini

DESTINY International Christian Centre has donated food hampers to about 60 elderly and destitute people from Ezulwini.

The church presented the food hampers to the recipients at their church Greyhound Hall on Saturday where a number of elderly made it to collect the food donation from the church.

Senior Pastor and founder of the church Pastor David Chaliyumba said the church was trying its best to provide the little they can afford. He said he has received a number of enquiries and requests for food donation.

"Giving is not about having but giving is the heart, once you desire to give, supply will be available.

We are inspired by His Majesty King Mswati III and his government to assist the needy.

We are complementing their work as they try to assist the nation through the trying period of COVID-19. The elderly people are desperate for food aid hence the constant calls and cries for help. I wish we had a food bank so that we do not wait for the three months to help but have readily available food parcels which we can always give out in the event there is a need," he said.

The pastor also urged the recipients that they must continue to respect and follow all the protocols meant to protect them against the pandemic. He said he was a COVID-19 survivor and he knows how brutal the virus can be once a person is infected.

He was joined by his wife Pastor Bonile Chaliyumba and some members of the church to assist in the food distribution.

Adding, he said they were not giving because they had plenty but were assisted by a number of partners, church members and business associates.

He said they also assisted child headed families and destitute people from Ezulwini and beyond.



DONATION: Michael Gamedze receiving a food hamper from Pastor David Chaliyumba and his wife Pastor Bonile. This was during the food donation to the elderly and destitute at their church in Ezulwini on Saturday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

He said not all 60 people managed to come, stating that for others, they will do home deliveries while others will collect the food aid later. Meanwhile, the recipients of the food aid thanked the church for the donation stating that they have been assisting them despite that churches are closed.

Contributions

They shared similar sentiments in mentioning that they were aware that the church also does not have any source of income but rely on contributions from members and friends of the pastor.

Michael Gamedze who is visually impaired said they were grateful to the pastor and the church for the kindness and the spirit of giving they have displayed over the time since the outbreak of the pandemic. He said the situation is bad at various home noting that the food will go a long way to save the situation.

Thulisile Mkhabela said Chaliyumba was such a blessing to them as a church,

a blessing as well to the community. She said he was passionate about the people and he goes to the extent of personally making phone calls to check on them.

"We pray that God keep him for us for his kindness and caring spirit he has displayed during such difficult and trying times," she said.



I wish we had a food bank so that we do not wait for the three months to help but have readily available food parcels which we can always give out in the event there is a need



I PRAY: Chaliyumba and his wife praying for the elderly after presenting them with food aid.



MAM'FUNDISI: Pastor Bonile addressing the recipients of the food.



ALL IS WELL: It was a happy day for the elderly people who were presented with food hampers by the church.



CHAT: Pastor Bonile Chaliyumba having a moment with Thulisile Mkhabela.



A DESIRE TO GIVE: Pastor Chaliyumba addressing the gathering.

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

ECONOMY EXPECTED TO IMPROVE BY 2.7% IN 2021

BY KWANELE DHLADHLA

MINISTER of Finance Neal Rijkenberg has disclosed that projections indicate a rebound in 2021.

In the budget speech delivered on Friday, Rijkenberg mentioned that economic output is expected to recover from a low base and increase by 2.7 per cent. However, Rijkenberg said elevated downside risks remain for the domestic economy.

"An anticipated second round effect on Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts due to the trade disruptions will further deteriorate government's fiscal position and pose a risk to economic growth," the minister disclosed.

Rijkenberg pointed out that the year 2020 has been a landmark year for the global economy.

He said what began as a health crisis eventually grew into a global economic crisis.

The minister said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects global output to have contracted by 4.4 per cent in 2020, conditional on a significant decline in the spread of the pandemic in 2021, estimates project a rebound from this low base to 5.2 per cent growth.

"The observed resurgence of coronavirus infections, the severe second wave and additional lockdowns in most countries, pose serious risks to the outlook," said Rijkenberg.

The IMF forecast Sub-Saharan Africa's economic activity to contract by 3.0 per cent compared with a pre-pandemic forecast of 3.6 per cent growth.

South Africa's economy grew by a mere 0.2 per cent in 2019 as a result of the labour strikes, energy supply disruptions and weak agricultural production.

In 2020, as a consequence of the pandemic, the IMF revised South Africa's growth from a positive 1.1 per cent to a negative 7.2 per cent.

Nevertheless, towards the end of 2021, growth is anticipated to rebound to 3.3 per cent.

Rijkenberg said the Central Bank of Eswatini's (CBE) monetary policy stance was both accommodative and stable throughout the year of 2020.

He explained that the main objective had been to provide a sup-



BUDGET SPEECH: Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg.

portive environment for the economy amid the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

It should be mentioned that Rijkenberg tabled a reduced E24 billion fiscal consolidation budget in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to wreak havoc globally and in the country in particular.

He said the total expenditure for 2021/22 would witness a minimal decrease of 0.12 per cent compared to last year's budget that amounted to E24.07 billion.

Expenditure

The minister disclosed that the total expenditure for the financial year is expected to be E24.04 billion. This, he said, would include public debt payments of E3.2 billion while the appropriated recurrent expenditure has been set to be E16 billion, a decrease of 3.2 per cent compared to the previous year.

The minister further announced an unchanged total budget allocation to capital programmes that amounts to E6.37 billion just like the last financial year. The budget deficit, on the other hand, has been projected at 6.5 per cent of GDP, which is equal to E4.6 billion.

Taking the lion's share in this year's budget is the ministry of education and training at about E3.4 billion and is followed by the ministry of health at about E2.4 billion. About E2.7 billion has been allocated to the three security forces, defense (E1 184 242),

the police (1 029 994) and Correctional Services (E512 761 000).

It should also be noted that a number of projects have been deferred to cater for the current situation. The minister stressed that priority will be given to procurement of goods and services for health, including PPE, drugs and medical supplies; education; disaster relief and social services.

In pursuit of the Eswatini Strategic Roadmap, he said government will explore the possibility of introducing an electronic procurement system, which will interface with the integrated financial management system. He said this follows an assessment of government's readiness in terms of the hardware necessary to run the system.

Support

"The World Bank is providing technical support in the preparatory work and procurement of suitable software. The relevant stakeholders will be assisted through the transition to electronic procurement through sensitisation and capacity building to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the new system," he pointed out.

The minister also highlighted that government revenue including grants in the 2021/22 fiscal year was projected to reach E19.45 billion, which was 27.5 per cent of GDP. Of this, he said, grants were approximately E411 million. He said SACU receipts had declined from E8.35 billion in 2020/21 to E6.38 billion in 2021/22 while

non-SACU revenue will stand at E12.66 billion.

"Mr. Speaker, the projected estimates of revenue assume that the pandemic and its devastating impact on the economy will be mitigated prior to the end of the financial year. Total income taxes are projected to increase to about E6.34 billion in 2021/22. Corporate income taxes are expected to be E1.86 billion in 2021/22. Similarly, personal income taxes are expected to be E3.89 billion. Taxes on goods and services excluding SACU receipts are expected to be E5.79 billion. VAT is expected to be E3.96 billion. Fuel tax is expected to be E1.55 billion. The levy on imported vehicles is projected to grow around 100 per cent, from E9.9 million to E20 million," he added.

“

An anticipated second round effect on Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts due to the trade disruptions will further deteriorate government's fiscal position and pose a risk to economic growth

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VITALS

Prime Rate	7.25%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.9%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	7.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	3.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.15 per litre
Replacement	E13.15 per litre
Diesel	E13.60 per litre
Paraffin	E8.65 per litre

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

CORRECT AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 2021

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.4785	14.5285
British Pound/SZL	20.4994	20.5702
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.2919	7.3157
Swiss Franc/SZL	15.9842	16.0323
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3306	1.3424
Australian Dollar/SZL	11.5437	11.5850
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.5847	11.6209
Euro/SZL	17.6290	17.6899
Gold	1,795.8400	
Oil	67.45	

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



Standard Bank IT CAN BE.

SWAZIMED INSISTS ON REVIEW PROCEEDINGS

STORIES BY ANDILE NSIBANDE
High Court

SWAZIMED has tabled more details why they opted to institute review proceedings when they were expected to comply with an order directing them to retract a media statement.

The latest court action by the medical aid fund arose from the written judgment of the Supreme Court on December 1, 2020.

The judgment was a sequel of proceedings on November 24, where judges of the Supreme Court expressed their discontent over the company failing to comply with an earlier court order where they were instructed to retract a statement that had been published in the media on the day the court was supposed to decide on an appeal in the matter between Swazi Med and Medscheme.

Shocked and surprised, the Supreme Court judges refused to be 'captured' by a litigant, and took seriously the adamant stance by Swazi Med against complying with the order instructing them to apologise and further retract the media statement.

In a judgment issued subsequent to the failure by SwaziMed to retract an article which appeared in the print media on the day the court was to hear the appeal by Medscheme Administrators Swaziland against the former, the five judges reiterated their stance to ignore the subsequent review proceedings and considered imposing an appropriate penalty on the officers or chief officers of SwaziMed for unlawfully and intentionally disobeying the court order.

The judges maintained their opinion on the media article, which they viewed as nothing but a ploy to have the outcome of the appeal proceedings influenced in a way.

They insisted that the authors of the article had to first purge themselves of the contempt before normal relations with the court could



The Nedbank building where SwaziMed is located. INSET: SwaziMed Principal Officer Peter Simelane.

be restored. They were adamant in their view of the review application by SwaziMed as a cover for refusal to comply with the court order for retraction.

The application for review had been instituted by SwaziMed in terms of Section 148(2) of the Constitution.

In the latest court application, which is pending before the Supreme Court, it can be deduced that SwaziMed strongly believes that they were entitled to be heard on the review because they had raised a relevant complaint before the judges who presided over the matter and went on to make findings of contempt orders.

Affidavit

In a supplementary affidavit that was deposed to by the Principal Officer at SwaziMed Peter Simelane, the company maintains that they had to be heard first on an initial application to have four judges sitting on the panel that heard the matter recuse themselves on the grounds that they were disqualified from sitting in the appeal.

The company argued that the action by the judges to continue sitting in the matter, when they should have recused themselves,

rendered the proceedings a nullity and liable to be set aside by the court sitting as a review court in terms of Section 148(2) of the Constitution.

"The applicant was denied the right to have its rights determined by an independent and impartial court as prescribed in Section 21 of the Constitution. Section 21 of the Constitution is part of the fundamental rights and freedoms which, in terms of Section 14(2) of the Constitution, courts are enjoined to respect and uphold.

Contravened

"The Supreme Court on appeal contravened the constitution by refusing to hear the recusal application and continued to make findings and orders when some of the

judges in the panel were disqualified from sitting," argued Simelane.

He maintained that the proceedings of the day in question did not comply with a hearing as prescribed by Section 21 of the Constitution, in that the court was not independent and impartial since four of the members of the panel had allegedly been disqualified from sitting in the mat-

ter.

He further claimed that the company was not afforded the right to a hearing prior to the findings of contempt being made.

He said the judges had gone ahead and made a decision to the effect that the statement that had been published in the media was contemptuous without affording them the chance to be heard.

"The proceedings of November 4 and 24 were merely meant to direct the applicant into withdrawing the statement. It was not a hearing on whether the statement was contemptuous.

"Contempt of court has serious civil and criminal implications. A person can only be found guilty of contempt after a fair hearing. But the Supreme Court made the findings of contempt without affording the party accused of being in contempt a fair hearing.

The failure to afford the party the right to a fair hearing before a decision was made is a reviewable irregularity liable to be set aside in terms of Section 148(2) of the Constitution," declared Simelane. He insisted that the orders were arrived at by the court arbitrarily and capriciously. SwaziMed in the matter is represented by lawyers from Magagula Hlophe Attorneys and the respondents are yet to file their responding papers.

SwaziMed stands by contentious media statement

SWAZIMED, which was criticised over an article published on the media on the day a court was supposed to hear its matter, has come out to defend the statement.

Lawyers for SwaziMed said the reproach they received over the statement was unjustified, especially because it was not in reference to the court.

Instead, they said the statement addressed Medscheme and the arbitrator's award.

"The applicant has a legitimate right to criticise the arbitrator's award. The statement contains facts already in the proceedings before court and the applicant stands by those facts.

"The applicant is entitled to update its members regarding the court case which may have serious implications on their fund. The court which is supposed to be a neutral arbiter influenced only by pleadings and arguments in court took into account extraneous considerations and displayed extreme bias in the dispute between the litigants," protested SwaziMed Principal Officer Peter Simelane.

According to Simelane, the Supreme Court erred by considering a statement that was outside court proceedings, which was the basis of the contempt of court charge. On that basis, he argued that the charges were non-existent, and that it was wrong for the Supreme Court to prosecute them on such fictional wrongs.

"Put differently, the Supreme Court on appeal became a complainant and a judge and then proceeded to issue a judgment in the very same complaint initiated by it," he said.

Simelane went on to justify the statement as a repetition of their pleadings on the merits of their case. He explained that their case was grounded on a complaint against an award given to Medscheme by an arbitrator.

He described the award as a windfall which Medscheme did not deserve.

"If the applicant were to be ordered to pay the E30 million award made by the arbitrator in favour of the respondent, it would prejudice the applicant's members, some of whom may not be able to afford medical aid cover and further if the respondent were to be paid the said amount, these funds would be taken out of the country.

"So, the applicant was justified to detail the prejudice its members would suffer in the event the award stands," he argued.



Supreme Court Judge Majahenkhaba Dlamini.

Company explains why they want judges out

LAWYERS for SwaziMed have explained why they feel it was inappropriate for four of the judges who were part of the appeal panel to hear the matter.

Addressing the issue through advice from the company's legal counsel, Principal Officer Peter Simelane in a deposed affidavit, said three of the judges comprising Justices Sabelo Matsebula, Justice Mavuso and Judith Currie were not properly appointed as judges of the Supreme Court and as such were not entitled to sit in the matter.

He explained that the trio were only acting as appointed by the chief justice in terms of Section 153 (5) of the Constitution. The piece of legislation provides that: 'The chief justice after consultations with the Judicial Service Commission may make an acting appointment where the duration does not exceed one month, unrenewable.'

According to Simelane, the three judges in question had been appointed to acting positions for the consecutive one month terms, from September to December 2020, which

he said was contrary to the provisions of the constitution.

"The chief justice exceeded the limits of his powers in terms of the aforesaid provision. He renewed the acting appointments of the judges when he had no power to do so," he explained.

Simelane then went on to explain why they also feel that Justice Majahenkhaba Dlamini also ought not to have been part of the panel. He claimed that the judge had previously dealt with the same matter, albeit on a different forum, which was Parliament when he was

still holding the position of attorney general.

"Justice Dlamini advised Parliament on the matter brought by the respondent (Medscheme) in respect of the termination of the management agreement. Justice Dlamini is, therefore, disqualified from exercising judicial function on the same matter," he argued.

...he claimed that the judge had previously dealt with the same matter



HOW THE OFS SERVES YOU

THIS period marks significant transitions for the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services (OFS).

March is not only the end of the financial year, but also marks the finalisation of the OFS' 2018-2021 strategy. Over the years, the OFS has reached and assisted Emaswati from across the country with resolving non-bank financial services queries and complaints. In order for the OFS to continue serving the Nation, it is important for members of the public to be aware of the OFS' purpose and function. As such, the Office of the OFS has compiled frequently asked questions for anyone who would like to contact the office for assistance. Every engagement ensures that the OFS continues to uphold good practice in the non-bank financial services industry.

● What is the purpose of the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services (OFS)?

The purpose of the OFS, or Umlamuli Wetindzaba Tetimali, is to receive, investigate and make binding decisions on complaints against non-bank financial services providers (FSPs) that are licensed by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA). The mandate of the OFS is to resolve these complaints in a manner that is fair, quick and with minimal formality.

● Do you offer loans?

As a dispute resolution body, the OFS does not offer loans, financial services products or financial advisory services.

● Which industry complaints does the OFS attend to?

The OFS considers complaints in the non-bank financial services industry relating to:

- Retirement, which includes retirement funds, pension funds, provident funds and preservation funds.
- Long-term and short-term insurance.
- Medical aid.
- Investments/Securities.
- Credit and/or savings, which includes building societies, credit bureaus credit providers, hire purchase, lotteries, money lending, pawn broking and savings and credit co-operatives (SACCOS).

● What would you advise us to do about money schemes, like the ones we are invited



to join on WhatsApp?

The OFS does not offer financial advisory services. The office only deals with complaints against non-bank FSPs that hold a licence issued by the FSRA. The FSRA encourages Emaswati to only deal with licensed entities and can be contacted to confirm if a business/individual is licensed, as the FSRA is responsible for regulating players in the non-bank financial services industry.

The FSRA's contact details are as follows:

- Toll-Free: 2404 0589
- Fax: 2404 7930
- E-mail address: info@fsra.co.sz
- 2nd Floor Ingcamu Building Mhlambanyatsi Road
- P.O. Box 3365 Mbabane H100 Swaziland
- Website: www.fsra.co.sz

● Do you help in cases where my employer changes my gross salary every month without explaining why they paid me less or more per month?

Persons with labour-related issues can contact the Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) for assistance. CMAC's contact details are as follows:

- Telephone: 2404 8877/8
- Fax: 2404 8844
- E-mail: cmac@cmac.org.sz
- 1st Floor, Mbabane House
- P.O. Box 3942 Mbabane H100
- Website: www.cmac.org.sz

● What is the procedure for lodging complaints at the OFS?

Members of the public can lodge a complaint

by following these steps:

1. Contact the FSP first and submit a written complaint giving the FSP 30 days to respond. If there is no response within 30 days or the response is not satisfactory, the complaint can then be lodged at the Office of the OFS.

2. Fill in a Complaint Form that can be accessed at the OFS Office, a CMAC Office or on from the OFS website, www.ombudsfs.org.sz

3. Before the Complaint Form is submitted to the OFS, all necessary information must be filled in and supporting documents should be attached. The Form must also be sworn to before a Commissioner of Oaths.

An OFS Officer then works towards facilitating or mediating an agreement between the parties. Where no settlement is reached, the OFS makes a final and binding decision which is the equivalent of a court judgement – this decision is called a determination.

● What certainty do I have that the OFS will not favour the FSP because they have more power and money?

One of the functions of the OFS is to encourage FSPs to abide by the rules of their relevant industry codes of conduct, and the Office would therefore view their use of power and money as unjust. Additionally, the OFS values its independence and commitment to handling complaints without taking sides. Subsequently, the OFS considers what is fair and reasonable in each case, which aligns with the mandate in the OFS' slogan, 'Free, Fair and For All.' The Office of the OFS aims to reconcile imbalances that may exist between non-bank FSPs and their

clients.

● What are the financial implications of lodging a complaint at the OFS?

The OFS' services are free of charge to the complainant. A complainant does not have to pay to lodge a complaint and the OFS does not take any portion of the money that can be paid to a complainant. The Office functions so that money is not a barrier for someone to get assistance.

● Why 'Ombudsman'? Surely it should be 'Ombudslady' or 'Ombudsperson'?

The term 'Ombudsman' is used globally to refer to an independent official or office that is established to investigate complaints. In SiSwati, the OFS is called Umlamuli Wetindzaba Tetimali, and the term "Umlamuli" in this case is an interpretation of "Ombudsman." This means that the Ombudsman or Umlamuli serves as a judge who resolves non-bank financial services disputes outside of the courts.

● Happy International Women's Day

'A challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change,' (International Women's Day 2021). The theme for International Women's Day on 8 March 2021 is #ChooseToChallenge and we wish to honour all our valued stakeholders who demonstrate a continued commitment to gender inclusion in the workplace and society at large. Happy International Women's Day and #ChooseToChallenge

N.B Ombudsday is a monthly consumer education column compiled by the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services in the country. Do not miss the next column which will be published in this newspaper next month.

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FARMERS SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN AS STOCK THEFT RAMPANT

DURBAN - Livestock theft is costing the South African economy about R1.4 billion annually, said Willie Clack, the national Chairperson of the National Stock Theft Prevention Forum (NSTPF).

As a result of the damages caused by this crime to the agricultural industry, NSTPF said it would always consider livestock theft as "serious" irrespective of decreases in the crime.

"It does have a serious impact on people," he said.

Despite the fact that Police Minister Bheki Cele, in his 2020/21 crime statistics report, indicated that livestock theft declined by 6.9 per cent, farmers, especially in the Free State, Eastern Cape and Western Cape, still sleep with one eye open.



Clack said the more commercial farmers suffered livestock theft the more the meat or dairy industries were at risk of losing their production and business.

The weakest link in the security chain

were unsecured borders between South Africa and its immediate neighbours, such as Eswatini and Lesotho. Farmers are unable to recover their animals once they cross the porous borders.

Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions has also expressed its concern about the crime's economic impact on its 12 member states. Chief Executive Ishmael Sunga said livestock theft robbed commercial livestock owners of their income and capital assets.

He said as a result farmers and other related businesses, such as dairy and meat products producers, have been forced to reduce the number of their employees.

"If it was going to be put on the market and generate sales, it basically means that there is not sufficient revenue going to the government. If it is going to cause shortages of meat, the price of meat is going to go up," he said.

Sunga said he could not outline the

extent of the problem in the organisation's member states, except for South Africa where AgriSA provides information on a regular basis. "It (livestock theft) is numbered (in other member states) but is not high up (on the list of challenges)."

He said among less industrialised farmers in southern Africa, livestock theft had hit hard. "If one steals cattle, which are used for many purposes, particularly on the smallholding farms, the owner's world is stolen because they are not able to plant and plough on time," he said.

In December last year it was reported that livestock theft and poaching had cost Eastern Cape farmers more than R260m. Free State farmers were estimated to have lost hundreds of millions of rand.

Business Report

LEARNING AT HOME

Accounting

French

D & T

Technical Studies

Geography

Monday to Friday

LEVEL: JUNIOR LEVEL: (JC)

GEOGRAPHY

LESSON SEQUENCE: 12

LESSON TOPIC: AGRICULTURE IN ESWATINI

LESSON TITLE: CITRUS FRUITS GROWING IN ESWATINI

LESSON OBJECTIVES: Learners should be able to:

- Locate the main citrus growing areas in Eswatini.
- Name the types of citrus fruits grown in Eswatini
- Describe the conditions favoring the growing of citrus fruits in these areas.
- Explain how citrus fruits are harvested,
- Describe the processes taking place in the pack house in preparing the citrus fruits for the market.
- Explain problems faced by the citrus fruits industry.

RATIONALE: Citrus fruits are a good source of fiber which has several health benefits, including improving digestive health and aiding weight loss. Oranges are particularly high in soluble fiber, the kind of fiber that helps lower cholesterol levels which is why we study about citrus fruit growing since it is an important part of our diet especially now when the country is affected by the Covid-19 virus.

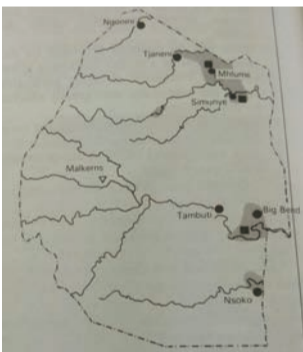
INTRODUCTION: Citrus is the second largest agricultural export earner in Eswatini after sugarcane, most citrus is produced for export markets. The first citrus trees were planted in the early 1950s in Ngonini Estates and Tambuti estate. Ngonini Estate is the largest single producer. Each estate has its own packing house, which ripe fruit is delivered to for packing

LESSON DEVELOPMENT:

The main citrus growing areas in Eswatini

There are four main citrus plantations in Eswatini, these are:

- Ngonini Estate north of Pigg's Peak (Highveld)
- Tambuti Estate (Eastern Lowveld)
- Eswatini citrus Estates at Nsoko (Eastern Lowveld)
- Marula Ranch at Sidvokodvo (Lower Middleveld)
- Ren Syndicate at Big Bend



• Main citrus growing area

Map of Eswatini showing the location of the main citrus fruits growing areas

Types of citrus grown in Eswatini

The main citrus estates grow the following types of citrus fruits:

- Grapefruit
- Oranges
- Lemons and Limes
- Tangerines



Photograph showing citrus fruits varieties

Conditions favoring the growing of citrus fruits in Eswatini

The following conditions are good for citrus growth and fruit production:

- **Adequate rainfall or irrigation:** citrus need an annual rainfall of about 900 -1200 mm. this exceeds the rainfall received in the Lowveld, but rainfall is supplemented by irrigation water from the Great Usuthu river, Mjoli Dam and Sand River Dam. The dry conditions help to lessen fungal diseases.
- **Warm sunny conditions:** the best mean daily temperature for growth is between 23 °C and 30 °C. Citrus plant hardly tolerate frost or temperature below 2 °C to 3 °C. The Lowveld has an average summer temperature of 22 °C and an average winter of 17 °C.

- **Fertile soils:** citrus require well drained, fertile soils with a pH level of 6 to 6,5 and a depth of at least 1 metre. The areas have reasonably deep Sandy soils, which are well drained and aerated. However, in the Lowveld chemical and organic fertilizer is needed to improve fertility

- **Gentle undulating land:** most of the growing areas like the Lowveld have gentle, undulating land, which is suitable for the large plantations and enables the use of machinery during the growing and harvesting of citrus fruits.

- **Sheltered location:** a sheltered location is required to prevent strong winds from blowing blossoms away causing young fruits to fall from the tree. Exotic trees have been planted around citrus plantations to prevent strong winds from causing damage



Photograph showing a sheltered location to prevent strong winds

- **Skilled staff:** the industry has skilled upper – and middle- management staff. There is adequate supply of skilled labourers for maintaining the citrus trees and picking the fruit. This is very important as fresh produce exporting becomes more competitive and complex.

HARVESTING OF CITRUS FRUITS

Citrus fruit are harvested as follows:

- **Picking:** cut the stem as closely as possible to the fruit using mechanical clippers. Picking the fruit is done on sunny days when the fruits are completely dry. Supervisors record the number of bags each worker has loaded onto each truck. Once the truck is fully loaded, the fruits are transported to a packing station.



Photograph showing the picking of citrus fruits

Upon reaching the pack house the citrus fruits undergo the following processes:

- **Washing:** the fruits are washed using chemicals to remove unwanted impurities from the fruit

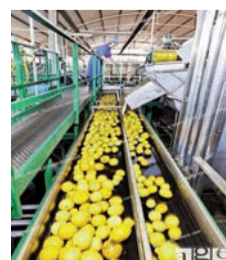


Photograph showing washing of citrus fruits

- **Treatment:** fruit are treated with preservatives to protect them against them against brown rot; thereafter they are rinsed and dried.
- **Waxing:** fruits are coated in a natural wax product to prevent water loss, extend storage life and to improve the appearance of the fruit.
- **Grading:** fruits are graded according to size and quality. The grade of the fruit determines whether it will be used for processing or packaged for export.
- **Packing:** The best fruit are packed into boxes and exported to overseas market.



Photographs showing a packed box of citrus fruits and a pack house



The out graded citrus is purchased by Swazi can for processing into finished products such as canned fruit segments and jam. Swazi can exports the remainder of out graded fruits to processing plants in South Africa. Some of these citrus fruits are then sold locally in bins and bags to individual vendors and local shops.

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE CITRUS FRUIT INDUSTRY

- **Dependence on irrigation:** Citrus crops grown in the Lowveld need irrigation to survive. With increasing cultivation of irrigated crops such as sugar-cane and citrus, increasing demand for water by industry and reduced river flow related to climate change, the availability of irrigation water will be further limited.

- **Drought and climate change:** Frequent droughts increase plant stress and also lead to lower river flow volumes which become a problem for irrigation.



Photograph showing citrus trees fruit tree affected by drought

- **Rising Input Costs:** Fuel costs, electricity, chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) and fertilizer costs have all increased significantly putting pressure on farmers as it reduces profitability.
- **HIV/AIDS:** It has led to a drop in worker productivity, absenteeism and a loss of skilled workforce. More money has to be spent on recruiting and training new employees instead of improving business operations.
- **Pests and Diseases:** It is costly to control the diseases such as Greening disease which occurs in cooler high lying areas above 600m, which makes growing of citrus in the Middleveld and Highveld challenging. Also brown rot disease leads to loss of a lot of citrus fruits when ready for harvesting.



Photograph showing pests on citrus trees



Photograph showing brown rot on citrus fruits

- **Harbor delays:** It leads to delays in transporting the fruits to overseas markets because the country does not have its own seaport.
- **Lower global demand:** The bulk of the local population and the neighbouring countries do not regard citrus fruits as an essential food commodity. The country then needs to find a market in densely populated industrialized countries where the standard of living is high and citrus fruits are seen as an important food.
- **Competition:** Eswatini competes with many other countries producing citrus fruits in the world such as, South Africa, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina and new markets are difficult to find.
- The cost of transporting the fruit is very high than its value.
- Citrus fruit is highly perishable and should reach its markets while it is still fresh. The problem is that Eswatini is far from its markets.

CONCLUSION: The lesson was based on the growing of citrus fruits in Eswatini. First of all the main growing areas were described, the different types of citrus grown in the country, factors promoting its growing together with the harvesting of citrus fruits. Problems faced by citrus industry were explained.

ASSESSMENT:

- Name two areas where citrus fruits are grown. (2)
- Give three types of citrus grown in Eswatini. (3)
- Describe the harvesting of citrus fruits. (2)
- Explain the steps that are taken in the pack house in preparing the citrus fruits for the market (8)
- Describe four factors that favor the growing of citrus fruits. (4)
- Explain three problems faced by the citrus fruit industry. (6)

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY
LEVEL: EPCS
SYLLABUS: 5920

PREVOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

APICULTURE LESSON 6

TOPIC: HARVESTING, PROCESSING AND MARKETING BEE PRODUCTS

OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the lesson the learners will be able to:

1. State the preparations done before harvesting honey
2. Explain the procedure for harvesting honey combs
3. Describe the 4 common methods of extracting honey
4. Describe proper honey storage
5. Discuss the procedure for honey extraction
6. Discuss the procedure for rendering beeswax

HARVESTING HONEYCOMBS FROM THE HIVE

Honey harvesting is done two to three weeks after the prime nectar flow which is usually in mid-summer. Prime nectar flow occurs when the hive is at its heaviest.

Equipment for harvesting honey

- Protective clothing
- Smoker and fuel
- Bee brush
- Hive tool
- Trap box with empty top bars/ super with empty frames

PREPARATIONS FOR HARVESTING

- Check if honey is ready to be harvested. Ripe honey is capped with wax, harvesting unripe honey causes it to ferment during storage. A honey comb is only harvested if it is three quarter capped and has no brood.
- Pick the right time to harvest.
- Collect all equipment needed
- Dress properly
- Light the smoker

PROCEDURE FOR HARVESTING HONEY COMBS

1. Gently smoke away the bees: move toward the back of the hive, blow smoke around the entrance of the hive, carefully remove the top cover and blow smoke into the opening of the inner cover.
- This process should cause the bees to move lower in the hive and away from the honeycombs near the top.
- Smoke causes bees to stuff themselves with honey and get drowsy and ultimately put up less of a fight.
- Use the least amount of smoke necessary to avoid tainting the flavor of your honey with smoke
2. Open the hive. Use a hive tool to lift the inner cover off the top of the hive. Slip it under the cover and push down on the tool to lift the cover up.
- Bees seal the edges of their hive with propolis, the seal is pretty strong to break.
3. Remove the bees. Brush off the remaining bees from the frame/ top bar you want to remove using a bee brush
4. Lift the first frame or top bar by prying it up using a hive tool and decide if it is ready to harvest (at least three quarter capped). If it is ready, shake or brush off the bees and place the honey comb into the super or trap box depending on whether you are harvesting from a top bar or a framed hive.
5. Continue lifting the frames or top bars until you reach the first brood comb (which is not harvested) and start from the other side of the hive if harvesting from a top bar hive. With the Langstroth hive all ripe honey from supers is harvested. Honey near the brood nest and all unripe honey is not harvested but left as food for the colony. Cover the harvested combs on the super/ trap box to avoid robbing of honey by other bees
6. Fill all remaining space in the hive with empty frames or top bars
7. After harvesting return all hive bodies into position, ensure the queen is in and then cover the hive. Continue to the next hive that is ready to be harvested.

HONEY EXTRACTION

This is the removal of honey from the combs. Common methods of honey extraction:

- **Squeezing:** honey combs are uncapped, cut into pieces, put into an orange sack and squeezed over a bucket using hands
- **Dripping:** honey combs are uncapped, sliced, put into an orange sack/bag and the bag is hung over a collecting bowl for about 12 hours for honey to drip slowly
- **Heating:** honey combs are melted in a pot over low heat then the molten wax-honey mixture is cooled and removed as a cake on top of the liquid honey
- **Spinning:** honey comb frames are placed in a honey extractor after uncapping, which spins them so that the honey is removed by centrifugal force. Honey is then collected into a bucket through the honey gate (outlet).

PROCEDURE FOR EXTRACTING HONEY

1. Sort the combs and cut all uncapped portions to sell as fresh honey combs or for own usage
2. Set the combs in a warm (sunny) place a few minutes before processing to make the honey fluid if processing is not done the same day as harvesting
3. Extract the honey from the combs using the selected method
4. Filter the honey using a filter cloth or a double strainer
5. Settle the honey in a closed bucket. This gets rid of the air spaces within the honey and causes remaining wax particles to rise to the top of the honey. Extracted honey should be left for 24 to 48 hours to settle before beginning the bottling process.

6. Skim the honey: this is the removal of air bubbles and wax remains on the surface of the settled honey. It is done by placing a cling wrap over the surface of the honey and then lifting it up, it will come out with them leaving only the most attractive and clear honey for consumption. It can also be done by scrapping them using a spoon but this method wastes some honey

HONEY STORAGE

1. Bottle the honey into plastic or glass bottles with lids
2. Label the honey bottles
3. Store the honey in a cool dry place

METHODS OF RENDERING BEESWAX

A. The heating (cooking) method

- Soak combs in water 24 hours before melting them
- Strain water from the combs and separate combs according to colour ie. dark colour against light colour
- Break combs of the same colour into smaller pieces and put them into an orange bag
- Put the orange bag into a pot of water about 8 cm deep
- Heat the water to 62-64oC for light coloured wax or 85oC for dark coloured wax. Wax is destroyed at 100oC
- Remove the bag and squeeze it over the water
- Strain the water-wax mixture and allow the mixture to cool
- Remove the wax cake on top of the water
- Melt the wax again, pour it into moulds and cool it

B. The solar method

It uses the sunrays to create a very hot space in the wax extractor which causes wax to melt and drain

- Wax is placed under glass in the sun, it melts and runs into a collecting container.
 - Wax hardens once the container is removed from the extractor.
- In the tropics it is very easy for wax to burn using this system but it has the great advantage of using free sunshine.

PRODUCTS FROM BEESWAX

Beeswax is a valuable raw material for making a variety of products which include the following;

- ☐ lip balm
- ☐ face and body moisturizer
- ☐ hand cream
- ☐ candle
- ☐ wax for wood

SUMMARY

- Honey harvesting is done two to three weeks after the prime nectar flow which is in midsummer.
- Preparations for harvesting include checking which hives are ready for harvesting, setting correct timing, having necessary equipment and wearing protective clothing.
- Harvest combs that are at least three quarter capped and without brood
- Honey can be extracted/processed from honey combs through dripping, squeezing, heating and spinning methods
- Steps for processing extracting honey involve putting the honey combs in warm place, sorting combs, extracting honey from combs, filtering honey, settling and skimming the honey
- Honey is stored in a cool dry place after bottling and labeling the bottles
- Beeswax can be rendered through the heating method and solar method
- Products from beeswax include lip balm, hand and body moisturizer, hand cream, candle and wood polish

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. State any two products of beeswax. (2)
2. Describe a good honey storage procedure. (3)
3. Discuss the rendering of beeswax through the heating method ()
4. Discuss the harvesting of honey combs from hives under the following topics:
 - Preparations for harvesting (5)
 - procedure followed in harvesting, stating clearly the equipment used for each step (7)

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH LESSONS CALL OR WHATSAPP THE NUMBERS BELOW



EGCSE
7861 8300



JC - EPC
7653 9778

- 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



FRENCH EPC LEVEL

Leçon : 2

Niveau : Cinquième année (EPC)

Thème : Se présenter

Sous-thème : Se présenter

Compétence : Compréhension écrite et production écrite

Logique : L'élève doit être capable de parler de lui-même.

Objectif : A la fin de cette leçon, vous devez être capable de / d' :

1. Lire des textes et répondre aux questions.
2. Remplir une fiche d'identité.
3. Mentionner les nationalités des autres.
4. Utiliser les verbes 'être' et 'avoir'.
5. Ecrire un texte sur vos détails personnels.

Etape 1

Zanele Simelane se présente. Lisez son texte ci-dessous.

Salut !

Je m'appelle Zanele Simelane et je suis en cinquième année primaire. J'habite à Siteki et j'étudie à Siteki Nazaréen. J'ai huit ans et je suis née le 30 mars 2013 à l'hôpital appelé Good Shepherd.

Je suis une fille Liswatie. J'ai deux frères et trois sœurs. J'ai les yeux bleus et les cheveux bruns et courts. Je suis très amusante. Mon père s'appelle John Simelane. Il travaille à la banque, et ma mère s'appelle Luyanda Dlamini.

Mes deux frères aiment le football mais moi, j'adore les animaux et j'ai un chien. J'aime voyager, lire, manger et étudier les langues étrangères.

Exercice 1

Remplissez la fiche d'identité.

La Fiche D'identité	
Nom :
Age :
Date de naissance :
Nationalité :
Nombre de membres de famille :
Animal familial :

Etape 2

Quatre élèves se présentent. Lisez leurs textes.

Élève 1

Je m'appelle André. J'ai sept ans. Je suis Canadien et je suis un garçon unique, ça veut dire que je n'ai ni sœur ni frère.

Élève 2

Moi, je m'appelle Noxolo. J'ai huit ans et je suis Liswatie. J'habite à la capitale, Mbabane. J'ai une sœur.

Élève 3

Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Ahmed. Je suis musulman. Je viens de la Tunisie. Chez moi, nous sommes cinq.

Élève 4

Salut ! Je suis Chun Li. Je suis une fille de dix ans. Je suis chinoise. Chez moi, il y a papa, maman et mon frère.

Exercice 2

Ecrivez Vrai ou Faux.

1. Ahmed est Tunisien.....
2. Noxolo est un garçon.....
3. André vient du Canada.....
4. Chun Li a trois membres de famille.....
5. Noxolo a un frère.....

Etape 3

Grammaire

Pour parler de vos détails personnels, nous utilisons des verbes comme « être » (to be) et « avoir » (to have).

Par exemple :

Je suis Chun Li. (I am Chun Li)

Je suis Liswatie. (I am Liswatie)

J'ai sept/huit/neuf ans (I am 7/8/9 years old)

Voici la conjugaison de ces deux verbes.

1. Verbe être (verb to be)

Singulier(singular)

Je suis (I am)

Tu es (You are)

Il / elle est (He / she / is)

Pluriel (plural)

Nous sommes (We are)

Vous êtes (You are)

Ils / Elles sont (They are)

2. Verbe avoir (verb to have)

Singulier (singular)

J'ai (I have)

Tu as (you have)

Il / elle a (he / she / it has)

Pluriel (plural)

Nous avons (we have)

Vous avez (you have)

Ils/elle ont (they have)

Exercice 3.1

Conjuguez le verbe « être » correctement selon les sujets des phrases suivantes.

1. Nous riches.
2. Tu un garçon.
3. Elles heureuses.
4. Je une fille.
5. Vous propres.
6. Ils beaux.
7. Elle triste.
8. Nous heureux.
9. Je paresseuse aujourd'hui.
10. Il gentil.

Exercice 3.2

Conjuguez le verbe « avoir » correctement selon les sujets des phrases suivantes.

1. Nous trois grands chiens.
2. Elle un frère.

3. J' neuf ans.
4. Vous un chat noir et blanc.
5. Ils un livre français.
6. Tu une balle verte.
7. Elles des crayons.
8. Nous un joli parapluie.
9. Il des bonbons.
10. Vous des fleurs violettes.

Exercice 4

Ecrivez un texte sur vos détails personnels.

Mentionnez votre :

- Nom
- Age
- Date de naissance
- Nationalité
- Nombre de membres de famille.

10. avez
9. a
8. avons
7. ont
6. as
5. ont
4. avez
3. ai
2. a
1. avons

Exercice 3.2

10. est
9. suis
8. sommes
7. est
6. sont
5. êtes
4. suis
3. sont
2. es
1. sommes

Exercice 3.1

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

Exercice 2

6. Animal familial : Un chien
5. Nombre de membres de famille : 8 membres de famille
4. Nationalité : Liswatie
3. Date de naissance : Le 30 mars 2013
2. Age : 8 ans
1. Nom : Zanele Simelane

Exercice 1

Réponses prévues – Expected Answers

GLOSSAIRE – GLOSSARY

À – at
Adorer – to adore
Aimer – to like
Amusantes - Funny
Anglais – English
Animaux – animals
Année – year
Banque - bank
Canadien - Canadian
Chinoise - Chinese

Date de naissance - date of birth
Détails personnels - personal details
Ecrire - to write
Etrangère - Foreign
Etudier – to study
Faux - false
Fiche d'identité - identity file
Frère – brother
Habiter – to live
Heureuse - happy/spirited/fortunate

Langues - languages
Leur(s) -their
Lire - to read
Manger - to eat
Membre - member
Mentionnez - mention
Musulman -Muslim
Nationalité - nationality
Née – born
Nom - name
Nombre - number

Parapluie - Umbrella
Paresseuse - lazy
Propre - clean
Remplissez - fill in
Sœur – sister
Tunisie - Tunisia
Unique - only
Utilisons – Let us use
Vient de - come from
Voyager - to travel
Vrai - true

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH LESSONS CALL OR WHATSAPP THE NUMBERS BELOW

EGCSE
7861 8300

JC - EPC
7653 9778

- 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



SUBJECT: ACCOUNTING
SYLLABUS CODE: 6896
LEVEL: EGCSE
TOPIC: SUBSIDIARY BOOKS
LESSON 11

Lesson objectives:

By the end of the lesson the learners should be able to:
a) Define Value Added Tax (VAT)
b) Explain types of VAT
c) Calculate VAT
d) Record VAT in subsidiary books and post to the ledger

Introduction

The previous lessons explained how subsidiary books for credit purchases and credit sales are prepared. The sales journal is used to record goods sold on credit. A purchases journal is used to record goods bought on credit. It was explained that the sources of information for preparing subsidiary books are source documents. The invoice is used for credit sales and credit purchases. The invoice contains information relating to a transaction e.g. the description of goods including the quantity and the unit price, trade discounts, VAT, and the net amount. This lesson will explain the concept of VAT and how to prepare subsidiary books including VAT.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Value added tax is a levy charged on domestic consumption of goods and services. It is added to the price of goods and services.

Types of VAT

Zero rate VAT – this is VAT charged on goods at a rate of 0%. This means that government is currently charging 0% on such goods or no VAT is charged for such goods at the moment. Examples of zero rated goods are basic goods like maize meal, beans, milk, brown bread, vegetables, petrol, and etc.

Standard rate VAT – this is VAT charged on goods at a standard rate of 15%. Examples of such goods are furniture, clothing, jewellery, alcohol, etc. Businesses pay the standard VAT when buying goods for resale. The VAT charged on the business purchases is called input VAT. Similarly, businesses collect standard VAT when selling goods. The VAT charged on the business sales is called output VAT.

Example

Raymond bought goods costing E10 000 before VAT.

REQUIRED

- (a) Calculate the input VAT using the standard rate.
(b) Calculate the amount to be paid by Raymond.

Solution

- (a) $E10\,000 \times 15\% = E1\,500$
(b) $E10\,000 + E1\,500 = E11\,500$

Recording VAT in the books of account

VAT is added to the price of goods. In subsidiary books a column for VAT is opened. When posting to the ledger:

1. The trade payables or trade receivables are posted inclusive of VAT to the purchases or sales ledger.
2. The purchases or sales amounts are posted exclusive of VAT to the general ledger.
3. Input VAT is debited in the VAT account while output VAT credited in the VAT account.

Let us make an example of a sales journal. This will illustrate how a credit sale transaction is recorded in the sales journal showing the VAT column and how entries are posted to the ledger.

Example 1

On 20 August 2020, Luyolo sold on credit to: Mihla E4 000; Sehlelo E5 000. Goods are subject to the standard rate of VAT of 15%.

REQUIRED

- (a) Prepare the sales journal for Luyolo
(b) Post to the relevant type of ledger

Solutions (a)

Sales Journal				
Date	Customer's name	Net amount (E)	VAT (E)	Gross Amount (E)
2020				
Aug 20	Mihla	4 000	600	4 600
20	Sehlelo	5 000	750	5 750
31	Total for the month	9 000	1 350	10 350

(b)

Sales Ledger			
2020		Mihla account	E
Aug 20	Sales	4 600	
2020		R Boss account	E
Aug 20	Sales	5 750	
General Ledger			
		Sales account	
2020			E
Aug 31	Trade receivables		9 000
		VAT account	
2020			E
Aug 31	Trade receivables		1 350

- Notes:**
i. The trade receivables are posted inclusive of VAT to the sales ledger.
ii. The sales (revenue) are posted exclusive of VAT to the nominal ledger.
iii. Output VAT (VAT on sales) is posted to the credit side of the VAT account.

ACCOUNTING

Example 2

On November 2, 2020 Mntimandze bought goods on credit from Hlanganisa E2 000 and Tafula E1000. Goods are subject to 15% VAT.

REQUIRED

- (a) Prepare the sales journal for Luyolo
(b) Post to the relevant type of ledger

Solution

(a)

Purchases Journal				
Date	Supplier's name	Net amount (E)	VAT (E)	Gross Amount (E)
2020				
Nov 2	Hlanganisa	2 000	300	2 300
2	Tafula	1 000	150	1 150
31	Total for the month	3 000	450	3 450

(b)

Purchases Ledger			
2020		Hlanganisa account	E
Nov 2	Purchases	2 300	
2020		Tafula account	E
Nov 2	Purchases	1 150	
General Ledger			
2020		Purchases account	E
Nov 2	Trade payables	3 000	
2020		VAT account	E
Nov 2	Trade payables	450	

Notes:

- i. The trade payables are posted inclusive of VAT to the purchases ledger.
- ii. The purchases are posted exclusive of VAT to the general ledger.
- iii. Input VAT (VAT on purchases) is posted to the debit side of the VAT account.

Activity

- a) Explain the difference between zero rate and standard rate VAT.
b) State the effect of the standard VAT on the price of a product.
c) Distinguish between input VAT and output VAT.

Solution

- a) Zero rate VAT is VAT charged on goods at 0% while standard rate VAT is VAT charged on goods at the standard rate of 15%.
b) Standard VAT increases the price of the product.
c) Input VAT is VAT charged on purchases while output VAT is VAT charged on sales.

Lesson conclusion

This lesson explained VAT and how VAT is recorded in the sales journal and purchases journal. It was explained that VAT is added to the price of the product. Individual trade receivables and trade payables are posted inclusive of VAT while sales and purchases are posted exclusive of VAT. Input VAT is debited in the VAT account while output VAT is credited in the VAT account. The next lesson will explain VAT and returns.

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3. Wood F, Sangster A (2008) Business Accounting 1, eleventh edition, Pearson Education, Prentice Hall



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY EGCSE - FORM 5

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Topic: Ferrous metals

Welcome my Form 5 dear learner to our Eswatini observer virtual learning program. My name is teacher Mr Zwelakhe Msibi your virtual teacher in Design and Technology. Today we are going to learn about ferrous metals and alloys of steel.

Objectives: by the end of the lesson you should be able to:

- Define the terms; Ferrous metals and alloys
- Identify and name Ferrous metals
- State properties and specific uses of each metal
- Gives examples of items made from the metals.
- Explain the importance of alloying steel.

Introduction

This lesson contains detailed information on ferrous metals that we use in our everyday life as well as those used in big industries. The lesson will focus mainly on the following metals: Mild steel, High Carbon steel, cast iron and stainless steel. The properties of the metals will be clearly outlined as well their specific uses.

What are ferrous metals?

Ferrous metals contain iron and are magnetic. They are prone to rust and therefore require a protective finish, which is sometimes used to improve the aesthetics.

A detailed look into the metals

High Carbon Steel

High carbon steels, as their name suggests, are steels with high carbon content. The carbon in this sample of steel strengthens it and gives it the ability to harden by heat treatment. It also makes it less ductile than ordinary steel, and it becomes much more brittle as a result of its impurities.



High carbon steel knives

Properties of High Carbon steel



High carbon steel properties include a very high strength, extreme hardness and resistance to wear, and moderate ductility, which is a measure of a material's ability to tolerate being deformed without actually breaking.

Uses of High Carbon steel

Because of its extreme hardness and resistance to wear, high carbon steel is often used for things like cutting tools that retain their sharp edge, and masonry nails that can be driven into concrete blocks or bricks without bending. Other examples of items made of High carbon steel are: Band saw, anvil face, dies for cold presses, wrenches, springs, cold chisels, shear blades, rock rills etc.



Mild Steel



Mild steel is a type of carbon steel with a low amount of carbon, it is also known as "low carbon steel". Due to its excellent properties, mild steel has become an in-demand material in various industries. It has unparalleled weldability and machinability, which has led to an exponential increase in its usage.



Properties of Mild steel

The low carbon content makes this steel a highly machinable metal. It can be cut, machined, formed into intricate shapes without adding proportional stresses to the workpiece. Other properties of mild steel include:

- High tensile strength.
- High impact strength.
- Good ductility and weldability.
- A magnetic metal due to its ferrite content.
- Good malleability with cold-forming possibilities.
- Not suitable for heat treatment to improve properties.



Uses of Mild steel



Mild steel is the most common type of metal used around us. With its unique properties not found in wood or anything else, is an inseparable partner when it comes to building construction, machinery parts, and cookware. Other popular uses include: pipelines, metal gates, fencing etc.



Cast Iron



Cast iron is a group of iron-carbon alloys with carbon content more than 2%. Its usefulness derives from its relatively low melting temperature. The addition of molybdenum to cast iron apparently increases the tensile-test values and resistance to shock, and at the same time it improves the machining qualities. Also makes malleable castings exceptionally strong and tough.



Cast iron properties

Cast iron is hard, brittle, nonmalleable (i.e. it cannot be bent, stretched or hammered into shape) and more fusible than steel.

- The following properties also made it ideal for its daily uses:
- Hardness – material's resistance to abrasion and indentation.
 - Toughness – material's ability to absorb energy.
 - Ductility – material's ability to deform without fracture.
 - Elasticity – material's ability to return to its original dimensions after it has been deformed.



- low melting point, good fluidity, castability, excellent machinability
- resistance to deformation and wear resistance



Uses of Cast Iron

Its unique properties make Cast Iron is an ideal engineering material in making

- pipes
- Machines and automotive industry parts, such as cylinder heads.
- Frying pans
- Stoves



Stainless steel

Stainless steel is a group of iron-based alloys that contain a minimum of approximately 11% chromium, a composition that prevents the iron from rusting. Stainless steel has many desirable properties that contribute greatly to its widespread application in the making of parts and components across many industrial sectors. Above all, because of its chromium content, it is extremely resistant to corrosion. The 10.5% minimum content makes steel approximately 200 times more resistant to corrosion than steels without chromium.



Stainless steel properties



Other favorable properties for consumers are its high strength and durability, its high and low temperature resistance, increased formability and easy fabrication, low maintenance, long lasting, attractive appearance and it is environmentally friendly and recyclable. Once stainless steel is put into service, it does not need to be treated, coated or painted.

Uses of Stainless steel

Stainless steel has many desirable properties that contribute greatly to its widespread application. The following are examples of its uses:

- Kitchen sinks. Cutlery. Cookware.
- Surgical tools and medical equipment. Hemostats.
- Surgical implants.
- Architecture
- Auto bodies.



Alloying of steel

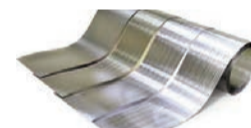
An alloy is a metal made by combining two or more metallic elements, especially to give greater strength or resistance to corrosion.

For example, the combination of carbon with iron produces steel, which is stronger than iron, its primary element. The electrical and thermal conductivity of alloys is usually lower than that of the pure metals.

Using alloys to improve the properties of Steel

The strength of **steel** can be **increased** by the addition of alloys such as:

- Nickel
- Tungsten
- Chromium,
- Molybdenum
- Manganese
- Vanadium.



The more **steel** is alloyed, the stronger it becomes. The addition of these alloys ensures its high strength and durability, its high and low temperature resistance, increased formability and easy fabrication, low maintenance, durability and its attractive appearance. Once stainless steel is put into service, it does not need to be treated, coated or painted.

NAME	ALLOY OF	PROPERTIES	USES
Mild Steel	Carbon 0.1 - 0.3% Iron 99.7 - 99.9%	Tough, High tensile strength. Can be case hardened. Rust very easily	Most common metal used in school workshop. Used in general products and in engineering
Carbon Steel	Carbon 0.6 - 1.4% Iron 98.6 - 98.7%	Tough. Can be hardened and tempered	Cutting tools such as drills
Stainless Steel	Iron, nickel and chromium	Tough, resistant to rust and stains	Cutlery, medical instruments.
Cast iron	Carbon 2 - 6% Iron 94 - 98%	Strong but brittle. Compressive strength very high	Castings, manhole covers, engine blocks, vices, body of machines

Lesson conclusion

My dear learner in this lesson we have learned about the properties and uses of the ferrous metals which are High carbon steel, Mild steel, cast Iron and Stainless steel. We also saw how the properties of each metal make it ideal for a number of specific uses. We are now also, with the help of the lesson, in a position to identify the products made from these metals which we use in our in our daily lives. The enhanced properties of alloyed steel have also been cleared discussed, resistance to corrosion being the most obvious.

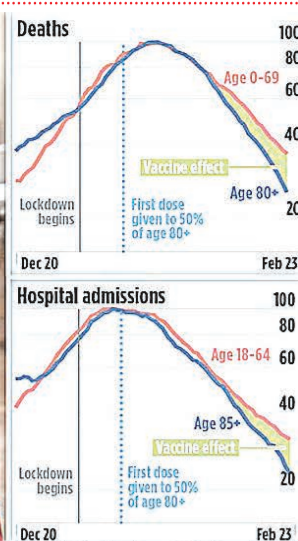
Lesson evaluation

Dear learner, to check your understanding of the lesson please respond to the following questions. Your responses can be sent to your teacher for checking. Reference to your texts books is allowed.

1. Briefly describe the meaning of the terms: alloys and Ferrous metals
2. List three properties of High carbon steel, Mild steel, Cast iron and Stain steel.
3. Give two advantages for alloying metals.
4. Give other examples of products made from all the metals we have learned about besides the given examples.
5. Name three products of stainless steel that exhibit properties enhanced by alloying.

Possible responses

1. Alloys are metals that are metal made by combining two or more metallic elements.
2. High carbon steel properties very high strength, extreme hardness, Resistance to wear, and moderate ductility.
3. Advantages of alloying metals- increases strength, hardness and corrosion resistance
4. Mild steel properties- high tensile strength, high impact strength, good ductility and weldability.
5. Cast iron properties- hardness, toughness, ductility
- Stainless steel properties - corrosion resistant, very durable, temperature resistant.
5. Surgical utensils, kitchen table tops, steel frying pans

STOP
THE SPREAD
COVID-19FOCUS ON COVID-19 *second wave*STOP
THE SPREAD
COVID-19

THE DRUGS DO WORK

LONDON - Just one vaccine shot reduces the risk of being hospitalised by COVID-19 by more than 90 per cent, according to stunning new findings.

Public health officials have told ministers that the remarkable results apply for both the Pfizer and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, with the British jab proving slightly more effective.

It represents another huge boost to Britain's world-beating vaccine rollout, which has now achieved nearly 20 million first injections. The hugely successful inoculation programme is threatened only by the small minority who are still refusing to have the jab.

On Saturday Prince William urged Britons to ignore conspiracy theories about the supposed dangers of the vaccine, warning of 'rumours and misinformation' on social media. The Duke of Cambridge issued the warning during a video call with his wife Kate to two clinically vulnerable women who have been shielding with their families since March.

A Mail on Sunday investigation into the poor take-up among some ethnic

minorities yesterday found that people are falling for lies and conspiracy theories spread online.

In other developments:

- This newspaper has established that a quarter of frontline NHS workers in London are refusing the vaccine;
- A Mail on Sunday poll found 81 per cent of voters think it should be compulsory for medics and care home workers to have the vaccine, while 54 per cent support vaccine passports as a condition of entry to restaurants or on public transport;
- Boris Johnson's poll ratings have surged since he announced his 'roadmap' out of lockdown, which is supported by more than two-thirds of people;
- Almost three-quarters of care homes bosses said they wanted to implement a 'no jab, no job' policy;
- New COVID cases have fallen by 28 per cent over the past seven days to 7 434, while deaths dropped by more than a third to 290;
- The number of first-dose vaccinations administered surpassed 19.6 million, with more than 750 000 people having their second jab;

- Tributes were paid to Captain Sir Tom Moore at his funeral on Saturday;
- EU leaders have been warned it could be 2023 before the bloc manages to offer a jab to all of its adult population;
- Pubs and restaurants complained they were facing a nightmare of red tape if they wanted to reopen for alfresco service on April 12, in line with Johnson's roadmap.

The new one-dose vaccination figures were calculated by comparing COVID hospitalisation rates in those who have received their first dose with those of a similar age who haven't.

It helps to explain why the numbers being hospitalised are falling so rapidly in the oldest age groups.

Deaths among the over-75s have dropped by 40 per cent, while the number of over-85s being admitted to intensive care units with COVID has dropped close to zero.

The strong results for the Oxford vaccine are a rebuke to the German authorities, which last month advised against its use in the over-65s.

Daily Mail

'Sputnik V performing well against COVID mutations'

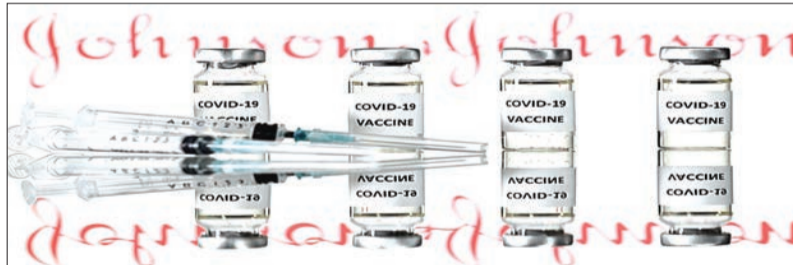
MOSCOW - A Russian trial testing the effectiveness of revaccination with the Sputnik V shot to protect against new mutations of the coronavirus is producing strong results, researchers said on Saturday.

Last month President Vladimir Putin ordered a review by March 15 of Russian-produced vaccines for their effectiveness against new variants spreading in different parts of the world.

"(A) recent study carried out by the Gamaleya Centre in Russia showed that revaccination with Sputnik V vaccine is working very well against new coronavirus mutations, including the UK and South African strains of coronavirus," said Denis Logunov, a Deputy Director of the centre, which developed the Sputnik V shot.

Results of the trial are expected to be published soon, but this was the first indication of how the tests are going. No further details were available yet.

Reuters



US authorises J&J COVID vaccine for emergency use

WASHINGTON - The United States over the weekend authorised Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the nation a third shot to battle the outbreak that has killed more than 500 000 Americans.

The single-shot vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19, including against newer variants, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said before giving it a green light.

"This is exciting news for all Americans, and an encouraging development in our efforts to bring an end to the crisis," US President Joe Biden said in a statement.

But he urged Americans to remain vigilant with anti-virus curbs such as social distancing, warning that new variants of

the virus still posed a threat. "But we cannot let our guard down now or assume that victory is inevitable," he said. A third vaccine is seen as a vital means to ramp up the immunisation rate in the United States, where more than 500 000 people have lost their lives to the coronavirus. The J&J vaccine is the third to be green-lighted in the United States after Pfizer's and Moderna's were provisionally approved in December.

Over 65 million people in America have so far received at least one shot of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines -- but unlike those, the J&J vaccine requires just one dose, and is stored at fridge temperatures, offering logistical and practical advantages. *AFP*

EU could still be jabbing people in 2023

LONDON - Britain's success in the vaccine 'arms race' against the EU has been such that Germany's bestselling newspaper that it 'envied' the UK - and the number-crunching shows why.

If the major European countries don't dramatically accelerate the speed of their vaccine rollout, it could be 2023 before they have offered a jab to all adults.

No 10 announced last week that it expected to have offered a vaccine to all UK adults by the end of July, as part of Boris Johnson's 'roadmap' plan to lift all restrictions by June 21.

More than 19 million people in the UK have received at least one dose of a vaccine, compared with just 5.5 million in Germany and fewer than four million in France. If Germany keeps to its current seven-day average of injecting 114 000 people a day, it will be another 551 days before it has reached every adult - on August 28, 2022.

In France, which is managing barely 92 000 jabs a day, liberation would not come until July 8, 2022.

Other countries are faring even

worse: Italy is due to hit the target on December 11, 2022, while Belgium is on course for May 22, 2023.

Britain's success has been hailed by No 10 as an illustration of the benefits of Brexit: the UK refused to join the EU's cumbersome vaccine procurement plan, instead striking out on its own to make early deals for millions of doses.

In its article, the Bild newspaper said: "While the British are already planning their summer vacation, Germany is stuck in lockdown."

It came as German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would not take the Oxford/AstraZeneca shot because German regulators have not approved it for over-65s - despite the scientific evidence that it is highly effective.

French President Emmanuel Macron initially questioned the AstraZeneca vaccine, but last week admitted that "the efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine has been proven".

He added that he would take it - but at 43, and given his country's current rate of progress, he will have to wait until next year.

Daily Mail

Germany, France will give AstraZeneca jab to over-65s

BERLIN - Germany and France look set to approve the AstraZeneca COVID jab for the over 65s in a major U-turn aimed at speeding up their stuttering vaccine drives.

In an ignominious climb-down, health chiefs in both countries have now suggested they could update their policies for the Oxford University researched jab - after initially refusing to give it to those over 65.

Officials in Germany previously raised doubts about the vaccine's effectiveness amid reports - rubbished by AstraZeneca - that the vaccine was just eight per cent effective at protecting those in older age groups.

France's Emmanuel Macron even went as far as to claim the jab was 'quasi-ineffective' at protecting the elderly. But with new data showing the AstraZeneca jab is effective in protecting the elderly, and with vaccine rollouts in France and Germany lagging behind Britain's, both countries now look set to U-turn. Thomas Mertens, the head of the country's vaccine committee last night said it would update its recommendation on the jab.

And in a frank admission on German television station ZDF, he said: "The whole thing has somehow gone wrong."

Meanwhile, Alain Fischer, Chairman of France's vaccine strategy orientation council, said the country would "re-adjust our vaccine strategy". He said the rethink was in response to new data from a recent real-world study in Scotland which showed the AstraZeneca jab's use reduced hospital admissions by 94 per cent.

It comes as the EU's vaccine rollout continues to stall and lag behind Britain's programme. Latest figures show there have been 29.33 doses administered per 100 000 in the UK, compared to just 7.13 across the EU.

The Guardian



RECOMMENDED: German Health Minister Jens Spahn.

Focus on World News

Global News

WHITE HOUSE ORDERS ENHANCED AIRPORT SCREENINGS FOR EBOLA

WASHINGTON DC - The White House revealed that the United States will screen airline passengers arriving from two African countries for Ebola 'out of an abundance of caution'.

The Centres for Disease Control said that beginning next week, travellers from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea will be funneled to six US airports for health checks.

Airlines will collect passenger information for public health follow-up, contact tracing, and intervention for all passengers boarding a flight to the US who were in DRC or Guinea within the previous 21 days. It comes after at least five people died in the latest outbreak in Guinea and four in DRC. The CDC said it is closely following the outbreaks and that the risk of Ebola to the United States is extremely low.

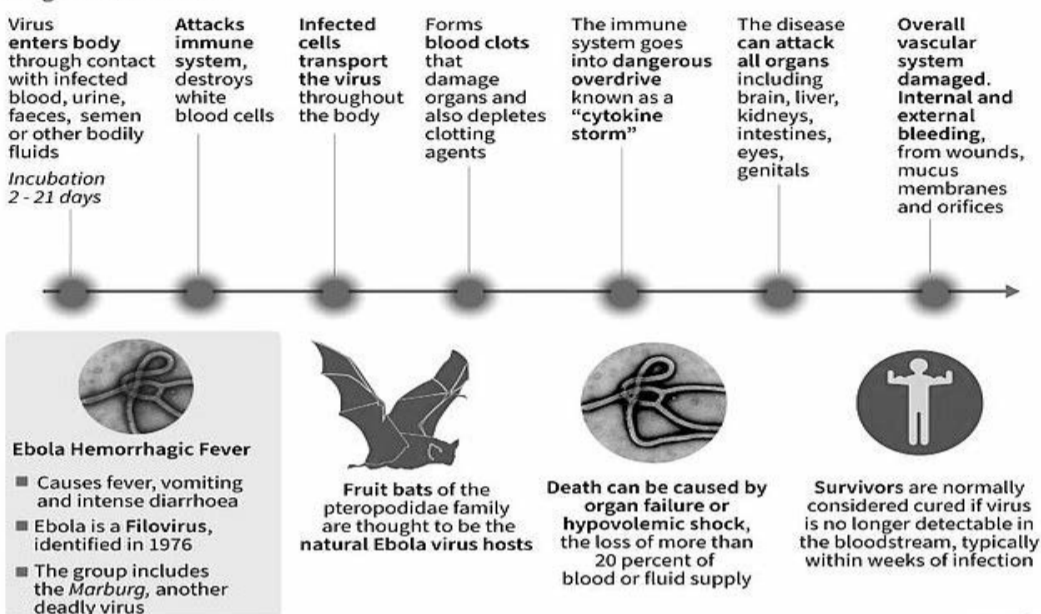
There hasn't been an Ebola case in the country since 2015.

"Out of an abundance of caution, the US government will institute public health measures for the very small number of travellers arriving from the DRC and Guinea," the CDC said in a statement late on Friday. "The Biden Administration is committed to working closely with the affected countries to end these outbreaks before they grow into epidemics," it added. Similar screening procedures had been in place for the

How the Ebola virus attacks

Viruses are parasitic, they hijack living cells to reproduce their own genome

Progression of illness



coronavirus but were dropped six months ago as the administration deemed them to be of little use in controlling the spread of the virus.

Exposure

Screening had also been introduced during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, where passengers entering the US from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone had their temperature taken and asked about any potential exposure. Guinea started an Ebola vaccination campaign

on Tuesday, the World Health Organisation said earlier in the week, with the hopes of eradicating the virus in six weeks.

This treatment was unavailable during the last epidemic.

The specific Ebola virus species in the outbreak has not yet been determined. According to a bulletin circulated to US government agencies, WHO 'considers the risk of spread in the country as very high given the unknown size, dura-

tion and origin of the outbreak; potentially large number of contacts; potential spread to other parts of Guinea and neighbouring countries; limited response capacity currently on the ground; and unknown virus strain'. The return of the viral disease has evoked the specters of the devastating 2013-2016 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, which left 11 300 dead in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Daily Mail

Nigeria seeks asset managers for new infrastructure firm

ABUJA - Nigeria's central bank is seeking asset managers for a new \$2.6 billion infrastructure investment company set up to develop the country's crumbling transport networks and boost economic growth.

The asset managers will originate and manage infrastructure projects, generating return from investments, the bank said on Saturday. The deadline for submission of proposals is March 16.

Nigeria emerged out of economic recession in the fourth quarter of 2020, despite a contraction in the year as a whole. But growth is fragile as poor infrastructure have stymied the economy for decades, holding back the distribution of wealth in Africa's biggest economy. President Muhammadu Buhari approved the creation of Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCorp) in February to focus on infrastructure development, with a seed capital of one trillion naira (US\$2.6 billion).

Economy

Initial capital will come from the central bank, the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), and the Africa Finance Corporation, the central bank has said.

Economists say the poor state of Nigeria's infrastructure has put at risk the Buhari government's ambitions for turning the country into a manufacturing hub and growing the agriculture sector. In 2017, the government set up the Development Bank of Nigeria to boost credit to small-scale businesses that make up almost half of the economy. Now the government wants to fix its crumbling roads and rail network that have made it hard to move agricultural and finished goods to markets. Buhari has pledged to strengthen the agricultural sector, to reduce Nigeria's costly food imports and diversify the economy away from an over-reliance on oil. But access to long-term funds in local currency has been a major hurdle. InfraCorp's board will be chaired by the central bank governor, the managing director Nigeria's sovereign wealth fund, the president of the Africa Finance Corporation, and three independent directors from the private sector.

SABC News Africa

Tunisia's main party holds huge rally as government row grows

TUNIS - Tunisia's biggest political party assembled an immense crowd of supporters in the capital in a show of strength that could fuel a dispute between the president and the prime minister.

In one of the biggest demonstrations since Tunisia's 2011 revolution, tens of thousands of Ennahda supporters marched through central Tunis chanting "The people want to protect institutions!" and "The people want national unity!"

The dispute has played out against a grim backdrop of economic anxiety, disillusionment with democracy and competing reform demands from foreign lenders and the UGTT, the powerful main labour union, as debt repayments loom.

Ennahda, a moderate Islamist party led by Parliament Speaker Rached Ghannouchi, has backed Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi in a standoff with President Kais Saied over a Cabinet reshuffle. Banned before the revolu-

tion, it has been a member of most governing coalitions since then and, although its share of the vote has fallen in recent years, it still holds the most seats in Parliament. "Nationalists, Islamists, democrats and communists," Ghannouchi told the crowd, "we were gathered together during the dictatorship... and we must unite again." The most recent election, in 2019, delivered a fragmented Parliament while propelling Saied, an independent, to the presidency. When the

government collapsed after only five months in office, Saied nominated Mechichi as prime minister. But they soon fell out, and Mechichi turned for support to the two biggest parties - Ennahda and jailed media mogul Nabil Karoui's Heart of Tunisia. Last month, Mechichi changed 11 ministers in a reshuffle seen as replacing Saied's allies with those of Ennahda and Heart of Tunisia. The president has refused to swear four of them in, however. *The Guardian*

BRIEFS

Social media rules threaten free expression

NEW DELHI - Internet freedom advocates have warned that new Indian social media regulations could pose a threat to freedom of expression, after New Delhi announced plans for tough new rules that could force platforms to remove content it deems objectionable. Under the new regulations - unveiled on Thursday and due to come into force in three months - social media platforms, online streaming services and digital news services could be forced to remove content 36 hours after a complaint is made.

Reuters

Gay asylum seekers 'in danger if sent home'

KAMPALA - Same-sex liaisons are illegal in Uganda. People convicted of homosexual acts can be sent to jail for the rest of their lives. Some gay Ugandans survive by staying under the radar and live a shadowy half-life, presenting a straight face to the world. Others manage to leave their homeland, seeking asylum where they won't be persecuted for being who they are. Because Godfrey is both gay and Ugandan, he says he was expelled from school, rejected by his family and sacked from his job.

BBC News

Governor accused of sexual harassment

NEW YORK - A second ex-employee of powerful New York state Governor Andrew Cuomo has accused him of sexual harassment, charges the governor denied. This time the allegations came from 25-year-old former health adviser Charlotte Bennett, who told The New York Times that the governor sexually harassed her in the spring of 2020. According to Bennett, the 63-year-old politician said in June that he was open to dating women in their 20s, and asked her if she thought age made a difference in romantic relationships, the Times reported.

AFP

Myanmar ambassador to UN fired

NEW YORK - Myanmar's UN Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun has been fired, state television said on Saturday, a day after he urged the United Nations to use "any means necessary" to reverse the February 1 military coup. Kyaw Moe Tun was removed as police arrested hundreds of demonstrators who showed opposition to the coup on 1 February.

Myanmar's crisis took a dramatic turn on Friday when the ambassador made a three-fingered salute adopted by the protesters before the UN General Assembly.

Reuters

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

COVID-19 INFECTIONS DECLINE...

SOUTH AFRICANS URGED NOT TO LOWER THEIR GUARD

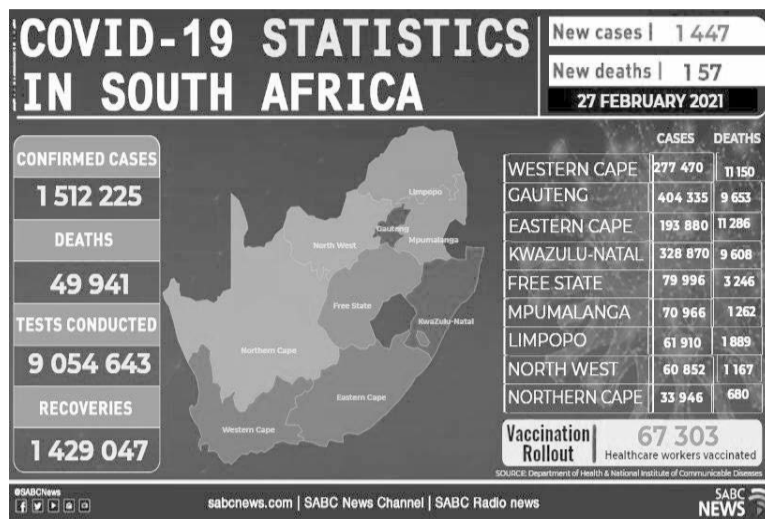
PRETORIA - President Cyril Ramaphosa has said the National Coronavirus Command Council is monitoring the situation and will advise him on the next course of action.

With the country recording low numbers of infections, government is once again urging South Africans not to lower their guard.

Recently South Africa has been recording daily infections of less than 2 000 infections with less than 200 deaths as compared to between 15 and 20 000 infections in December.

The president says his next address will take into account the Easter holidays, which could also be a possible super-spreader season like the festive season.

The Health Department has reported 1 447 new cases of coronavirus, taking the number of total infections



to 1 512 225.

There have been a further 157 COVID-19-related deaths in the country, bringing the national death toll to 49 941 deaths. Recoveries now stand at 1 429

047, representing a recovery rate of 94 per cent.

The number of vaccines that have been administered to healthcare workers now stands at 63 648. *SABC News*

Rising crime stats in Gauteng a concern - DA

JOHANNESBURG - Cash-in-transit robberies, truck hijackings, sexual offences, and commercial crimes have seen a massive rise in the past year.

Increasing crime statistics in Gauteng remains a concern, the Democratic Alliance said yesterday.

According to the crime statistics, there has been an "overwhelming increase in various crimes across the province compared to the previous years".

These include cash-in-transit robberies, truck hijackings, sexual offences, and commercial crimes that have seen a massive rise in the past years.

"Cash in transit robberies have increased by 106.7 per cent from 15 cases to 31 cases, while sexual offences increased

by 40.5 per cent from 220 cases to 309 cases last year," said Michael Shackleton the party's shadow MEC for Community Safety. "These various crime statistics are worrying and clearly indicate that Gauteng lacks adequate policing putting the lives of residents at serious risk."

Crimes

Shackleton said that it was deeply concerning that sexual cases have increased. "It demonstrates that the government's current interventions are not yielding positive results in terms of fighting and preventing sexually-related crimes."

"Our police are ill-equipped, untrained, and under-resourced to adequately ensure that law and order is maintained in our communities. 1 407 police vehicles were out of service in Gauteng last year, while

only 4 374 vehicles remained operational."

He said that the DA will be tabling questions to the Gauteng MEC for Community Safety, Faith Mazibuko in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature to determine what measures are being put in place to effectively fight crime in the province. Shackleton also lambasted the snail's pace at which the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) was going in solving crimes by law enforcement officers. "Most notable, the sexual offences detected as a result of police action have also increased, yet the IPID is battling to investigate and finalise police brutality cases as only five out of 147 of them have been resolved." *The Citizen*

Parly committee welcomes home affairs Gupta family naturalisation report

JOHANNESBURG - Parliament's Home Affairs Committee says it welcomes the process initiated by home affairs to implement the findings of the Public Protector's report on the Gupta family naturalisation matter.

Some home affairs officials were found to have failed to exercise due diligence in verifying the accuracy of the information contained in the motivation for the family's early naturalisation.

The committee says it has instructed the department to furnish it with a progress report at the end of next month.

Acting committee Chairperson, Mosa Chabane, says some of the remedial actions that home affairs will implement include disciplinary action against departmental officials who were involved in the naturalisation of Ajay Gupta and his family. The Public Protector has found that the officials failed to exercise due diligence in verifying the accu-



NATURALISED: The Gupta family members.

racy of the information contained in the motivation for the family's early naturalisation.

Earlier this month, Advocate Busisiwe

Mkhwebane called on the home affairs director-general to take action against the implicated officials.

SABC News

GIFTS ROLL IN FOR ZUMA

JOHANNESBURG - Former SAA board chair Dudu Myeni's fortunes seem to be improving.

Two years ago, she couldn't afford to travel from Durban to Pretoria to attend a court case seeking to declare her a delinquent director.

Now, she can afford to help former president Jacob Zuma feed scores of visitors to his Nkandla home.

Zuma's daughter Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla shared a video clip on Twitter showing Myeni delivering groceries in Nkandla.

"It's a great honour and pleasure for me to have known you, for a number of years of over two decades or so," Myeni told Zuma.

"I see people are coming in large numbers, but what I've been observing as a woman is that you continue to dine with them and you still are happy to host people as you always say that you love people

and it shows in how you interact with them."

Myeni said Zuma's leadership is appreciated.

"All I'm saying today is that as a pensioner who has no shares in any mining company, is that we know very well from the Saturdays at your Jacob Zuma Foundation, I said let me come and give the little that we could afford with my family to say, please continue during your pension years that God has given you to enjoy your people, to continue to serve them and to continue as well to lead us because we still want to tap from your wisdom."

EFF leader Julius Malema is among several high profile people who've recently paid Zuma a visit.

They include ANC leaders, uMkhonto we Sizwe Military Veterans as well as Police Minister Bheki Cele.

eNCA



I WILL NOT: Inkatha Freedom Party MP Mkhuleko Hlengwa.

'I won't be giving eNCA interviews until they revise mask statement'

DURBAN - Inkatha Freedom Party MP Mkhuleko Hlengwa says he will not be giving interviews to news channels eNCA or eTV until management meets with him and revises its statement on the conduct of its journalist Lindsey Dentlinger.

Hlengwa said Dentlinger had apologised to him after insisting he kept his mask on during a Budget speech interview, although DA leader John Steenhuisen, who she had finished interviewing, wasn't wearing a mask. He said he and Dentlinger had a constructive and cordial discussion. "In the spirit of nation building, I have accepted her apology and also agreed to meet with her next week. In that meeting, I intend to continue our conversation and point out to her the racial biases which characterised events around myself, [MPs] Advocate Bongo and Mr Nkwankwa," Hlengwa said in an open letter to eNCA Managing Director Norman Munzihulele and eNCA Managing Editor John Bailey. There was a public outcry earlier this week after Dentlinger had also asked UDM's Nqabayomzi Kwankwa to keep his mask on while Freedom Front Plus

leader Pieter Groenewald had no mask on when she interviewed him before that. On Friday, eNCA said that her "alleged inconsistent behaviour" to COVID-19 protocols "was not racially motivated or with malicious intent".

It said that Dentlinger was a seasoned journalist who had more than 21 years of experience, including nine with eNCA.

Selectiveness

Hlengwa said the statement "fell short of the reconciliatory spirit which has been the idealistic mainstay of our democratic discourse since 1994". He added that it was riddled with "selectiveness and obfuscation," granting further credit to the view of eNCA as "deliberately racist or sheepishly ignorant of its racism".

He said he had informed his party leaders about his decision not to be interviewed by eNCA as IFP spokesperson and chairperson of Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA).

Furthermore, he requested a meeting with the news channel to discuss the mask issue, as failure to do so would be a "dereliction of duty" from both parties. *The Citizen*

ESWATINI Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

ARTISTS BLANK ABOUT GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION



Antidote Founder Mmely Hlanze.



ACTOR: Thembinkhosi Mthethwa.

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

ARTISTS in the country have stated that they have absolutely no idea what the Eswatini National Culture and Arts Council (ENCAC) does with the subvention it receives from government.

They said this when interviewed yesterday for comments on the 2021/2022 budget estimates tabled by the Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg last week Friday. The minister announced an allocation of E3 979 360 which has been allocated over the past three financial years.

To say artists were gutted would be an understatement as some refused to comment on the matter, mentioning how they were not considered in any of the decisions made by the council.

"Look, I could start by complaining and saying maybe this is the perfect proof that government does not care about the arts, but on the flip side of the coin, what has the arts done to prove its value? We do not know what the council does with the meagre funding it currently receives, so how can we justify asking more funding? It is wild that artists do not even know what projects the council does," said Antidote's Mmely Hlanze. Some artists who asked to remain anonymous as they felt being vocal about their needs and requests was detrimental to their careers.

"This means all our efforts are in vain in this industry. We are taken as a 'by the way' case as always. It is a serious stance on government's part especially since entertainment has been stopped indefinitely since March last year.

Means of engaging through the 'right' channels to discuss our plight have yielded nothing, clearly drastic times call for drastic measures," said Slotta.

This has affected artists across the industry as poets and actors also said they were not happy about the budget and how it was spent by the association. Poet Majaha Nkonyane and actor Thembinkhosi Mthethwa also shared the same sentiments.

"I have been an artists for so many years but I only learnt recently that there's money government allocates to our sector. Where does it go and which artist does it help? There's no poet in the country that survives through its art so clearly the council and the ministry of sports, culture and youth

...ACAESWA happy with ENCAC's direction

affairs are not doing something right," said Nkonyane. "It is a really tough one, it is depressing.

There is nothing inspiring for us as artists in the country, and if government wanted us to do more, why not just have that conversation with us.

The arts sector has a huge potential to generate revenue for this country, so if government invested in the sector, then we would definitely play a role in bettering the state of the economy. When it comes to the council, all I have to say is that even when we sit down and make plans, the execution is then never done, so I understand the frustration coming from artists," said Thembinkhosi Mthethwa.

ACAESWA's Public Relations Officer Nhlanhla Mathunjwa said as far as the gospel sector was concerned, they were happy with the council and what it was working on.

"We have a great relationship with the council because last year, they helped us in funding to facilitate for an online lessons for artists. Every now and then, they help us out when we need help. I think artists need to understand that the council does not deal with them directly, the council deals with associations. They should make proposals and submit to their associations who will then take the proposal to the council for potential funding. All in all, I would also like to appreciate His Majesty's government for supporting us with the little it has even in such tumultuous times in our economy," he added. When sought for comment, ENCAC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Stanley Dlamini said the council was disappointed with the amount of the subvention.

"The subvention is just way too little. We have projects to run, some are already up and to then try give relief to artists needs much more funding. In terms of artists saying they do not know about what we do,



ENCAC CEO Stanley Dlamini.



POET: Majaha Nkonyane.



ACAESWA PRO Nhlanhla Mathunjwa.

well, that is shocking to us. They should get in touch with their associations who we are in constant contact with, because we are a national association we do not deal directly with artists," said the CEO.

Dlamini also said they would however use whatever they were given to continue to do what they can to keep the industry afloat.

Mankayane Gospel Brothers releases debut album

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

MANKAYANE Gospel Brothers has released its debut album titled 'Uhambe Nathi'.

The gospel music group is made up of scholars; Ncedo Mabuza and Moses

Motsa who are Form V pupils at Ngcoseni Central High.

Ncedo said the album was released on Thursday.

It has 10 tracks and was recorded at KR Music based at Ludzeldude.

At the turn of the year, Mankayane Gospel Brothers released an EP with

five tracks.

"We would like to thank particularly Makhosemvelo Ndzimandze whose production company helped us in the recording.

"We also extend gratitude to our parents who financed the recording," group member Ncedo said.

Adding, he said the release of the debut album meant so much to them.

"It solidifies our presence in the market and ensures our upward mobility in the music scene.

"We hope the lockdown restrictions will be eased soon for us to promote our album through roadshows and

church visits".

He said the title track composed by Moses was very meaningful to them.

"God has seen us through turbulent times and this song expresses our indebtedness to Him," he said.

Ncedo said the album release was in essence a launch of their music career to the nation.

Going forward, they will be releasing more albums, he said.

ANOTHER OFFERING FROM AUTHOR NOTSILE

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

AUTHOR Notsile Nkambule has released her second book 'Temasele; Making the team'.

This book follows her first offering of Nyeti which was released two months ago. This was confirmed by Nkambule yesterday. Speaking to the author she shared that she had a lot of sleepless nights trying to put the book together and was happy with the final product. She also revealed that she had ideas and maps for years that had been waiting to be released into the world. Having released two books in a short period of time, Nkambule attributes that to lack of sleep and an over active imagination. "Stubbornness has inspired me to go for the second book. I am incredibly hard on myself and I am rarely satisfied with anything that I do. I keep going because it's a personal challenge to improve and beat my last achievement. I am also passionate about leaving a legacy that is just mine," Nkambule said. Notsile mentioned that she was and would forever be humbled by all the positive feedback she has been receiving. Her first book was a hit with the locals as the book was also



RELEASES:
Author
Notsile
Nkambule.

sold out after the first batch of hard copies.

"Who would have thought that a girl who grew up in a village from two parents who never finished school could be a writer? That means I am in charge of how my story unfolds, regardless of my starting position," she said. "Temasele: Making The Team" is so different from 'Nyeti'. It is a standalone story about dis-

covering how much you can sacrifice for love. It follows the journey of a woman called Temasele who falls in love and is quickly thrown into a world of lies, crime and murder. It is set in the capital city of Eswatini. It is definitely a more grown story so it is definitely PG 21," she added. Nkambule said this book was also available on Amazon.

Chidoz signs deal with LoneWolf clothing brand

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

LONEWOLF clothing brand signs contract with Chidoz.

Chidoz, real name Thando Matsenjwa has signed a wardrobe sponsorship deal with LoneWolf Clothing Brand. Chidoz, who is a local renowned artist and song writer has put to pen and paper a wardrobe sponsorship with a local clothing brand which will run for two years. LoneWolf clothing brand, a local brand whose founder is Celimpilo Tsabedze from Matsiwa. LoneWolf is a business based at Simunye.

LoneWolf **DEAL: Thando 'Chidoz' Matsenjwa**

decided to partner with Chidoz after seeing his music video 'Emalanga' that was released late last year.

In the video Chidoz sourced his wardrobe from the brand, the music video has since amassed over 1000 views on YouTube which pushed the management of LoneWolf to the decision of offering Chidoz such a deal.

LoneWolf clothing brand will provide Chidoz with a batch of clothing pieces ranging from T-shirts, sweaters, caps, hats, vests and pants for all his music production and promotions.



Phathwakahle on her new music video

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU

GOSPEL music sensation Phathwakahle Mabuza will soon release a music video for her single 'Ebeth-shemesh'.

The singer has already started shooting for the video and cannot wait for her fans to see the final product.

The song which was released a month back has taken the gospel music scene by storm as it was positively received by gospel music lovers.

It also attracted huge of airplay from all local and South African electronic media. The artist and her team led by the manager Gcina Mabuza headed for Sikhuphe and Hlane surrounding areas where they started off the video shooting done by a local company called ABS Creative Media Production.

The multi award winning artist who is affectionately considered as the local queen of stage is not new to releasing hit songs as most of her previous albums have touched many souls locally and internationally.

Gcina Mabuza, the artist manager, song writer and husband said they were excited about the project which he promised to be one of the best they have ever produced.

He said they were humbled with the work done so far.

"We were humbled and excited when we got a call from ABS Creative Media Production expressing their

ABS Creative Media Production sponsors shoot

The video production of the song has graciously been sponsored by ABS Creative Media Production.

The company's Director Ayanda Mamba said they were excited to have been afforded an opportunity to work with Phathwakahle and her team on this project. He said in monetary terms the work would have cost about E5000.

He said they have been following Phathwakahle's music career for some time and realised that she was one artist who has stood the test of time and remained loyal to her fans by produc-

ing quality music.

He said Phathwakahle's music was unique and different from any other artist which has made her one of the country best gospel musicians the country.

"We are excited to work with her on this project and we are looking forward to the best video which will qualify to air in any of the TV Channel. We have used the best of equipment including a drone and we want to make this project one of the best to have come out from local music industry," he said.

willingness to work with us on this project. What excited us the most was

their desire to sponsor the shooting and production of our single, 'Ebeth-shemesh' video,"

he said. Mabuza said the deal followed after the publication of the release of their single accompanied by the constant airplay of the song on various radio channels.

"After listening to the song we had been part of the visual representation of this great song," he added.

They said that with their hi-tech video production equipment and videography skills, they would be able to capture and produce a video of

high quality befitting the story line and quality of the song.

Mabuza said the setting of the video shoot is both in studio and along the beautiful and artistic road between Manzini and King Mswati III Airport.

He said the production team felt that these two settings would best portray the story that inspired the composition of the song. Relating the background of the song Mabuza said the story is drawn from the book of 1st Samuel 6: 10-12. He said the video brings back into their consciousness the dramatic display of God's redemption and restoration power that is embedded in the unusual transportation of the Ark of the Covenant from Philistia back to the Israelites in Beth-shemesh.

"This project promises to be one of Phathwakahle's greatest videos to be released this year, which did not only utilize 4K video recording but also a drone camera to capture the great moments from all angles.

Phathwakahle's fans must expect only the best production which will be out in about two weeks," he added.



SHOT: Part of the action during the video shoot.



CUT: It was a busy day for Pathwakahle and her crew.



IN ACTION: Phathwakahle seem to be enjoying her shoot.



CAMERA & ACTION:
Gospel sensation
Pathwakahle Mabuza in
action during video shoot.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

SA releases its first queer romcom

JOHANNESBURG - Romantic comedies tug at many people's heart strings. They are warm, fun and just as satisfying as comfort food on a winter's day. The genius of the genre can be seen in its main element love.

In a monumental move, SA released its first queer romcom *No Hiding Here* with a talented cast that sparkles like the colourful wardrobe and charming small town location. *No Hiding Here* follows the misadventures of a bumbling school-teacher Sam (played by Earl Gregory) who has to deal with his actions after humiliating closeted pop star Caleb (David Viviers).

Wonderful

While the movie sticks true to the wonderful world of romcoms, its most appealing quality lies in being a fossil feverishly decorated with feather boas and sex jibes that could only have resulted from hours of infantilising episodes of *RuPaul's Drag Race* in an effort to amuse the class clown at the back of the classroom.

But that's the least of the issues with the ambitious film. At its very centre, *No Hiding Here's* archaic tropes feature a problematic interracial coupling between its lead LGBTQIA+ stars. The 2018 hit *Inxeba* exists as one of the only SA movies where the main characters are gay, black and their relationship is explored in depth.

It's a heavy movie that plays on the fascination cinema has with the trauma in gay relationships, similarly to Oscar-winning romantic tragedy *Brokeback Mountain*. No gay couple exists with

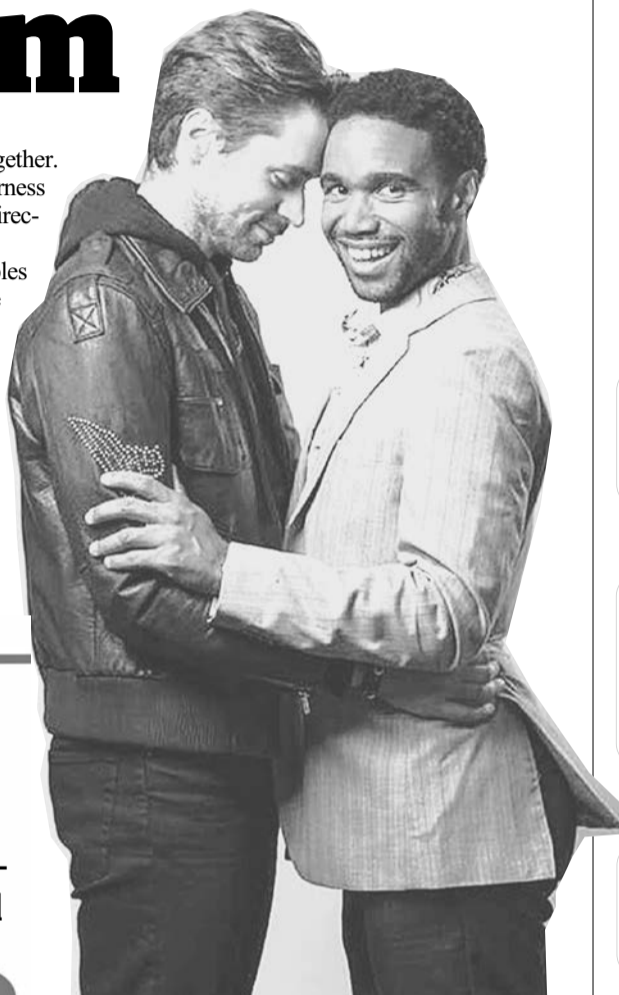
the hopes of coming out alive or even together. SA's cinema creates experiences of queerness that become the canvas of its writers and directors' dark fantasies.

The abundance of interracial queer couples is a jackpot for productions looking to ensure they secure viewership of people who feel unseen.

This token minority trope guarantees that marginalised black SA audiences have a character to relate to while their intended liberal white audiences don't have to watch something that reproaches their privilege. Instead, they are the cool advantaged group that should totally be accepted for how modern and woke they are.



In a monumental move, SA released its first queer romcom *No Hiding Here* with a talented cast that sparkles like the colourful wardrobe and charming small town location.



Earl Gregory and David Viviers.

Prince Kaybee encourages victims of GBV

JOHANNESBURG - Musician and producer Prince Kaybee has taken to Twitter with a message of hope for those faced with gender-based violence (GBV).

The star, who is often vocal about SA's political and socio-economic climate, reminded those who have been raped, abused or even bullied that they will one day overcome their struggles. "To all the raped, abused, and bullied, you will win this fight one day," said Prince Kaybee.

The Hosh hitmaker also shared his support for those who have been falsely accused of these crimes. "And to all the wrongfully accused of the above, you are in my prayers. May peace be the narrative," he tweeted. Tweeps weighed in Prince Kaybee's well wishes and shared their thoughts. Prince Kaybee has been vocal about gender-based violence in the past. The star caught heat online recently for his comments on rape. After Kaybee sent out a PSA to fans to report their cases immediately, Twitter pointed out his male privilege in the conversation. However, the star hit back, saying there is nothing wrong with him raising awareness around the matter and alerting people to the right decisions. *Times Live*



King Monada.

NO JOZI BRIGHT LIGHTS NEEDED FOR KING MONADA TO SHINE

LIMPOPO - Bolebedu music maestro and producer King Monada, who has been churning out hit after hit from his village in Limpopo, does not believe that Johannesburg is the only greener pasture for music talent.

Unlike many artists who moved to Joburg to realise their dreams, King Monada, whose real name is Khutso Steven Kgatla, has made it work while living at Mokgoloboto, a village outside Tzaneen.

The star, who is known for hits such as *Malwedhe*, *Ska Bhora Moreki* and *Akea Hlapa*, has successfully build a music profile and a huge fan base from his humble village. He believes that his small village and people have a big influence in his music. With the entire magic taking place in his studio inside his house, King Monada says the love and respect he gets from his people is out of this world. When the whole of SA was introduced to his song *Ska Bhora Moreki* in 2016, he had already conquered the province with his music. The 28-year-old believes that what has made his music stand out and popular is his unique talent. He boasts that his two tracks *Malwedhe* and *Ska Bhora Moreki* took the country by storm without any marketing and promotion channeled to it.

Sowetan

Gabi Tshabalala shares post-pregnancy weight loss progress

JOHANNESBURG: Actress and mother of two Gabisile Tshabalala has taken to Instagram to reflect on how hard it has been to get back to her 'dream body' and how she has accepted that she's not one of the 'lucky celeb moms' who snap back immediately after popping.

The actress recently made the decision to go back to the gym, and a month later she shared with her fans how surprised she has been to see how her body reacts to her being active in the gym again. "It's almost a month since

I started with gym (again) and I'm loving it. My body is reacting very well to the workouts. I must say it's not an easy journey and I had to prepare myself mentally first. I told myself I am my own competition, I wanna do better than what Gabi did yesterday and I'm not quitting no matter what."

Confirming that 'snapping back' isn't part of the generic celebrity package, Gabi jokingly admitted she wished she was one of the celeb moms who go back to their 'pre-baby' bodies without breaking a sweat.

Times Live

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



WATCH: Melusi on Gomora.



Sibongile asks challenging questions about the past. Cebisile tries to convince Sibongile to stay out of Zungu business.



Nkunzi's public appearance unsettles umbutho. Abazalwane are not willing to lose the church without a fight. Nonka struggles to juggle college and work.



Pretty accuses Sbonga of cheating on her. Gladys leaves to go confront her father.



Zweli has some suspicions about the man who supposedly holds the key to the truth. Has he reached the end of the road?



The kidnappers up the stakes for the Khozas. Vuyiswa and Hector reach an agreement.



The tables have turned and everyone starts defending Vuyo and berating Imani for persecuting him. Mulalo has another terrible nightmare, Teboho has had enough.



Siyanda vows to accept the consequences of his actions, whatever they may be. Tshidi gets her comeuppance for a change. A hostage drama unfolds at the police station.



Mokgadi and Mary get the shock of their lives after realising that Noah has pulled a disappearing act. Sis Ouma encourages a friend who feels like a failure.



Lerumo decides how best to proceed with the terrible cards he's been dealt. An unexpected and unorthodox breakfast causes tension amongst the housemates.

@SunnySongo

You buy an iPhone 12 and while you're still charging it, they release an iPhone 13 📱

Forbes @Forbes · 16h

Apple's Massive iPhone 13 Upgrades Suddenly Confirmed trib.al/DCKHeWr



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

The only good thing about being on an emotional roller coaster is that you never feel the same way for long. One moment you're up, the next you're down. You can't figure out what it is you want. Rather than drag your loved ones along on the ride, get away from your usual environment. You will be a lot better off alone. And something more important may come out of these moments of solitude!



Capricorn

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

You might want to check your alarm clock to be sure it really woke you up this morning. Your tendency today will be to stay in the cocoon of your little dream world, deep in your own thoughts. Obsessive thoughts, in particular, will try and drown out some more pressing issues from the past that need resolution once and for all. Ring! It's time to wake up!



Aquarius

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

There's something in the air pushing you toward change or renewal. Is it time to change your wardrobe or redecorate your home? If so, today's the day. If you have a budget, you will find it just as fulfilling (and a lot cheaper) to rid your home of all the things that just aren't "you" anymore. Surround yourself with things you love.



Pisces

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

The good news is this - it gets better. There could be some trying times in store, Aries. If you're a parent, the children will ask for something every five minutes, and you may feel pressure from all sides. Not even your love life is immune from the doubt that seems to hover over your head. No compromise is possible for you, Aries. Just sit tight and know that calmer days are coming.



Aries

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Today rethink all the social values you take at face value. Like the rest of us, you learned them at an early age and accepted them unthinkingly. Established concepts of propriety are especially deserving of consideration. After hearing for years about all those things that "just aren't done," isn't it refreshing to think that maybe they should be done after all?



Taurus

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Today is an ideal day to shop for a new wardrobe. You may find your usual style too conventional or uncomfortably trendy. Sometimes you reject outfits you really like out of fear they're too suggestive, old fashioned, or something else. Perhaps you should listen to your good judgment for a change instead of being so concerned about what other people might think.



Gemini

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

The topic of the day is knowledge and learning. Did you study the field you really wanted to? Do you feel bad about not having attended such-and-such school or programme? If these issues are uppermost on your mind today, remember that your creativity has little to do with the degrees you hold. It has everything to do with how you use your skills and knowledge to better the world.



Cancer

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

The planetary alignment is favourable, and you're in the process of reaping the benefits, Leo. It was only a matter of becoming aware of and settling certain matters related to your need for social recognition. Don't be so hungry for approval, Leo. Everybody contains a stern inner parent and can survive comfortably in total self-sufficiency. In fact, it's your greatest strength.



Leo

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You may feel hemmed in by the role models society currently offers. As you struggle to reach your own definition of the truly innovative achiever, other people sometimes criticise your rather liberated attitude. Just because your ideas aren't in sync with theirs in no way invalidates them. If your ideas are too radical, theirs are too conventional. There's room for both viewpoints.



Virgo

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

The results of the recent planetary influence are coming home to roost, Libra. If everything went according to plan, you gained some insight into your ego. Buddhist wise men say that the path to spiritual fulfillment lies in knowing how to build a healthy ego while developing a part of oneself completely foreign to the ego. Are you working hard at this?



Libra

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

A small crisis is still a crisis, isn't it, Scorpio? You can expect one in your personal life today. Since you aren't the kind of person who lets issues go unresolved, you won't be able to put off dealing with your problems any longer. Are responsibilities shared equally with your partner? Are you each making an equal effort to maintain harmony? Asking the questions is the first step to answering them.



Scorpio

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Something has to change. You knew it as soon as you woke up this morning. Your mirror provides the impetus for important resolutions today. Is it time to begin a diet, commit to exercising more, or strengthen your resolve to quit smoking? Anything you do to improve your appearance will make you feel a lot better about yourself.



Sagittarius

BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



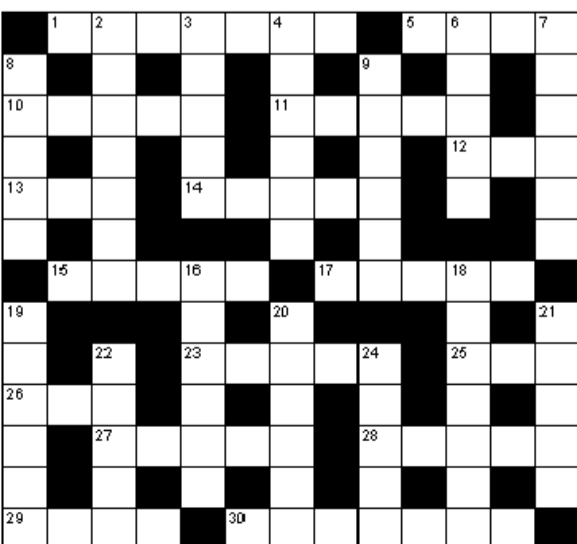
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CODEWORD- 44

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Can you crack the code and solve the crossword? Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



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The attorney tells the accused, "I have some good news and some bad news." "What's the bad news?" asks the accused.



"The bad news is, your blood is all over the crime scene, and the DNA tests prove you did it." "What's the good news?" "Your cholesterol is 130."

Did You Know

- Dolphins sleep with one eye open!
- In the White House, there are 13 092 knives, forks and spoons!
- Recycling one glass jar, saves enough energy to watch TV for three hours!
- Owls are one of the only birds who can see the colour blue!

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Friday's Quiz

1. What American writer/director starred in several iconic European-produced 'Spaghetti Westerns'?

Answer:

A. Clint Eastwood.

Today's Movie Quiz

1. Joaquin Phoenix received his first Oscar nomination for playing Roman emperor Commodus in what 2000

Oscar-winning epic?

Answers:

A. Godzilla B. Gladiator



SISANDA Henna, 38, is a familiar face to many who devour local television shows.

And now the actor/producer/ writer can add directing to the feathers in his cap for his roles in 'One Night Kwa Mxolisi', a month of love movie on streaming service, Showmax or Mzansi Magic.

One 'Night Kwa Mxolisi' chronicles a group of close university friends who get together to celebrate the opening of Mxo's new restaurant, MXO's on 4th. Throughout the evening the pressure on the hidden secrets between them surmounts to breaking point.

What was it like to both act in and direct this movie?

Sisanda Henna (SH): To act and direct in this movie was both insane and exhilarating. I play Mxolisi in 'One Night Kwa Mxolisi' a movie we shot in under three weeks. A crazy feat, but with team work we made it. I love acting, and filmmaking so much, so I was literally running between the director's chair, and [in front] of the lens. Then the two months we spent in post-production, [was] challenging but so worth it.

How does directing a movie make you a better actor?

SH: From the director's chair you

HENNA COMES FULL CIRCLE - ONE NIGHT KWA MXOLISI



see how the movie, the world of the story and the other characters are coming together to form one big whole, which makes you understand with pre-

cision what part of the puzzle your character needs to be in order to complement the other parts.

How does acting in a movie make you a better director?

SH: Acting makes you a better director in that you understand exactly what

kind of an environment an actor needs to excel. You know what direction to give and when to let them be, because magic's about too unfold.

The best part of directing this movie has been in the editing suite; seeing all the magic we shot on set, and working with the editor to piece it together in [a] fresh way. [I] enjoyed testing some iconic music with the visuals, and seeing how amazing the cast is – as it all came together.

Do you have anything else to add?

I am super proud of Micaiah Henna who plays Olly in the movie. He [plays the son] of Brian and Funi (Nyaniso and Fulu). Micaiah, 11, is my first born son in real life. And to see how awesome he did in this movie, makes me beam with pride. He was so cute on set, asking me "Do you want me to do it again, daddy?"

You can watch 'One Night Kwa Mxolisi' on Showmax from 27 February and share your love of the movie on social media.

Incredible documentaries this week only on DStv

GOOFY, loveable, handsome - Will Smith is everyone's cup of tea.

This week, see the truth behind his incredible success as told by the movie icon himself.

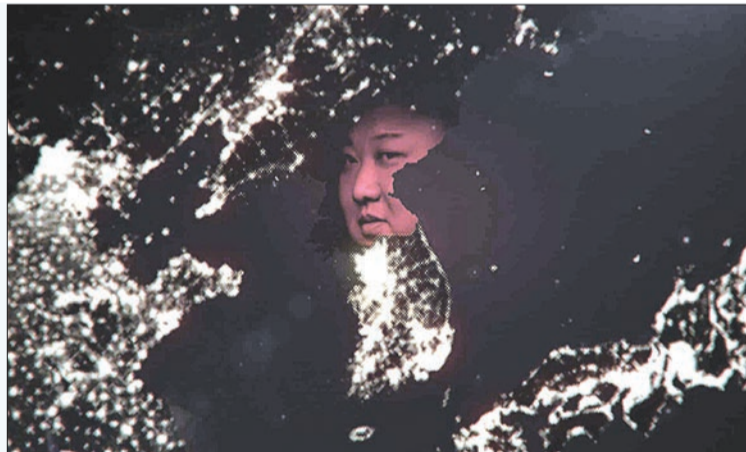
In Will Smith: Prince of Hollywood on IMagic (DStv Channel 103) the box office record breaker decides to share parts of himself and his story that have never been heard before.

'World's Greatest Treasure Mysteries on History' (DStv Channel 186) follows two Texas brothers as they look at previously discovered treasures found around the world. Using new technology and successful tactics from other teams, they are on the hunt to discover their own trove of wonders.

In the digital age, crimes are often recorded and broadcasted on live or social media. 'Crimes Gone Viral' on ID (DStv Channel 177) looks at how each of these stories becomes a viral sensation by nature of its Internet presence and how it has changed society.

Each of us, all over the world, carries up to four per cent of Neanderthal DNA. Yet the Neanderthal is extinct; they disappeared 39 000 years ago. In Neanderthal Apocalypse on History (DStv 186) they ask the question: "What happened to this strong and resilient species that did walk the earth for 300,000 years? What could have wiped them out and set us on the path of who we are today?"

To understand what motivates Kim Jong Un and guides his leadership decisions, you need to understand his turbulent past. North Korea: 'Inside the Mind of a Dictator' on National Geographic (DStv Channel 181) looks



at the many factors that contributed to his current political strategies. This includes the death of his father, former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the assassination of his half-brother and some "nasty" insults Kim reportedly hurled at President Donald Trump during their historic 2018 summit in Singapore.

Mars One is an international organisation that will establish permanent human life on Mars. It consists of two entities: the not-for-profit Mars One Foundation and the 'publicly listed Mars' One Ventures AG. Destination Mars on Curiosity (DStv Channel 185) shares what this project means for the group planning to depart in 2026. Who would be willing to travel to Mars and never return? This question, for now, remains unanswered. But Mars One is already working to find out.

● Neanderthal Apocalypse

At one time we shared a common ancestor with the Neanderthal and lived

side by side in Europe. For many years this species was ignored until recent findings suggested they were not agile hooligans, but capable tool makers and most probably could talk. Recent discoveries made show that each of us, all over the world, carry up to four per cent of Neanderthal DNA. Yet the Neanderthal is extinct; they disappeared 39 000 years ago. The question is what happened to this strong and resilient species that did walk the earth for 300 000 years? What could have wiped them out and set us on the path of who we are today? This show will explore possible answers to these questions as well as alternate theories on such topics such as climate change and alien involvement.

Tomorrow on History (DStv Channel 186) at 20:15

● North Korea: Inside the Mind of a Dictator

As North Korea's leader since he inherited the throne in 2011 at age 20,



Kim Jong Un has had a decade to prove himself a worthy leader to the nation and its more than 25 million people. But instead of bringing prosperity to his country, the young dictator has left many wondering if his nuclear pursuits and bloody purges are his true legacy. Despite the efforts to keep his personal life private, stories still emerge of secret wives, imprisoned family and a room of advisors too afraid to say no.

Tomorrow on National Geographic (DStv Channel 181) at 21:00

● Destination Mars

It will be an adventure like no other.

No stopovers on the moon. When we reach Mars, we stay there.

There will be no coming back, at least not to stay. Mars One plans to send four people every two years starting in 2026. The company says they will live inside new inflatable pods and recycle their own water and air.

They also plan on setting up solar panels so that they can grow their own food. Can all of this be achieved and perfected in just five years? Or is this a death sentence for those who are brave enough to dream big?

Today on Curiosity (DStv Channel 185) at 21:00

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Bayern crush Cologne

BERLIN - Bundesliga top scorer Robert Lewandowski and Serge Gnabry both struck twice as Bayern Munich crushed Cologne 5-1 in the Bundesliga on Saturday to earn their first win in three league games and go five points clear at the top.

The champions, who next week face Borussia Dortmund, are on 52 points, with Leipzig, second on 50, after their 3-2 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach on Saturday evening. VfL Wolfsburg remained in third place with a 2-0 victory over Hertha Berlin.

Apart from Lewandowski and Gnabry, Bayern were also indebted to Leon Goretzka who delivered another silky performance with three assists.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting opened the champions' account with his first league goal this season, heading in Leon Goretzka's cross at the far post in the 18th minute.

Lewandowski struck 15 minutes later, combining with Goretzka after a bad pass back from Cologne and the Pole made it 28 league goals from an assist by Thomas Mueller, seconds after the midfielder came on in the 65th minute following a coronavirus infection.

Mueller is the league's top provider with 11 assists while Lewandowski is looking to break Gerd Mueller's record of 40 league goals in one season dating back to the 1971-72 campaign.

Substitute Gnabry completed the rout with two late goals in four minutes.

"For our way forward we have to stop having these shaky periods during the match," Gnabry said. "We have to reduce them and then we will be stronger."

Such phases during their recent games have proved costly for Bayern, including a 3-3 against strugglers Arminia Bielefeld two weeks ago and their 2-1 loss to Eintracht Frankfurt last week.

Cologne had briefly cut the deficit four minutes after the restart with Ellyes Skhiri making the most of blunders by three Bayern defenders.

AFP



VICTORY: Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski (left) scored twice against Cologne on Saturday.

Moise Kean bags 11th Ligue 1 goal

PARIS - Kylian Mbappe scored twice more to take his tally to 18 goals in 23 Ligue 1 games this term as Paris Saint-Germain comfortably saw off Dijon to move within a point of surprise leaders Lille.

With Christophe Galtier's men playing Strasbourg yesterday, the champions knew they had an opportunity to make inroads at the summit and got off the perfect start when Moise Kean adjusted his feet smartly and slid home his 11th league strike of the season after moving on loan from Everton.

The visitors doubled their advantage on 32 minutes after former Manchester City and Swansea midfielder Bersant Celina handled in the box and Mbappe did the rest from 12 yards.

Despite the visitors being without Neymar, Angel Di Maria, Marco Verratti and Leandro Paredes, the contest was knocked on the head six minutes after the break when top scorer Mbappe curled into the far corner from close range following a neat reverse pass by Rafinha.

Porto loanee Danilo then rounded off the scoring when he headed in from Julian Draxler's corner as Mauricio Pochettino recorded his biggest win on the road since taking over as head coach from Thomas Tuchel.

As a result of the win, PSG have leapfrogged Lyon - who are at Marseille tonight - into second. Dijon, meanwhile, are nine points adrift of safety at the bottom. **AFP**

MESSI, DEMBELE STRIKE IN WIN OVER TITLE RIVALS

BARCELONA - Hold the plans to bury Barcelona's season, they are still alive and kicking in the title race and up to second.

Lionel Messi and Ousmane Dembele got the goals as they beat Sevilla to go above them in the table.

They also move above Real Madrid and are now just two points behind leaders Atletico Madrid. Okay, so Atleti have two games in hand of them; and Real Madrid don't play until tonight and will move back above them if they beat Real Sociedad. And if injuries to Pedri and Ronald Araujo are as bad as they looked then the problems for Ronald Koeman have not gone away.

But this was a huge, well-earned win capped by Lionel Messi getting his 19th goal of the season in La Liga half-juggling, half-bundling the ball around the Sevilla defence and past Bono.

Barcelona started well and were first to go close when Frenkie de Jong raced away on 20 minutes and released



Lionel Messi (second from left) scores the second goal with five minutes remaining as Barcelona win 2-0 at Sevilla in La Liga.

Dembele whose cross-shot was saved by Bono.

Messi then tried to catch out Bono at his near post with a shot from a free-kick that everyone expected him to cross.

Ivan Rakitic reacted badly to a late challenge from Oscar Mingueza. Sergio Busquets had to intervene as the former Barcelona midfielder confronted Barça's young defender. Barcelona had the upper hand and

the goal was not long in coming. Messi found himself in space on the halfway line on 29 minutes and he lifted his head and spotted Dembele ready to sprint clear.

Sports Mail

Barca coach responds to 'rift' claims

BARCELONA - FC Barcelona Manager Ronald Koeman has responded to claims of a rift between himself and Antoine Griezmann, who was benched on Saturday night.

Griezmann did not play a single

minute as the Catalan giants registered a 2-0 win over Sevilla, with Ousmane Dembele and Lionel Messi getting on the scoresheet.

The French forward has only netted six goals in 23 league appearances this season, but Koeman

insists the decision to drop the striker was not personal.

"It was not a message to him (leaving him on the bench)," he told an interview with Marca.

"We have decided to change the system and, to have depth in the team, we have put Dembele up front. "At 1-0 in front we decided

that next to Leo we needed someone faster than Griezmann. It is no punishment."

The win took the Catalan giants to second spot, two points behind LaLiga leaders Atletico Madrid although the two Madrid outfits were only in action last night.

Soccer Laduma

£35million for Jose Mourinho if sacked

LONDON - Daniel Levy's decision to appoint Jose Mourinho as Tottenham boss 16 months ago could prove to be his costliest mistake to date.

Ever since Mourinho arrived in English football, the Spurs chairman long made it his mission to bring the Portuguese boss to White Hart Lane in the hope of mirroring the success he achieved at all his previous clubs.

But the Special One's tenure has turned out to be not so special so far and is now facing the prospect of being sacked after a dismal run of results.

Spurs are currently in free fall and while they are in the Carabao Cup final as well as being one of the favourites to win the Europa League, the writing appears to be on the wall

for Mourinho.

As reported by The Athletic last week, the £15million-per-year contract Mourinho signed in November 2019 until the end of the 2022-23 season does not contain a break clause.

While the contract showed that Levy has huge faith in Mourinho, the Spurs supremo may come to regret the decision not put a break clause in should he cut ties.

With just over two years left on Mourinho's current deal, Spurs would have to fork out a gargantuan £35million in compensation if his contract was terminated early.

As Mourinho earns approximately £288 000 a week as Tottenham boss one of the biggest contracts in the world for a manager he would be owed £5m for the remainder of

this season and then another £30m for the two more years on top of that.

So far in his career, Mourinho has earned a whopping £68m in compensation after being sacked from four other previous jobs, with Manchester United, Chelsea (twice) and Real Madrid all giving him the boot.

Mourinho netted £15m after being let go from the Red Devils in 2018 a year before Spurs severed ties with Mauricio Pochettino after six years of service.

Spurs have only just finished paying Pochettino's severance package after the Argentine agreed to become Paris Saint-Germain's new boss last month and another £35m in severance payments on top of that could prove to be too much.

Sports Mail



Daniel Levy's (inset, left) decision to appoint Jose Mourinho (main) as Tottenham boss 16 months ago could prove to be his costliest mistake to date. Julian Nagelsmann (inset, top right) and Brendan Rodgers (inset, bottom right).

Borussia Dortmund 3 Arminia Bielefeld 0

BERLIN - Jadon Sancho set a Bundesliga record for assists AND scored as Borussia Dortmund beat Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday.

After a tricky start to the 2020-21 season, the England star, 20, has exploded into life in recent weeks. Going into the game at the Westfalenstadion, Sancho had been involved in six goals in his previous five games.

But in an historic afternoon, the red-hot winger almost single-handedly dragged his team to victory.

Just moments into the second-half, Sancho slipped Mahmoud Dahoud through on goal from outside the box, with the midfielder slotting the ball into the bottom corner.

Incredibly, that brought up the winger's 50th Bundesliga assist in jury his 99th top-flight game.

Since records began in 1998-99, no Bundesliga player has EVER reached their half-century of assists in fewer than 100 matches.

Sancho then got on the scoresheet himself just ten minutes after smashing home a confident penalty to all-

but seal the three points.

The strike was his 37th in Bundesliga - meaning he has now been involved in a staggering 87 goals in just 99 matches (0.88 per game).

Reinier added a third for Dortmund, from an Erling Haaland assist, to kill off the game with just minutes to play.

But it was all eyes on Sancho after the game, with the Three Lions star now having been involved in EIGHT goals in his last six games.

Sancho - the fourth-most-valuable player in the world - was hotly linked with a mega-money move to Manchester United last season, with the transfer never materialising.

Dortmund chiefs blamed the speculation for the winger's slow start to the season.

Chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke claimed: "Maybe Jadon had subconsciously prepared for a move a bit.

"I believe he at least thought about it that much that he lost a bit of his ease."

Sun Sports

Tiger Woods' family fear he'll be hooked on pills again

LOS ANGELES - TIGER Woods' family fear he may get hooked on painkillers as he recovers from his horrific car crash.

A source said the golf icon, who has been in rehab, has a 'deep-seated' issue with prescription drugs and warned a 'potentially huge problem' lies ahead.

Tiger, 45, suffered serious leg and ankle injuries in the crash near Los Angeles.

The full extent of the his injuries in a horrifying car crash emerged yesterday, along with the threat to his career.

Tiger was described as 'awake and responsive' yesterday after undergoing a "long surgical procedure" on his lower leg and ankle, which sources said was 'shattered'.

The 15-time major winner had 'significant' injuries, including open fractures to his tibia and fibula where the bone splinters into at least two pieces and pierces the skin.

Inserted

He had a metal rod inserted in his tibia, with his foot and ankle "stabilised with a combination of screws

Alvarez crushes Yildirim to retain crown

MIAMI - Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez demolished Turkey's Avni Yildirim in three rounds to retain his WBC and WBA super middleweight titles by knockout on Saturday night.

Mexico's Alvarez dominated underdog Yildirim from the opening bell and sent the Turk crashing to the canvas with a crisp left-right combination in the third round at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium.

The outclassed Yildirim then failed to emerge from his corner for the fourth round as Alvarez once again demonstrated why he is regarded as the best pound-for-pound fighter in boxing.

Alvarez, who improved to 55-1-2 with 37 knockouts, had got back into the ring on Saturday a little over two months after beating Britain's Callum Smith in December.

After the fight, promoter Eddie Hearn said the 30-year-old Mexican star will next seek to add the World Boxing Organisation belt to his collection with a May 8 fight against Britain's Billy Joe Saunders.

Saturday's fight might well give Saunders pause for thought as Alvarez produced his trademark blend of tech-

nical skill and punching power to overwhelm Yildirim.

The Turkish challenger, fighting for the first time in two years, looked hesitant from the outset as Alvarez landed an array of hooks to the body and uppercuts to easily win the first round.

The second round followed an identical pattern, with Yildirim barely offering any kind of resistance as Alvarez worked his opponents ribs mercilessly.

The end came after a third round where Alvarez once again went on the attack.

A straight left from Alvarez smashed through Yildirim's guard and landed on his chin and the following right sent the Turk rocking backward to the canvas.

Although Yildirim hung on for the remainder of the round, the end was nigh. As Yildirim slumped on his stool, trainer Joel Diaz could be heard telling his fighter he would give him only one more round before throwing in the towel.

In the event, it never got that far as Yildirim failed to come out for the fourth to hand Alvarez victory. *AFP*

NTSEKI ON ZUNGU'S RANGERS ISSUE

JOHANNESBURG - Bafana Bafana head coach Molefi Ntseki has responded on whether Bongani Zungu's actions will cost him for the team set to play this month.

Zungu and four other Rangers players were recently found to have broken Scotland's COVID-19 regulations.

The former Mamelodi Sundowns man was removed from the squad for his actions but recently returned as a substitute after issuing a formal apology to Rangers.

Ntseki's relationship with Zungu has played out poorly in public in recent times, with the coach now offering his take on the player's national team future.

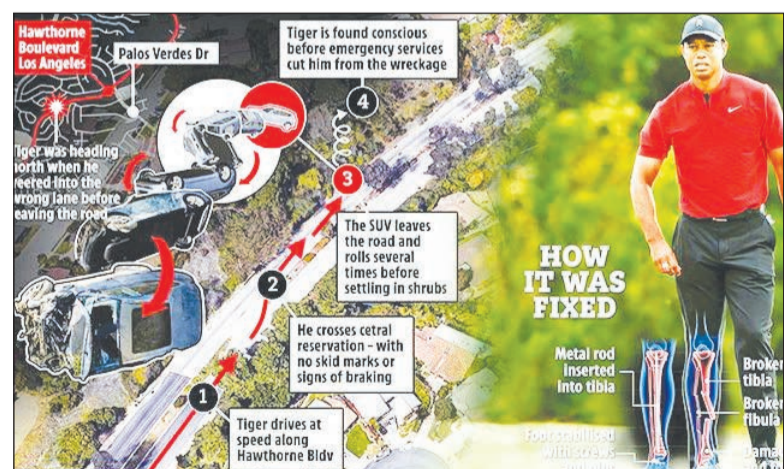
"No no no, we are not necessarily looking at what happened at club level because situations like that have hap-

pened before," Ntseki tells *KickOff.com*.

"And the understanding we have is that football at club level, whether it's a disciplinary problem or performance problem, it actually affects the national team if a player is not playing. But if a player is playing we'll always consider and profile him accordingly in terms of him being available for the national team or not.

"As for us, we will always look at each and every player wherever he is. If ever he is not being played we will always want to know why is he not playing. If competition puts him outside and he is not training properly or part of the team all the time, then it means his performance will obviously be affected.

Soccer Laduma



and pins".

Dr John Torres, a medical expert with US network MSNBC said: "He has around six weeks of recovery just from the fractures. If he had to get that ankle fused, or if he had any big procedures done to that ankle that are going to limit mobility, that's going to take longer to recover.

"He truly might never get back that mobility he had before, which could definitely impact the way he plays."

The former world No1 - who was recovering from a fifth bout of surgery

on his back crashed at speed in Rancho Palos Verdes, near LA, on his way to film a TV show.

Sources close to Woods said he had been due to arrive at the Rolling Hills Country Club at 7.30am to film a round with NFL quarterbacks Drew Brees and Justin Herbert.

Witnesses said he was 'agitated' and 'impatient' after being held up while leaving his posh five-star hotel, the Terranea Resort cutting up an angry TV director as he left.

The Sun Sports



NEW WHEELS: MC Chairman Thulani 'Kabasa' Lukhele posing with General Manager Sandile Zwane and Chief Marshal Bheki Magagula at Siphofaneni yesterday morning. (R) Some supporters having a feel of the minibus.

GABI GABI TOUR HITS CAPITAL CITY

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - THE 'Gabi Gabi' countrywide tour by Mbabane Swallows hit the capital city yesterday, much to the delight of the supporters.

As part of the on-going tour to introduce the team's new minibus which kicked off on Saturday, the capital city giants have been visiting some of their branches in the major towns which include Nhlanguano, Buhleni and Manzini, amongst others.

Speaking on behalf of the president was Thulani 'Kabasa' Lukhele at Prince of Wales Ground where fans had gathered to view the team's new acquisition.

Support

He thanked all the support they had received during the tour, adding that they were happy to see that many fans were delighted to welcome the minibus when they visited the various towns.

"First of all, we would like to thank God Almighty because this would not have been possible without His help.

The countrywide tour has gone very well up until this point and we are happy that we managed to trav-



Some lucky Mbabane Swallows supporters joined by the president's representative and 'Beyond 2000' pose in front of the team's new minibus at Prince of Wales Ground in Mbabane. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)

el safely without any incidents." "It was also great to see all the fans that support the 'Beautiful Birds' in all corners of the country.

This exercise also helped us get in touch with those we would not normally see, and we will now be able to hear their suggestions and requests

as the team's management," he said. Lukhele further urged everyone at the club to work together as they prepare for the return of football.



REP: Mbabane Swallows president's representative Thulani Lukhele addressing the media.



CAKE: Kabasa, Swallows GM Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane and goalkeeper Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza display the player's birthday cake.



KODAK MOMENT: Many Mbabane based Swallows fans came out in numbers to see the minibus.



HAPPY PEOPLE: Some of the supporters in song and dance.



● Leicester City are in advanced talks over a new deal with 23-year-old England midfielder Harvey Barnes, who has been watched by Liverpool and Manchester United. *Sunday Mirror*

● Liverpool are lining up Rangers boss and former Reds captain Steven Gerrard to replace Manager Jurgen Klopp, who could be tempted to become Germany's manager if the job becomes available. *Sunday Mirror*

● Manchester United will have to pay Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani £1.75m if they do not trigger the option of a further year to the 34-year-old's deal with them. *Sunday Times*

● Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola's uneasy relationship with agent Mino Raiola will not prevent the club from trying to sign his 20-year-old client, Norway striker Erling Braut Haaland, from Borussia Dortmund. *Sunday Mirror*

● Argentina striker Lautaro Martinez, 23, says he held talks with Barcelona but that they are "in the past" and he is going to sign a contract extension with Inter Milan. *Gazzetta dello Sport*

● Borussia Monchengladbach's German midfielder Florian Neuhaus, 23, says he is relaxed about his future despite being linked with Premier League clubs Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool. *Football.london*

● Real Madrid will be open to offers for France defender Raphael Varane, 27, in the summer if talks over extending his contract beyond 2022 do not work out. *AS*

● Real Madrid believe 22-year-old Norway midfielder Martin Odegaard, who is on loan at Arsenal, has a big part to play for them in the future. *Marca*

● Everton are monitoring 19-year-old Senegal forward Abdallah Sima, who plays for Slavia Prague. *Football Insider*

● Arsenal, Celtic and Rangers are among a number of clubs interested in 19-year-old Wigan and Scotland Under-19 striker Kyle Joseph, whose contract runs out in the summer. *Sunday Mirror*

● Tottenham do not plan to offer United States centre-back Cameron Carter-Vickers, who is on loan at Bournemouth, a new contract beyond the end of the 23-year-old's current deal, which runs out in the summer. *Football Insider*

● Juventus are looking at signing Lyon's Dutch forward Memphis Depay, 27, and 26-year-old Poland striker Arkadiusz Milik, who is on loan at Marseille from Napoli. *Tuttosport*

ESWATINI TRIO IMPRESSES IN SA ATHLETICS EVENT

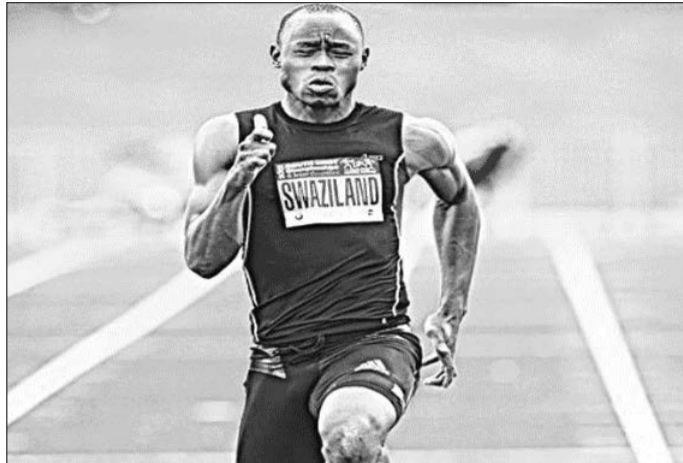
BY NOMALUNCELO PHIRI

ATHLETICS - They all got top three finishes!

The Eswatini trio of top sprinter Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa, Phumlile Ndzinisa and Erikah Seyama represented the country well during the the Athletes Gauteng North League 1 event held at Tuks Stadium, Pretoria, on Saturday.

This was Matsenjwa's second international race in 2021 after dominating in the 100m where he clocked 15.62 seconds at the Athletics Central North West Meeting held a week ago.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) athlete, who described the race as tough came third, clock-



IMPRESSIVE: Top sprinter Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa.

ing 20.92 seconds in the 200m where 18 athletes took part.

"I am not happy with this result

but I think I will improve from here. It was a tough race and I am happy I managed to finish in the

top three. I will continue working hard as I want to do better in the upcoming races," he said.

Meanwhile, Ndzinisa clocked 12.45 seconds in her 100m race. The Ubutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) athlete also competed in the 200m ladies race where she finished 11th, clocking 25.56 seconds. This was Ndzinisa's first international competition in 2021.

Seyama jumped 1.65 metres in the high jump where she was only beaten by Robson Yvonne.

The Tswane University of Technology high jump athlete holds the national record in the ladies long jump.

She won a gold medal during the 2018 African Championships in Asaba.

Correctional Services closing in on Bhunya star

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

POOL - CORRECTIONAL Services Pool Club are closing in on Bhunya player Mzwandile 'Voro' Dlamini.

Insiders within Correctional camp revealed that the highly rated pool player will sign on the dotted line before matches resume.

It has been learnt that Bhunya are also ready to release the player for E1 000.

"Everything has been finalised between the two parties. What is left is for the player to sign on the dotted line. He will be playing for his new team when the games resume. Both parties are happy with the deal," said the source.

Reached, Correctional Services captain Flag Nxumalo also confirmed the news.

"Yes, I can confirm that we will soon sign 'Voro'. He is one of the



talented players we have earmarked to replace the late Mancoba Mbhamali," he said.

Nxumalo added that they wanted to continue where they left off in the first round.

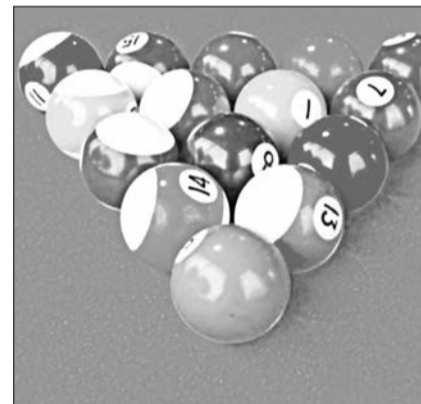
"We know that it will not be easy but we will try our level best to collect the maximum points in all the games. Our main aim is to with league. We will have to work hard

to achieve this. The good thing is that the players know what is expected of them," he said.

Correctional Services finished the first round at the summit of the log standings in the Dixie's International League with 47 points.

REPS are in the second position with 45 points.

The league is sponsored to the tune of E40 000.



Two ENNA representatives for Africa Netball online course

BY JONGILE XUBA

NETBALL - TWO representatives from the Eswatini National Netball Association (ENNA) have been chosen to attend an umpire and coaches' online courses hosted by Africa Netball.

This was revealed by ENNA Secretary Ntombi Masango who said the two candidates are Hlengiwe Bhembe and Simanga Fakudze. "Africa Netball contacted us and asked to have one umpire and coach who will receive training to help improve their qualifications. They will attend online courses after they were unable to go to South Africa for the classes, due to COVID-19. This will see the pair attend the course until they reach the final qualification stage which is Level 3," she said. Following the completion of the course by the first



BEFORE COVID-19: Players during a netball match.

pair of candidates, it is expected that more candidates will be chosen to attend the same online classes.

According to the secretary, this is part of Africa Netball's initiative to ensure all member countries have qualified and competent administrators. "Our target as ENNA

is to get as many umpires and coaches to attend the courses and we will start the pair off at Under-17 level once they complete their courses. This will ensure that they grow with the team all the way to senior level and will help us identify the recommendations they will make," she said.

Next Boot Camp scheduled for next week

BY JONGILE XUBA

ATHLETICS - THE March edition of the Mkhabela Phuma Kimi Boot Camp is scheduled for next week.

This was revealed by Zithande Athletics Club coach Nsizwa Thwala following the completion of this past weekend's 33km run.

"We are ready for the next boot camp which we scheduled for the second week of the new month and so far, our projections are that it will be held online. Should the current situation concerning the lockdown change, we will have a live training session with the venue to be decided," he said. Coming to the 33km, coach Thwala said it had gone well as they continue to increase their training distances. "Last week we completed a 25km run and we stepped it up a bit as we draw closer and closer to our long-distance marathon on April 24th. All athletes have been responding well to the change in the distances. Virtual running has really been a great help at keeping the ordinary Liswati active at home," he said. The weekend's run saw the runners start at Zakhele Sports Ground all the way to Mahlanya via Mahhala in Matsapha.

“

We are ready for the next boot camp which we scheduled for the second week of the new month and so far, our projections are that it will be held online.

BOXING, VOLLEYBALL BODIES LAMENT 'MEAGRE' BUDGET

BY SABELO GWEBU

SPORTS - BOXING and volleyball have joined other associations in lamenting the sports budget.

Associations took turns in decrying the E7.7 million allocated for them through the Eswatini Sports and Recreation Council (ESRC) from Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg Friday's national budget presentation.

Sports associations mentioned the difficulty in sourcing funds from ESRC and the 'meagre' budget that will not help in catching up from a year lost due to COVID-19 from their respective programmes.

Eswatini Boxing Association (EBA) Secretary Thabsile Mngometulu predicated a bleak future for sports. "This is a year like no other- and truly like no other. The coronavirus has caused a wreaking havoc in the country and globally.

As an association we appreciate the increase of the budget in education and health departments to mitigate the havoc caused by the virus. That being said, it is really a setback to us as an association because we solely depend on government grants. If the budget has remained as it was and we were

... feel it doesn't sort challenges for their sporting activities



UNIMPRESSED: Eswatini Boxing Association executive and boxers.

having challenges of sourcing out funds from ESRC in the previous year it means the struggle continues unabated," she said.

She added that in the year 2021/2022, EBA has a number of programmes which it planned to implement, saying, "From this budget really we need to have plan B".

Volleyball Association Secretary Afi Dlamini said, "We are grateful for sports to be considered in the budget even with limited activities due to COVID-19. It means gov-

ernment understands the need for recreational facilities and they are planning for their readiness when things are normal.

We are all looking forward to when we can enjoy our lovely game of volleyball and will be ready to utilise the funds responsibly to rebuild on the time lost".

She added that Volleyball Eswatini's biggest priority is around capacity building, especially coaching and refereeing.

"These are possible courses to do

even in a lockdown setup as training can be held virtually," she said.

ESRC Communications Officer Dumsani Ntiwane said, "I don't understand when associations say there is difficulty in sourcing funds. What is difficult and of course if the tax payers' money has not been utilised, it must be remitted back to government. There is nothing new with that".

Ntiwane added that last year most activities were washed away by COVID-19.

'Buffs' players cleared of COVID-19

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes players have all tested negative for COVID-19 after their return from Tunisia.

The army side returned to the country after the CAF Confederation Cup second leg play-offs match against Etoile Sportive du Sahel. They lost 2-0, failing to overturn the first leg 1-2 defeat against the Tunisian side at Mavuso Sports Centre on February 14.

A source close to the team said the players were tested after their return from Tunisia.

"The players are COVID-19 free. This is good news for Young Buffaloes," said the source.

'Amatholezinyathi' had only 24 hours to prepare for the do-or-die clash in Sahel. The army side arrived a day before the game, which was played on February 23 instead of 21 due to travelling issues that the army side faced.

The Sabelo Minisi-led side played in the same tournament last year where they were knocked out by South Africa's Bidvest Wits in the preliminary stage.

Young Buffaloes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile Gwebu could not be drawn for comment as his phone was not available.

“...the players were tested after their return from Tunisia”

Govt welcomes hosting COSAFA Cup U-20 tourney

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - THE Government of Eswatini has welcomed the hosting of the COSAFA Cup Under-20 Championships by the country later this year.

This was said by the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga after the country was granted rights to stage the annual regional youth championships by COSAFA.

"We welcome the hosting of the COSAFA Cup Under-20 Championships which comes with benefits for the country such as the home ground and economic advantages in terms of tourism since a number of countries will be visiting us."

The minister further stated that they were still to engage stakeholders and see how they could aid the international event.

"We will sit down with the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and the Eswatini Sports and Recreation Council (ESRC) to see how we can assist in the hosting of the event under reasonable



GOOD NEWS: The Under-20 squad.

costs," he said.

The COSAFA Under-20 Championships will take place in December, possibly at the Mavuso Sports Centre and the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Meanwhile, Sihlangu Semnikati will take part in the COSAFA senior

Championships in June in Durban, South Africa, under the guidance of the home grown coach Dominic Kunene.

"We welcome the hosting of the COSAFA Cup Under-20 Championships which comes with benefits"

Ally is the right man for Bull - 'Chacklas'

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders legend Abel 'Chacklas' Shongwe has thrown his weight behind the club's Director Chief Ally Kgomongwe.

The former Kaizer Chiefs player described the Tshwane-based businessman as the right man for the 'Black Bull'.

"I am calling upon all Highlanders people to give Kgomongwe the support he needs to run the club.

He is doing a commendable job for the brand. The sacrifices he is making for the club cannot be taken for granted. It is, therefore, important that he gets support from the Highlanders family," he said.

The ex-Sihlangu player further described Kgomongwe as a staunch supporter of Eswatini football.

"He is a selfless person who is willing to help in the development of football in the country. To him it's not about Highlanders but the standard of football in Eswatini.

"He proved his undying love for Eswatini football by lending a helping hand to Manzini Wanderers. In all honesty, he needs to be commended for assisting Wanderers.

"I even advised him against purchasing a coach for Highlanders because I felt like it would appear he is outclassing the other clubs that are still developing in Eswatini, hence he brought a minibus. I appreciate the good work he is doing for Highlanders and football in general in the country," he added.

Kgomongwe is currently on his second year of his five-year contract with Highlanders.

Ex-Birds striker sends AmaZulu packing in Nedbank Cup

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER - FORMER Mbabane Swallows striker Mohammed Anas transported his team Black Leopards

to the last eight of the Nedbank Cup.

Anas scored the goal in the 52nd minute against AmaZulu FC during a match played at Thohoyandou Stadium on Saturday.

Black Leopards' goal came as a

result of Usuthu defence failing to deal with a cross which was easily headed home by Anas, beating goalkeeper Neil Boshoff between the sticks.

The encounter ended 1-0 in favour of Lidoda Duvha.

It was a third goal in two matches for the Ghanaian international. He scored a brace last week Tuesday against Golden Arrows in the DStv Premiership, thus moving the team from the bottom of the log standings.

Anas also had stints with Manzini Wanderers in the country.

Meanwhile, former Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papic has been named Black Leopards head coach.

The Serbia-born coach is still waiting for his paper work to resume his duties. On Saturday, he was sitting on the stands.

RESULTS

CAF Champions League

CR Belouizdad	1-5	Mamelodi Sundowns
Wydad	4-0	Kaizer Chiefs

Premier League

Chelsea	0-0	Manchester United
Tottenham Hotspur	4-0	Burnley
Leicester City	1-3	Arsenal
Crystal Palace	0-0	Fulham

LaLiga

Cádiz	0-1	Real Betis
Celta de Vigo	1-1	Real Valladolid

Nedbank Cup

TS Sporting	1-2	Richards Bay
Pretoria Callies	0-0	JDR Stars

Bundesliga

Mainz 05	0-1	Augsburg
Union Berlin	1-1	Hoffenheim

Serie A

Udinese	1-0	Fiorentina
Crotone	0-2	Cagliari
Internazionale	3-0	Genoa
Sampdoria	0-2	Atalanta

FIXTURES

Premier League

Everton	vs	Southampton	22:00
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LaLiga

Real Madrid	vs	Real Sociedad	22:00
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'Ayidlali Kamnandzi': Last 32 losers get E0.00

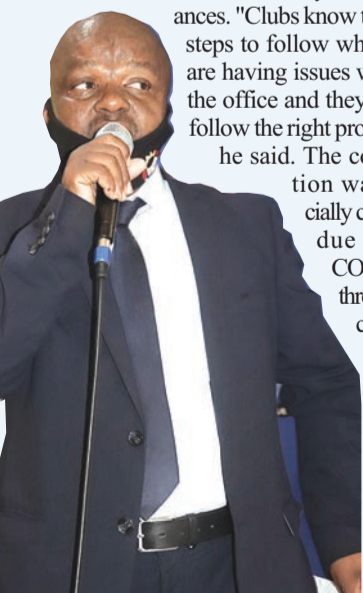
BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - IT never rained but poured for the 16 clubs that were eliminated in the last 32 of the cancelled 2019/20 EswatiniBank Cup.

The teams got a shock of their lives after their participation fees were deducted from their prizes monies that were disbursed to clubs last Friday in respect of the cancelled 'Idlala Kamnandzi' 2020 edition. This also affected both last 16 finishers, who ended up receiving a meagre E2 500 instead of E12 500. The eight quarterfinalists were not spared as they took home E20 000 instead of the expected E30 000. A source close to the matter revealed that clubs were surprised not to receive the expected amounts from the sponsor. "Clubs are still shocked by the deduction of their participation fees because it is not something that the sponsor agreed upon with the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) when the issue of prizes was discussed. The main purpose of giving out the participation fees was to help clubs to prepare themselves and they were not told that this was to be deducted in the end," the source said.

EswatiniBank Senior Executive Marketing Manager Lindiwe Shongwe referred queries to the competition's Management Committee (MC) when reached for a comment. Meanwhile, MC Secretary and Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati said clubs should follow the right channels when they have grievances.

"Clubs know the right steps to follow when they are having issues which is the office and they should follow the right protocols," he said. The competition was officially called off due to the COVID-19 threat in the country in August last year.



FOLLOW THE RIGHT CHANNELS: EswatiniBank Cup MC Secretary and PLE COO Pat Vilakati.

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'SPRINTER PURCHASE, TOUR NO SHOW-OFF'

BY SABELO GWEBU

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows have come out to put it crystal clear that their new Mercedes Benz Sprinter is not a counter buy or anyway meant to show off.

The red and white giants' President Archbishop Bheki Lukhele presented a 2020 model Mercedes Benz 22-seater Sprinter bus to the team's management committee, stating that the latest purchase fully belonged to the team's. "What the club president has done for the club is a never seen before thing. As a team we are grateful for the Sprinter and so many things he has done for the Swallows family."

The team has a fully furnished 11-bedroom house and has always opened the cheque book in every attempt done to get the best possible playing personnel. For that we are grateful," said Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane.

He added that, "we are only worried about our in-house stability, issues and how best we can move forward. Some people will see the purchase as a statement to settle scores but that is not the case."

If your neighbours eat rice it must not worry you that in your family it is porridge every day. We are

- Swallows GM says club only concerned with in-house stability and players welfare
- President Archbishop Lukhele lauded for religiously paying full wages



NEW ONE: Mbabane Swallows MC Chairman Thulani 'Kabasa' Lukhele with General Manager Sandile Zwane and Chief Marshal Sabelo Magagula at Siphofaneni during the new Sprinter test-drive tour yesterday morning. (Pics: Melusi Mlotso)

content with what we have and our duty is to make sure the team is ready to return to the pinnacle when football finally returns," he said.

The 'Birds' latest purchase comes after bitter-sworn rivals Mbabane Highlanders, through South Africa-bom boss Ally Kgomongwe bought a 2017 model Mercedes Benz Sprinter that was previously used by Swallows in a public auction

about three weeks. He also praised the president for religiously paying full players' wages in the last 11 or so months he has been with the club.

Grateful

"We are grateful to the president for his continued commitment to pay salaries in full under the uncertain COVID-19 storm which has left football teams without any source of income," he said.

The E850 000 Swallows Sprinter was delivered on Friday already branded with the team colours which has taken its cost to E950 000 as an average repainting job for a vehicle of that size is E100 000 in the local market.

On Saturday, Swallows took their 'baby' for a countrywide tour, visiting towns like Mbabane, Manzini, Pigg's Peak, Buhleni and Nhlanguano, among others.

...Players thank Archbishop Lukhele for new Sprinter

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - CAPITAL city giants Mbabane Swallows players have thanked the President of the club Archbishop Bheki Lukhele for the new 2020 model Mercedes Benz Sprinter.

The 22-seater bus was paraded yesterday morning at Siphofaneni.

Long serving captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze said this showed that the president had the interest of the team at heart. "As players we would like to thank the president for the new bus."

This is a huge motivation to us as players. It is now left to us as players to deliver," he said.

The former Sihlangu skipper added that they missed football.

Togo international Seidou Blandja said they were excited about the new wheels. "The tour has been going



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: The president's representative Thulani 'Kabasa' Lukhele handing a cake to birthday boy Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza while the other players look on. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)

well. We are happy about the new bus and I must say that this one is more comfortable. As players, we have to deliver inside the field of

play. We really have to make the president of the team happy," he said. Meanwhile, National Supporters Committee Chairman Jackson Dlamini said yesterday marked the last day of the test drive.

"We started the test-drive tour on Saturday. Today (yesterday) is our last day."

We have received a positive response from the supporters around the country," he said. Siphofaneni Branch Supporters Chairperson, Fikile Mamba also thanked the president of the club.

"May God give Archbishop Lukhele many more years," she said.

Also part of the tour were General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane, members of MC, NSC, players and supporters.

Other areas visited by the red and white glamour side are Buhleni, Nhlanguano, Manzini, Pigg's Peak, Big Bend, Mpaka and Mhlume.