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WFP Eswatini appeals for E163m to feed emaSwati in 202

By Noaba Ntshakala

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■ SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 2



Storm wreaks havoc in different parts of the country

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By Ncaba Ntshakala

THE World Food Programme (WFP) Eswatini needs a staggering E163 million to sustain its food assistance programs across the country for the first half of 2024.

This critical funding is required to continue providing vital food support to thousands of emaSwati facing hunger and malnutrition. The appeal comes amidst the release of the WFP's December country brief, highlighting the organization's significant efforts in addressing food insecurity in Eswatini.

The organisation revealed that in December 2023 alone, it distributed 23,800 metric tonnes of food assistance, reaching numerous vulnerable communities. The report further revealed the scope and extent of the organisation's reach in assisting different sectors and the needy in the country. The WFP also provided a social safety net for 27,000 orphans and vulnerable children aged 2-6 at 873 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in Eswatini through access to food and other essential services. Due to funding constraints, WFP had to reduce the number of NCPs from 1,700 to 873.

The organisation's Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) which is the local purchase programme, reported that it supports the government in linking smallholder production to the school feeding programme. A total of 17 farmer organizations were identified to supply maize, beans, vegetables and eggs to diversify commodity baskets for the HGSF programme.

WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Ministry of Agriculture provided



▲UNESWA Vice Chancellor Professor Justice Tfwala and DPM's Office PS Melusi Masuku during the signing of the MoU with WFP in 2022.

capacity building on Climate SMART technologies to 672 smallholder farmers from the 17 registered organizations to ensure they meet food safety standards.

The capacity building included production, commodity pricing, marketing linkages, food safety, and food preparation. WFP is working with the Ministry of Education and Training to supply 50 schools and 24,392 students with food commodities and diversified meals.

Under the Climate Proof and Resilient Livelihood Project, WFP has outlined that it engaged Africa Co-operative Action Trust (ACAT) as the implementing partner and has reached 353 farmers, of which 60 per cent are women in Lubombo and Shiselweni.

To strengthen sustainable livelihoods and food security, WFP argues that it has trained sixty farmers on climate-smart agriculture and business management.

The organisation supported the farmers

with the construction of structures, farm inputs, start-up capital, and solar pumps for groups that had water challenges. Farmers were linked to various markets to boost the local economy, increase production, secure livelihoods and increase income.

World Food Programmes has been instrumental in aiding the Kingdom of Eswatini in food security and shocks faced by vulnerable communities. The organisation, in response to such, has been providing support through cash-based transfers (CBT) in four constituencies. WFP aimed to reach 58,109 beneficiaries; however, due to funding constraints, a total of 48,300 beneficiaries were reached.

Further, to improve community targeting and registration ensuring that the most vulnerable people are reached, WFP undertakes community outreach exercises where communities will be expected to produce a master list following a communitybased targeting method.

WFP is also engaging the new government and constituency leadership to orientate them on its operations. Under Resilience Building, WFP is providing technical support to the NGO consortium in developing a proposal for building climate resilience among rural households. This project is funded by the Adaptation Fund.

The organisation in partnership with the University of Eswatini and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office has reported that it is supporting the rollout of 3PA, an innovative programming approach that aims to strengthen the design, planning, and implementation of programmes in resilience building, productive safety nets, disaster risk reduction, and preparedness.

Through this partnership, a pilot resilience project has been implemented in the KuNjelu community under Nhlambeni Inkhundla. WFP asserts that the project aims to reach 530 beneficiaries through asset-building activities. The country brief added that WFP is providing technical and financial support to the Department of Social Welfare under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office to transform the current social protection system to be more shock-responsive.

WFP in collaboration with UNICEF, developed a shock-responsive social protection roadmap that will inform future programmatic and policy decisions for social protection programmes in the country.

WFP Eswatini highlighted that its donors include the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), United Kingdom, Germany, Global Fund, Japan, Multilateral, United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Storm wreaks havoc in different parts of the country

By Bahle Gama

bahleg@rubiconmedia.group

THE country was battered by a storm on Monday night, leaving a trail of destruction that will cost an arm and leg to repair.

At around 6:30 p.m., what started as a drizzle escalated into a heavy storm that caused an electricity blackout in all parts of the capital city and surrounding areas.

Damages were reported in areas like Msunduza, Fonteyn, Ezulwini and Mbabane. In Msunduza, property was severely damaged and roofing had been stripped off some buildings due to the storm.

Some businesses were forced to close earlier than their usual time due to the electricity blackout that lasted for about an hour and longer in some areas.

Driving through some of the affected areas, trees were lying on the roads with darkness engulfing many areas. Drivers were forced to play chess as they navigated debris on the roads.

According to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) Communications Officer Wandile Mavuso, information that was gathered as soon as the storm had calmed, was that around

Mbabane, a church had been damaged in Fonteyn.

The damage in Fonteyn resulted in severe traffic which was reminiscent of peak hour bumper-to-bumper gridlock of the infamous N1 freeway from Pretoria to Johannesburg in neighbouring South Africa. The sound of electric chainsaws reverberated in the air as some people attempted to clear the debris and create access to their houses which had been blocked by fallen trees.

Trees were uprooted and they fell on electricity cables, resulting in blackouts. Other damages were observed Luhlangotsini in Pigg's Peak and at Nginamandvolo where the agency was told that property had been severely damaged.

"We currently have bits and pieces of information about the storm. People are calling and reporting what has happened in their areas. It is too early to give a conclusive report as we have yet to collect the data. I think by lunchtime tomorrow (Tuesday), we will know how much damage has been caused by the storm countrywide," Mavuso

Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) Marketing and Corporate Communications Manager Khaya Mavuso said they too received several reports which were attended to immediately when the storm had passed.



▲ The Msunduza Market was damaged last night by the heavy storm.

"Yes, we had a minor fault on feeder lines, and infrastructure. The storm also resulted customers are still without power they can report to the EEC 24-hour call centre for assistance," Khaya said.

The restored feeder lines include substations at Nkoyoyo, Ngwenya one and two, Siphocosini, Usuthu, Mankayane, and

It could not be ascertained how much the damage from the storm would cost to repair.

The country has seen severe storms in the past few months that have caused significant property damage. Leading to the local elections, the country experienced a severe storm that resulted in damage to property

and they have been resolved. In the event in delays to voting as some stations were damaged and power was unavailable for the machines to operate.

There were other hailstorms in November and December that resulted in damage to cars, houses and infrastructure. Following the December hailstorm, Lidwala Insurance said it has recorded a total of 161 claims with a total assessed amount of E11.3 million from October 26, 2023.

Lidwala Insurance Managing Director Dr Thokozani Nkambule said that the 161 claims were payable claims, with 97 per cent of them being motor claims and the balance being between homeowners and agriculture.



More than just coal malomacolliery.africa







VACANCIES

VACANCY- BOILERMAKER ARTISAN

Maloma Colliery Ltd is a Swati coal Mine operation located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo region of Swaziland. Maloma Colliery Ltd mainly produces anthracite coal products for the Metallurgical market. Maloma invites experienced and well-qualified individuals to fill the position of Boilermaker Artisan, position reports to the Workshop Foreman.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To ensure equipment maintenance and repair for surface and underground is done in compliance with procedures and standards.
- To carry out preventative maintenance work timeously and with integrity and report any deviations to Fabrication foreman for follow-up corrective work order.
- Attend to equipment related failures and breakdowns.
- Identify continuous improvement initiatives during plant inspection and report to the Foreman for implementation with a view to increase plant reliability and availability and safety.
- Immediate response to any breakdown or maintenance and ensure housekeeping is done after work completion.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- N4/N6Mechanical engineering
- 5 year Apprenticeship program.
- Good mechanical aptitude

COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

- Exhibits our company values. Good Communication Skills, Sound
- Business Knowledge
- 5 years post apprenticeship
- Effective Communications in English (Written and Spoken)
- Ability to read drawings and interpret

VACANCY- ELECTRICAL ARTISAN

Maloma Colliery Ltd is a Swati coal Mine operation located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo region of Swaziland. Maloma Colliery Ltd mainly produces anthracite coal products for the Metallurgical market. Maloma invites experienced and well-qualified individuals to fill the position of Electrical Artisan, position reports to the Electrical Foreman.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Install, maintain, and repair electrical systems and equipment. Troubleshoot and diagnose electrical
- issues. Conduct preventative maintenance to
- ensure system reliability.
- Performing Flameproof corrective maintenance.
- Maintaining good knowledge of heating and air conditioning systems as well as various testing equipment.
- Collaborate with other team members to achieve operational goals.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- N4-N6 Electrical Engineering
- Completion of electrician apprenticeship. SASA/Merseta Trade test certificate.
- Flameproofing certificate will be an added advantage.
- Strong understanding of electrical systems and components
- Familiarity with mine-specific electrical systems is an advantage.
- Commitment to safety and adherence to regulations
- Strong problem-solving skills and attention to detail

COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

- Exhibits our company values.
 Good Communication Skills, Sound
- **Business Knowledge**
- Proven experience in electrical maintenance and repair
- Effective Communications in English (Written and Spoken)
- be an added advantage. Deep electrical system, power

Line work and HT system protection will

generation, blueprints, maintenance, and repair knowledge.

VACANCY- FITTER ARTISAN

Maloma Colliery Ltd is a Swati coal Mine operation located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo region of Swaziland. Maloma Colliery Ltd mainly produces anthracite coal products for the Metallurgical market. Maloma invites experienced and well-qualified individuals to fill the position of Fitter Artisan, position reports to the Workshop Foreman.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Repair and maintain plant and machinery in a serviceable state.
- To control downtime by carrying out preventive maintenance and monitory
- Analyzing the blueprints for mechanical systems to determine the specifications of the components to be constructed.
- Contribute to team effort by engaging in shift work and accomplishing related tasks as needed.
- Inspecting fabricated components to ensure that they are the correct size.
- Creating a suitable maintenance schedule and performing system maintenance accordingly.
- Conducting diagnostic testing on malfunctioning systems to determine the root cause of the malfunction.
- Replacing damaged or defective structural components as needed.
- Adhering to all work-site safety rules and regulations

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- N6 or equivalent in Mechanical Fitting.
- Must have completed apprenticeship.
- Trade Test Certificate.

COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

- Exhibits our company values.
- Good Communication Skills, Sound Business Knowledge Ability to demonstrate Health and Safety
- Willingness to work as a committed team
- member with a flexible and cooperative
- Ability to conform to shifting or changing priorities
- The ability to concentrate for extended
- Strong analytical and problem-solving

VACANCY- SECTION MINER X2

Maloma Colliery Ltd is a Swati coal Mine operation located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo region of Swaziland. Maloma Colliery Ltd mainly produces anthracite coal products for the Metallurgical market. Maloma invites experienced and well-qualified individuals to fill the position of Section Miner, position reports to the Shift Boss.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure safe quality of work and set service targets are achieved daily. Ensure compliance with service, Health and Safety policies standards and

- procedures. This will be done through examinations and inspections of places underground as per legal requirements.
- Operate and facilitate heavy machinery and excavation equipment.
- Set up and operate drilling machines to create specific patterns for blasting holes.
- Load and detonate explosives to produce desired blasting patterns in underground mines.
- Install rock bolts using machinery to stabilize rock excavations. Operate a shuttle car to safely and
- quickly transport coal and other minerals. Perform maintenance on mining
- equipment and machinery. To ensure that the section is appropriately manned, employees are trained developed and disciplined to achieve expected outcomes.
- To ensure effective communication is established and maintained.
- To ensure optimal service standards within areas of responsibility are achieved.
- To plan daily activities.
- Comply with all necessary explosive regulations and standards.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- Level or appropriate mining experience
- with basic literacy and numeracy. Medical Certificate of Fitness
- Gas Testing Certificate
- **English Proficiency**
- Eswatini Blasting Certificate
- Current and previous mining experience is advantageous.

COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

- Good Communication Skills, Sound Business Knowledge
- Exhibits our company values. Effective Communications in English (Written and Spoken)
- A minimum of 4 years' experience working underground.

VACANCY- SHERQ MANAGER

Maloma Colliery Ltd is a Swati coal Mine operation located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo region of Swaziland. Maloma Colliery Ltd mainly produces anthracite coal products for the Metallurgical market. Maloma invites experienced and well-qualified individuals to fill the position of SHERQ MANAGER, position reports to the CEO.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop actionable business strategies and plans that ensure alignment with short-term and long-term objectives developed in tandem with the CEO.
- Develop and implement safety policies and procedures for underground mining
- Conduct regular safety inspections and audits to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.
- Provide safety training and guidance to all personnel working in underground mining environments.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop and implement environmental management programs to mitigate the impact of mining operations on the environment.
- Investigate accidents and near miss incidents and make recommendations for improvement.
- Collaborate with management to create a culture of safety awareness and accountability.
- Prepare a monthly status report for the CEO on internal audit findings to track the status of corrective action for all reported

- internal audit findings.
- Stay abreast of industry trends, regulatory changes, and international best practices related to SHERQ management in the mining sector.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- Degree in Occupational Health and Safety, Mining Engineering or related Field.
- 5-10 Years' experience in safety, health, environment, risk and quality management within the mining sector.
- Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Mine Safety Professional (CMSP) or equivalent certifications.

COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

- Exhibits our company values.
- Strong Communication Skills, Sound Business Knowledge
- Effective Communications in English (Written and Spoken)
- Computer Literacy (MS Office)
- Knowledge and experience of Underground mining practices and related operations environment.
- Safety, Health and Environmental Legislation and standards applicable to underground mining.

VACANCY- SHIFT BOSS X2

Maloma Colliery Ltd is a Swati coal Mine operation located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo region of Swaziland. Maloma Colliery Ltd mainly produces anthracite coal products for the Metallurgical market. Maloma invites experienced and well-qualified individuals to fill the position of Shift Boss, position reports to the Mine Overseer.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinating and monitoring development mining activities to ensure adherence to mine standards and operational targets.
- Planning of all development mining activities in accordance with mining and other schedules and allocating resources as required.
- Coordinating shift hand over by checking relevant documentation, the required physical mining activities, and available resources, and communicating these to team members of the development mining
- All duties as per Mine Health and Safety
- Performing identified administrative duties according to legal and procedural requirements.

- MINIMUM QUALIFICATION Grade 12 / N3 / Equivalent NQF Level 4
- Mining Engineering Degree will be advantageous Underground Shift Boss certificate A Supervisory qualification would be
- advantageous. Medical Certificate of Fitness
- Gas Testing Certificate
- Eswatini Blasting Certificate

COMPETENCIES. EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

- Exhibits our company values. Good Communication Skills, Sound
- Business Knowledge Effective Communications in English (Written and Spoken)
- Computer Literacy(MS Office) Minimum of 4 years' experience as a miner

Knowledge and experience of

operations environment. Safety, Health and Environmental Legislation and standards applicable to underground mining.

Underground mining practices and related

Applicants with required qualifications accompanied by reference letters must send their CVs to recruitment@maloma.co.sz not later than the 9th February 2024. Alternatively submitted to the People and Culture Department.

Master of High Court accepted unsealed will from beneficiary

Stories by Bahle Gama

bahleg@rubiconmedia.group

THE Master of the High Court received and read an opened will brought by a benefactor without verifying its contents and eligibility.

This was disclosed during the Judicial Commission of Inquiry on Monday, January 5, where former Miss Eswatini Vinah Mamba-Grey had appeared to state her grievance before the Commission.

According to Acting Assistant Master Lethukuthula Nhlengetfwa, when Mamba arrived to open a file at their office in December 2022, she arrived with her stepdaughter Jacqueline who submitted a will that was not sealed.

She said the will appointed Jacqueline as the executor of the estate and was read out during the meeting.

However, it was observed that there was a missing paragraph which was questioned by Mamba.

The discrepancy in the will was accompanied by an affidavit by the person responsible for drafting it a lawyer identified as Perry, which stated that there had been a typing

Worth noting was that the date on the affidavit was subsequent to the date on which the will was written.

When questioned by the Commission whether the lawyer had ever deposited the will at the office of the Master of the High Court, Nhlengetfwa said such was not the case.

"He did not deposit or deliver it himself. It arrived with the executor and stepdaughter in question," she



▲ Acting Assistant Master Lethukuthula Nhlengetfa.

Nhlengetfwa was further asked what assurance she had that the will had indeed been drafted by the said lawyer and had not been tampered with considering that it arrived unsealed, from a person who was chosen as the executor of the estate.

The Assistant Master's first response was that the office wrote to the lawyer, and he confirmed and when proof of the communication was requested by the Commission, she changed tune and said the lawyer was called.

When asked by who, she said by Mamba, and it was vehemently denied by the former beauty queen.

It was then that the Acting Assistant Master admitted that no communication was made with the lawyer to verify the contents of the will.

"Mrs Grey (Mamba) said she would go to the lawyer's office to talk about the will," Nhlengetfwa

Mamba told the commission that the lawyer refused to see her, and

Jacqueline said she should not bother because he (lawyer) had retired and would not be of help, instead she should accept the will as is.

The Acting Assistant Master further confirmed that Mamba challenged the will in their office, and she was advised to go to the High Court.

Commissioner Judge Lorraine Hlophe further questioned whether it was appropriate for the office to receive a will at face value and if any of the beneficiaries is displeased what happens to rectify the situa-

Nhlengetfwa said before their death, the owner of the will comes to their office to let them know about the will and it becomes their discretion as to who will be left behind, and normally, it is an attorney.

In terms of the discrepancy in the will in question, Nhlengetfwa said the office is responsible for ensuring that its contents are in chronological order and were put together before death.

'Stepdaughter locked me out of businesses'

FORMER Miss Eswatini Vinah Mamba-Grey alleges that her stepdaughter locked her out of her husband's businesses.

she said happened immediately after the death of her husband and the stepdaughter was made executor of her late husband's estate through a will she did not

Mamba told the court that her husband died in 2022 and her stepdaughter Jacqueline went to close their company two days after the funeral. She also fired the employees and there is a pending matter in court in this regard.

The company is called Timbercraft.

"She doesn't want me to access anything that my husband left behind for me, even though in the will she brought it was stipulated that we would be equal owners of the company and farm," she told the Commis-

She disclosed that in 2001 she married her husband out of the community of property. However, this was changed in 2019 when they approached the office of the DC, and her husband wrote an affidavit confirming the change. They received a new certificate of marriage in the community of property.

When she arrived at the office of the Master of the High Court, she found that a new marriage certificate created in 2023, had been submitted by her stepdaughter. The certificate stated that she and her late husband were married out of the community of property.

Mamba was taken aback by the certificate and went to the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the DC offices.

When she arrived at the Home Affairs office, she was attended to by a Maseko officer who allegedly told her Jacqueline's lawyer had changed the certificate.

"This was done without my consent and signature, and this is a change that required my presence. I was never told why the change was made, but I believe it was meant to deprive me access to my husband's estate," Mamba said.

As a result, Mamba put in an urgent application against the Ministry of Home Affairs at the High Court and the matter is pending. She also reported the matter to the police in the fraud department and the matter is under investigation.

The estate of her late husband remains undistributed, and the file opened, however, her stepdaughter is alleged to continue to be in control of the assets.

Mamba further disclosed that she discovered that her stepdaughter also changed the directorship of the company to her name and questioned how she had done that without consent from the Master's office. She further said she was never called or shown the inventory which is supposed to be put together by the executor and be approved by her as an equal shareholder.



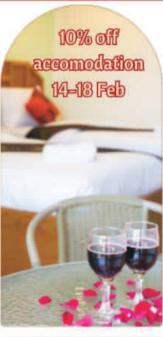




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Stories By Noaba Ntshakala

THERE is progress and development for the country's energy security, as Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini met with the Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Eswatini, Jeremy Liang, and a delegation from the Overseas Engineering and Construction Company (OECC) on Friday.

The highly anticipated meeting focused on the strategic oil reserve facility at Phuzumoya, a visionary project initiated by His Majesty King Mswati III.

"Our discussions centred around the long-awaited strategic oil reserve facility at Phuzumoya, one of the projects pioneered by His Majesty King Mswati III, aimed at ensuring that Eswatini becomes energy secure," said the Prime Minister.

The Premier further expressed his gratitude to the King for his foresight and to Taiwan for their unwavering support in bringing this project to fruition.

"We are grateful to His Majesty for his visionary leadership in spearheading this crucial project and to Taiwan, for their continued support, and for ensuring that this project finally takes off.," stated the Prime Minister.

Progress on strategic oil reserve at Phuzumoya as PM meets Taiwan experts



▲Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini, Ambassador Jeremy Liang and the Taiwan experts during their meeting at Cabinet Offices.

He also asserted, "a team of experts from Taiwan composed of engineers, and project Management experts has been assembled to deliver advanced designs." Highlighting the project's potential impact, the Prime Minister emphasized the creation of numerous job opportunities for emaSwati. He envisions the project fostering partnerships between local companies and

international entities, contributing to the nation's economic growth.

The strategic oil reserve will be operated by the Eswatini National Petroleum Company (ENPC). Previously, the project was estimated to cost E3.2 billion following budget estimates for the financial year 2021/22. To ensure smooth project execution, Prime Minister said government

will establish a dedicated committee tasked with addressing any potential bottlenecks that may arise.

ENPC views that the strategic facility will enable security of fuel supply and significantly contribute towards the socioeconomic development of the country through infrastructural development and job creation.

European Union champions youth empowerment at IDPP forum in Eswatin1

The European Union (EU) Ambassador, Dessislava Choumelova, took the helm of the Youth Thematic Forum held by the International Development Partners' Platform (IDPP) in Eswatini. This crucial gathering brought together key stakeholders, including Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Bongani Nzima, government bodies, development partners, UN agencies, NGOs, and youth representatives, to delve into the challenges and opportunities facing Eswatini's youth.

The National Youth Council painted a solid picture of the hurdles young people face, with unemployment topping the list of concerns. This pervasive issue, they highlighted, impacts not only their economic prospects but also their physical and mental well-being, hindering their ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

According to the EU, the forum served as a crucial platform for recognizing the need for systemic change, emphasizing effective youth empowerment, improved information dissemination, and coordinated efforts across all government sectors. A resounding call for youth inclusion in decision-making echoed throughout the discussions, underscoring the importance of fostering a collaborative mindset shift among both decision-makers and young people themselves.

Forum

Development partners actively participated in the forum, exploring potential synergies, addressing gaps in existing programs, and advocating for improved coordination to avoid duplication and maximize the impact of their support. This collaborative approach promises to optimize resource allocation and ensure targeted interventions

that truly address the needs of Eswatini's youth.

Minister Nzima reaffirmed his commitment to listening to the voices of young people and actively engaging with all stakeholders.

He emphasized the importance of a 5-year Youth Action Plan and proposed the creation of a dedicated social media platform to bridge the information gap, particularly for rural youth who often lack access to essential resources and opportunities.

This IDPP Youth Thematic Forum marks a significant step forward in recognizing the critical role young people play in Eswatini's future. By bringing together diverse actors, fostering open dialogue, and promoting collaborative action, the forum sets the stage for a future where young people are empowered to thrive and contribute their unique

perspectives and talents to the nation's development.

The European Union and the Kingdom of Eswatini have a long-standing and cordial partnership dating back more than 50 years now which was established in the 1960s. The partnership has been beneficial and developmental in the Kingdom. This partnership focuses on poverty reduction and the promotion of sustainable and inclusive growth and development. In pursuit of democracy, rule of law and human rights, the EU also supports the democratization process within the country. This is done through regular political dialogues and direct engagements with the country's authorities including the His Majesty King Mswati III. The relationship has assisted Eswatini and European Union enjoy the benefits of their mutual relations.





▲A young person expressing herself during the Youth Thematic Forum chaired by the European Union.



▲Clive Chirwa who allegedly hacked his wife and son with a bushknife.

66-year-old man hacks wife, son with bushknife

Stories By Nokunceda Magagula nokuncedam@rubicon.co.sz

A 66-year-old Malawian national has been arrested by the police after allegedly hacking his wife and son with a bushknife, causing injuries to their heads and arms.

Clive Chirwa appeared at the Mbabane Magistrates Court before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati on Monday. According to the charge sheet, the incident occurred on January 16, 2024, at Selection Park in Mbabane.

"On January 16, 2024, at Selection Park in Mbabane, the accused person unlawfully and intentionally assaulted his wife and son by hacking them several times on the head and arms with a bushknife, thereby contravening Section 77(1) of the Sexual Offenses and

Domestic Violence Act of 2024," the charge sheet reads.

The prosecution requested that the accused be remanded into custody until February 19, 2024, as further investigation is needed to ascertain the condition of the victims. The prosecution also stated that they would oppose the accused's bail application.

Lawyer Nkosinathi Gumede, representing the accused, made an application for the accused to be referred to Mbabane Clinic, citing the accused's constipation issues and the fact that he has been unable to empty his bowels since being in custody. Gumede also mentioned that the accused suffers from a mental disorder that should be evaluated.

Magistrate Vilakati granted Gumede's application and ordered that the accused be remanded into custody until February 9, 2024.

Woman stabs boyfriend with a screwdriver on buttocks

IN a rather bizarre incident, a 35-yearold woman from Mpolonjeni has been arrested and charged with assault after stabbing her boyfriend once in the buttocks and once in the shoulder.

The convicted abuser, Zandile Tsabedze, appeared at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati.

Tsabedze was charged with contravening Section 77(1) of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 2018. According to her charge sheet, on January 29, 2024, the accused unlawfully assaulted her boyfriend, Sakhile*, by stabbing him with a screwdriver in the buttocks and shoulder, thereby contravening the aforementioned Act.

Tsabedze pleaded guilty to the charge of assault, and the prosecution presented Sandile as a witness. Sandile identified the accused as his girlfriend of 10 months. He stated that on the day of the incident, around 6 pm, while he was in his house in Mpolonjeni, he heard stones hitting his roof and windows.

He went outside to investigate and found Tsabedze stabbing his car tires with a screwdriver. Sandile attempted to stop her, but she used the screwdriver to stab him twice. He stated that he chose not to fight back and instead contacted the police, who arrived and apprehended Tsabedze.

In her defence, Tsabedze told the court that she acted out of anger because Sandile was attempting to re-establish an intimate relationship with the mother of his child, despite telling her that they had separated. "I discovered that he was still trying to reconcile with the mother of his child, while I believed I was the only woman he loved," Tsabedze said.

She explained that on the day of the incident, Sandile had informed her that he would be taking care of the child since the mother had asked him to do so. Tsabedze claimed this was a lie, as Sandile wanted her to give him space so that the child's mother



▲Zandile Tsabedze who stabbed her boyfriend on the buttocks during her appearance at the Mbabane Magistrate's court.

could visit.

Tsabedze added that they had been living together, and she would cook and clean for him, so she never expected him to betray her in any way. "I acted out of revenge so that he could experience the same pain I felt when he lied to me, and I knew that his car tires were precious to him," she emphasized.

In the closing submissions, the prosecution requested that the accused be found guilty as per her own plea. The prosecution also presented evidence on how the offense was committed and requested the maximum sentence for Tsabedze.

Tsabedze was subsequently found guilty as per her own plea. In her mitigation statement, she expressed sincere remorse for the crime committed and requested leniency from the court when imposing her sentence.

Magistrate Vilakati sentenced the accused to three years imprisonment or a fine of E3,000

Man sentenced to 5 years, no fine, for attempted murder

SIFISO Mkhonta of Boyane has been found guilty and sentenced to five years' imprisonment for attempting to kill Douglas Ndzabandzaba by repeatedly hitting him on the head with a blunt object.

Mkhonta appeared at the Mbabane High Court before acting Judge Fikile Nhlabatsi for sentencing on Monday." As the court as previously found you guilty of attempted murder, you are sentenced 5 years imprisonment with no option of a fine" Nhlabatsi said.

Charge sheet

Mkhonta was charged with the crime of attempted murder, as stated in his charge sheet.

"On October 12, 2020, in the Boyane area of the Manzini Region, the accused unlawfully and with intent to kill, assaulted Douglas by striking him on the head multiple times with a blunt object, thereby committing the crime of attempted murder," the charge sheet states. Mkhonta pleaded guilty to the crime, and the prosecution accepted his plea.

The agreed-upon facts affidavit, confirms that Douglas is the complainant in the case. In his testimony, he stated that on October 12, 2020, at approximately 05:30 hours, he left his home in Boyane and headed to his

workplace. While walking towards the bus station, he encountered the accused. Upon greeting the accused, there was no response. Instead, the accused grabbed a log and began assaulting Douglas, primarily targeting his hands, arms, and head. Douglas called for help, and as people approached the scene, he was bleeding profusely from his head and eventually lost consciousness.

He regained consciousness after seven days at Manzini Clinic and spent two weeks in the hospital before being discharged.

The affidavit also includes the testimony of Thobile Ndzabandza, the complainant's daughter. She stated that on October 12, 2020, at around 05:30 hours, she was at home when she received a phone call from Mr. Ngcobo, who informed them to rush to the scene as their father had been injured. When they arrived, they found the complainant lying in a pool of blood and in pain. When Thobile asked him what had happened, he explained that he had been attacked by the accused with a log.

Mhlophe Ndzabandzaba, a relative of the complainant, also testified that she received a report about the incident and rushed to the scene, where she found the complainant injured and lying on the ground.

After the presentation of the affidavit,



acting Judge Nhlabatsi stated that since the accused had agreed with all the testimonies

presented by the witnesses, he was found guilty as per his plea.



BUSINESS NEWS



BUSINESS BRIEFS

BE Hosts Successful Insurance Sector Meeting

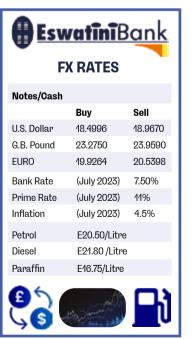
IN a bid to fortify the entire economy under the theme catalyzing business development, Business Eswatini (BE) hosted another successful insurance sector meeting in keeping with its role in safe guarding the interests of local businesses across all industries. The recent insurance industry meeting convened by BE is one of many other such meetings and conferences which are convened under the umbrella body representing the business sector in Eswati

Oil slips as rate cut caution overshadows Mideast strikes

LONDON — Oil prices slipped again on Monday as a strong U.S. job report which capped sharp falls last week dampened hopes of swift rate cuts, despite a U.S. pledge to continue air strikes in the Middle East which have kept geopolitical tensions high. Brent crude futures fell 65 cents, or 0.8 per cent, to \$76.68 a barrel by 1105 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures were at \$71.52 a barrel, down 76 cents, or 1 per cent.

Anglo American explores for copper, cobalt in Zambia

CAPE TOWN — Anglo American is in the early stages of exploring for copper and cobalt in Zambia's North-Western province, its Chief Executive Officer Duncan Wanblad said on Monday. "Zambia's mining sector appears to be on track for renewed activity - and that is good for Zambia and African mining," Wanblad told delegates at the African Mining Indaba in Cape Town.



Over 1000 UNESWA students benefit from FNB E1.3m cyber space

... as lab gets refurbished, 40 computers and 3 laptops



▲FNB Eswatini Foundation members and UNESWA Management posing with the Cheque donated by the foundation.

Stories by Silindzelwe Nxumalo

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FNB Eswatini Foundation has renovated and handed over the FNB-UNESWA Cyber Space worth E1.38 million to the Kwaluseni Campus.

UNESWA Vice Chancellor Justice Thwala said the FNB CyberSpace @UNESWA computer lab is being used by over 800 students on weekdays and 300 IDE students on weekends for the Computer Foundation Course.

He stated that the computer lab is also used by Computer Science students and upper-year students in the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Humanities, and Faculty of Social Sciences for classes that require access to computing resources

"With the pandemic in place, the labs have also been used for online tests on the University's e-learning platform during periods when students were allowed on campus," he said

Thwala stated that the University then made a request to the FNB Eswatini Foundation for support in equipping the FNB CyberSpace @UNESWA computer laboratory with new computers to enhance the teaching, learning, research, and community service activities of the university and it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Foundation has agreed to support the University in this endeavour.

He explained that such assistance would enable the University to replace the obsolete and malfunctioning computers in the lab to maintain the seating capacity of 42 which had been reduced over the past two years and acquire three laptops for use by staff to prepare lessons and for conducting training on the three computer labs in the ICT Centre building during peak usage times.

"This will also enable the University to reap the enormous benefits availed by digitalized information through the use of high-tech computer laboratories, to empower UNESWA to become the nurturer of Eswatini's human capital, and to prepare the next generation of future leaders with adequate skills and capacity in an increasingly competitive global environment," he said.

The VC stated that it will further enable them a fundamental transition from traditional, to modern models of teaching and learning, such as e-learning, digital libraries, multi-media communication, and scholarly publishing.

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the University of Eswatini to witness the very generous donation that FNB Eswatini Foundation has given to the University. The donation by FNB Eswatini Foundation cements a relationship that the University has with the bank which started in 2007 when the bank funded the setting up of a computer laboratory at the Computer Centre," Thwala said.

He said the Computer Centre was set up by the University as a central computing facility built with the assistance of the European Economic Community (EEC) and this was a double-story building with the ground floor having two computer laboratories, a server room and an office.

He explained that the Foundation approached First National Bank of Swaziland for assistance and the bank agreed to fund the project of setting up the lab.

"The donation by FNB enabled the University to fully equip the lab with furniture and 43 computers, which included one desk for the instructor's computer, network cabling for the entire lab, air-conditioning for the lab, whiteboard, LCD projector screen and an LCD projector. In recognition of the generous donation by FNB, the lab was named the FNB CyberSpace @UNESWA a name that persists to

this day," said Thwala.

UNESWA Chairman of Council Chief Mkhumbi Dlamini said this was a remarkable gesture of support and solidarity that will greatly enhance their capacity to deliver high-quality blended learning to their students.

He stated that blended learning is a pedagogical approach that combines online and face-to-face instruction, allowing for more flexibility, interaction and engagement.

"It has been proven to improve learning outcomes, retention rates and student satisfaction. However, it also requires adequate technological infrastructure and resources, which are often scarce or outdated in many educational institutions," he said.

He also stated that it will enable them to create more innovative and inclusive learning environments that will prepare the students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

FNB Eswatini Foundation Chairman Dennis Mbingo said they wish all the students that will use this facility all the best in their studies and also trust that they will be good stewards of this facility and that no matter what occasional disagreements may occur within the university, educational infrastructure will remain protected for use by future students, some of whom may be their sons and daughters.

Mbingo also recognized all the other corporates and organizations that have stood up to help support UNESWA over the years, stating that it is always easier to add the little muscle they have to pull the massive weight up the hill when they see others roll their sleeves as well.

"No one would want to drag an elephant this size alone. Long may this support and collaboration from the private sector continue. UNESWA is our pride and holds a special place in the heart of this nation," he said.

Continued on Page 8

8

By Silindzelwe Nxumalo

silindzelwen@rubiconmedia.group

IN a bid to fortify the entire economy under the theme of catalyzing business development, Business Eswatini (BE) hosted another successful insurance sector meeting in keeping with its role in safe guarding the interests of local businesses across all industries.

The recent insurance industry meeting convened by BE is one of many other such meetings and conferences which are convened under the umbrella body representing the business sector in Eswatini.

Held against the backdrop of tightening economic conditions sweeping across the entire economy and region, the business leaders within the insurance sector met to put their minds together on how the sector can inspire some vibrancy into the economy and sharpen each other's axes as they seek to improve the efficiencies within the sector.

The chairperson of the sector, Zama Ngcobo expressed satisfaction with the content and quality of the discussions and could not hide his optimism about the outcomes.

He encouraged the companies who did not make it to ensure that they take part in the gatherings so that they do not miss out on crucial decisions that are taken by the collective under BE.

BE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) E. Nathi Dlamini said as businesses grapple with various challenges, BE as the apex Federation of Employers remains steadfast in its mission to support the entire business sector with the tools, insights, and resources needed to navigate through the treacherous, tough business landscape.

He stated that they are constantly on the lookout for opportunities on behalf of their members, hence they felt that an engagement of such a nature among the insurers would at least assure all the other industries of the

BE Hosts Successful Insurance Sector Meeting: A Catalyst for Business Development



▲Members of the Insurance sector under BE posing for a group picture after the meeting.

coverage they need especially in a dynamic and volatile environment such as the business landscape. Dlamini further announced that BE intends to expand consultations with other sectors of the economy to make an informed intervention on behalf of all businesses in the country regardless of size.

"It is our culture to consult with members so that we walk in lockstep with them, and

we will continue down this road with our hands on their pulses as usual. By fostering a collaborative environment and facilitating dialogue between captains of industry, BE has positioned itself as the vanguard of business development and resilience" he said.

The CEO also announced that on February 29, they will be hosting the Annual Labour

Conference, a seminar where employers and social partners are updated on the latest developments within the industrial relations space whilst also being given the chance to have a voice on the direction of policy in the space.

He said spaces are limited and encouraged those who have not yet booked to do so to avoid disappointment.

Over 1000 UNESWA students benefit from FNB E1.3m cyber space

Continued from Page 7

Meanwhile, UNESWA SRC President Bongumenzi Dlamini, on behalf of UNESWA students, expressed their deepest gratitude for the generous support and contribution towards the renovation of their computer lab.

"Your commitment to enhancing educational facilities has made a significant impact on our students and faculty. The newly renovated computer lab will undoubtedly provide an improved learning environment and technological resources, empowering our students to excel in their academic pursuits," he said.

He stated that they are grateful for the foundation's investment in their institution and the community.

"Your dedication to education and innovation is commendable, and we are honoured to have FNB as a partner in our mission to provide quality education. The impact of your generosity will be felt for years to come, as it will positively influence the earning experiences of countless students," he said.

FNB Foundation ready to revive UNESWA scholarship program

FNB Eswatini Foundation is ready to revive its scholarship program with the University of Eswatini (UNESWA).

This was shared by the foundation's chairman Dennis Mbingo at the handover ceremony of the FNB CyberSpace@ UNESWA held at UNESWA Kwaluseni Campus on Monday.

Mbingo stated that as a foundation their doors remain open for further opportunities for collaborating with the great academic organ, UNESWA. He stated that they have tried before to take a few scholarships for students who come from challenging backgrounds but show promising results, and those plans initially faltered.

"We would like to revive that program, even two students would mean two fewer people reliant on State resources," he said.

The chairman added that they also have a deep need for research (economic, social, demographic) that could help them deliver on their mandate better, and they do not believe they need higher full-time resources for that all the time.

He said there is also an interest in workflow redesign opportunities that could be an outlet for students to test their skills and develop a basic understanding of how most institutions are organized, and what basic tools they use," he said.

Mbingo who is also the CEO of the bank, stated that state subsidies for the university are highly unlikely to be sustained at high levels, and the operating model requires a hard rethink.



▲FNB Foundation and UNESWA managemant inside the refurbished FNB-Cyber Space@UNESWA.

He said in an era where state-subsidized college education has been under pressure the world over because of the urgent needs of an increasingly sophisticated population, worsening wealth distribution, a planet that needs greater attention, and technology that is so disruptive that it has forced many entities such as them to continuously try and reinvent themselves to survive, it may be oversimplifying things to explain away UNESWA's challenges today as emanating only from reduced funding.

"We have a collective responsibility to challenge and assist the university to find an operating model that creates an urgent leap into the present, which is informed by the reality of stretched financial resources and the increasing availability of credible alternatives," he said.

He added that no competitive edge is infinite, and the rules of nature dictate that if your model is successful, it will be replicated by others.

"What helped the university win 50, 40, or even 30 years ago, is unlikely to help win the future. We are committed to helping, alongside the many other stakeholders who support the university," he said.

South Africa's MultiChoice rejects Vivendi's Canal Plus buyout offer

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's MultiChoice Group on Monday said it will not continue talks with Vivendi's Canal Plus after the board concluded that its offer significantly undervalues the company.

Canal Plus, a top shareholder in MultiChoice, had on Thursday offered 105 rand (\$5.55) per share for every MultiChoice share it does not already own.

Canal Plus said the offer - worth 31.7 billion rand according to Reuters calculations - was a 40 per cent premium to MultiChoice's closing share price of 75 rand on Jan. 31.

MultiChoice said in a statement that a recently-conducted exercise valued the

group at significantly above the offer price, excluding any potential synergies which may arise from the proposed deal.

Africa's biggest pay TV company added that the synergies that Canal Plus has conveyed "need to be factored into any fair offer made" by the French company.

"Therefore, while the board is open to all means of maximising shareholder value, it has conveyed to Canal+ that at this proposed price, the letter does not provide a basis for further engagement," MultiChoice

The board, however, remains open to engage with any party in respect of any offer which is for a fair price, it added.

Canal Plus had said its offer was non-



▲The logo of French TV channel 'Canal Plus' is pictured outside a company building in Issy-les-Moulineaux near Paris, France.

to deliver a letter of firm intention to MultiChoice's board once due diligence had

Canal Plus, which as of Thursday held a 31.67 per cent stake in MultiChoice, raised it stake to 35.01 per cent following the

binding and indicative but had expected deal's announcement, MultiChoice said in a separate statement. As a result, MultiChoice has requested the Takeover Regulation Panel to make a ruling as to whether a mandatory offer must be made to all holders of ordinary shares in the company according to the Companies Act. — Reuters

Oil slips as rate cut caution overshadows Mideast strikes

By Noah Browning

LONDON — Oil prices slipped again on Monday as a strong U.S. job report which capped sharp falls last week dampened hopes of swift rate cuts, despite a U.S. pledge to continue air strikes in the Middle East which have kept geopolitical tensions high.

Brent crude futures fell 65 cents, or 0.8 per cent, to \$76.68 a barrel by 1105 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures were at \$71.52 a barrel, down 76 cents, or 1 per cent.

Both benchmarks ended last week down about 7 per cent after stronger-thanexpected U.S. jobs data suggested interest rate cuts could be further out than expected.

The blockbuster report showed job growth accelerating in January and wages up by the most in nearly two years, signs that could complicate interest rates cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve which financial markets had envisioned could start in May.



 \triangle A view shows oil tanks of Transneft oil pipeline operator at the crude oil terminal Kozmino on the shore of Nakhodka Bay near the port city of Nakhodka, Russia.

The data "pushes the timeline for Fed's highly anticipated cutting cycle out into the second quarter", said Jeff Schulze, head of economic and market strategy at ClearBridge Investments. Meanwhile progress on ceasefire negotiations between Israel and

Hamas appeared elusive, indicating tensions in the oil-producing region are set to linger.

"Hopes of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas drove some of this weakness," ING analysts said in a note. "However, for now, a ceasefire does not appear imminent."

Investors remained wary of any escalation in the Middle East conflict, after the U.S. signalled further strikes on Iran-backed groups in the Middle East in response to a deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan. The U.S. also continued its campaign against Houthis in Yemen whose attacks on shipping vessels have disrupted global oil trading routes, although supply has been largely unaffected.

"Oil markets will likely respond by continuing to discount supply disruption risks in the Middle East," said Commonwealth Bank commodities analyst Vivek Dhar in a note, adding that would likely keep Brent futures below \$80 a barrel.

In Russia, two Ukrainian attack drones struck the largest oil refinery in the country's south on Saturday, a source in Kyiv told Reuters, the latest in a series of long-range attacks on Russian oil facilities which has reduced Russia's exports of naphtha, a petrochemical feedstock.

Lukoil which owns the 300,000 bpd Volgograd refinery, later said the plant was working as normal. — Reuters

By Olivia Kumwenda-mtambo and Felix Njini

CAPE TOWN — Anglo American is in the early stages of exploring for copper and cobalt in Zambia's North-Western province, its Chief Executive Officer Duncan Wanblad said on Monday.

"Zambia's mining sector appears to be on track for renewed activity - and that is good for Zambia and African mining," Wanblad told delegates at the African Mining Indaba in Cape Town.

"I am pleased that we are progressing with early-stage exploration in Zambia's North-Western Province to identify potential copper and cobalt opportunities."

However, Wanblad also said much more needed to be done to make a compelling argument for Africa given intense global

Anglo American explores for copper, cobalt in Zambia

competition.

"We sometimes forget this simple truth: mining jurisdictions across the world are competing for every dollar of investment. Capital is highly mobile and, increasingly, as we are all seeing, the best capital will go to those countries that are set on making themselves competitive for the long term." Anglo American aims to cut capital expenditure by \$1.8 billion by 2026, as it grapples with a fall in demand for most of the metals it mines and a writedown for its British fertiliser project.

The company joined peers, including Rio Tinto, Teck Resources and Glencore in reporting lower profits and returns in the first half of the year, as reduced economic growth hit commodity prices. — **Reuters**



▲The Anglo American logo is seen in Rusternburg.

Bulletproof RoboCop-like suit set to transform dangerous operations

THE future is set to see RoboCop-type police on the streets.

A German firm have unveiled a menacing lightweight protective suit able to withstand bullets

Mehler Protection say they've developed the ExoM Up-Armoured Exoskeleton with the GIGN, the elite police tactical unit of the National Gendarmerie of France.

The SAS-like GIGN are involved in missions that may include counterterrorism, hostage rescue, and targeting organised crime.

The suit has been designed to enhance survivability by providing high-level ballistic protection, and to cater to the needs of law enforcement, military professionals, and security personnel.

Equipped with a flexible spine, sliding waist belt, and articulated hip, knee, and ankle joints, the kit offers up to 99 per cent ease and range of motion.

It also redistributes up to 70 per cent of the wearer's tactical load from the shoulders to the ground. The aim is to alleviate physical strain, and mitigates injuries, allowing operators to focus on their duties.

Daniel von Chamier, Group Director of Sales at Mehler Systems, says: "We've harnessed our expertise to engineer a product that not only redistributes load effectively but also enhances survivability with top-tier ballistic protection, offering full-body coverage up to VPAM 8."

The VPAM scale for body armour performance standards means that the ExoM should protect against three armourpiercing incendiary shots fired from around ten metres way.

Mehler say: "The ExoM Exoskeleton revolutionises the experience for military and law enforcement personnel facing extended wear of heavy equipment and demanding high-level ballistic protection."

Functioning as a passive Exoskeleton, the Exom operates without the need for external power sources.

This feature makes it perfect for extended missions or remote locations, eliminating the necessity for heavy batteries and charging equipment.

(The Sun)

ROBOCOP-LIKE SUIT HELPS POLICE TAKE A LOAD OFF Full-body armour to protect against bullets Sliding waist belt Load-bearing frame from feet to shoulders Enhanced hip, knee and ankle joints for speedy movement

Apple Vision Pro review

... the infinite desktop

IN 2000, Paradox Press published "Reinventing Comics: How Imagination and Technology Are Revolutionizing an Art Form."

\The book was Scott McCloud's follow-up to his seminal 1993 work, "Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art." Where the earlier title explored the history and visual language of sequential art, the second volume finds the medium at a crossroads. The turn of the millennium presented new technologies that threatened to upend print media.

Along with exploring existing vocabulary, McCloud coined a few terms of his own. Far and away the most influential of the bunch was "infinite canvas," which the author explains thusly:

There may never be a monitor as wide as Europe, yet a comic as wide as Europe or as tall as a mountain can be displayed on any monitor, simply by moving across its surface, inch-by-inch, foot-by-foot, mile-by-mile . . . In a digital environment there's no reason a 500 panel story can't be told vertically — or horizontally like a great graphic skyline.

As the realities of corporate control settled into the internet, the notion of infinite canvas has somewhat fallen out of popular memory (inhabit a medium long enough and you'll eventually bump up against its boundaries). Over the past eight months, however, the term is creeping back into popular use, courtesy of Ap-

catchy slogan -

and they think you're going to love it, too. McCloud's term presciently touches upon some of the larger paradigm shifts the company is hoping to foster with its new \$3,500 headset.

"Vision Pro creates an infinite canvas for apps that scales beyond the boundaries of a traditional display and introduces a fully three-dimensional user interface controlled by the most natural and intuitive inputs possible — a user's eyes, hands, and voice," Apple wrote in the first Vision Pro press release.

One thing to remember when discussing the Vision Pro is that it's a first-generation product. The notion of first-gen products carries a lot of baggage — both good and bad. On the positive side is ambition and excitement — the glimpses of the future that flash in front of your pupils in beautiful 4K. On the opposite end is the very real notion that this is the first volley in a much larger, longer war. First steps are often fraught with peril.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," according to a common paraphrase of an old Chinese proverb. But maybe The Proclaimers put it best: "Da-da dum diddy dum diddy dum diddy da da da."

But where McCloud's conception of the infinite canvas specifically applied to breaking free of the paper page by embracing the monitor, Apple's vision of "spatial computing" is an effort to go beyond that monitor. In some ways, the product succeeds brilliantly, but in much the same way that holding your hands up in one of Apple's "Virtual Enple's "Virtual En-

le's "Virtual Environments"
displays artifacting,
that vision
is currently
still rough
around the
edges.
(Tech-

(Tech-Crunch)

Yandex to sell its remaining Russian businesses for \$5.2B

YANDEX N.V., the Dutch parent company of the eponymous Russian internet giant, is selling the last of its remaining Russian businesses at a steep discount, following geopolitical pressures that emerged from Russia's invasion of Ukraine two years ago.

The value of the transaction, which will include the sale of all Yandex N.V. businesses in Russia and a handful of neighboring markets, will amount to around 475 billion rubles (\$5.2 billion) — roughly half of its market capitalization as per the average share price in the three months ending January 31, 2024.

Markdown

The reason for this markdown is due to a rule imposed by the Russian Government, which stipulates that any sale of Russian assets by parent companies incorporated in countries deemed "unfriendly" by Russia,

will be subject to a "mandatory discount" of at least 50 percent. And the Netherlands, as a member of an EU bloc that has imposed sanctions on Russia, falls into that "unfriendly" category.

For context, Yandex was founded way back in 1997 and eventually became known as "The Google of Russia," given that it sold products broadly similar to its U.S. counterpart including search, e-commerce, advertising, maps, transportation and more. But while Yandex's primary market was Russia, the company went public on the Nasdaq in 2011 via a holding company called Yandex N.V. registered in the Netherlands, followed by a secondary listing three years later on the Moscow Exchange.

Yandex had been performing well as a public company, hitting a peak market cap of \$31 billion in November, 2021.

(TechCrunch)



▲The Yandex Headquarters.

Namibia interim president says no plan to run in this year's election

WINDHOEK - Namibia's Nangolo Mbumba, who took over as interim president of the southern African country on Sunday after Hage Geingob died in office, said he had no plans to run in elections due at the end of the year.

That means Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who replaces Mbumba as vice president and was nominated by the governing South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) just over a year ago to be its candidate, will remain on the ballot.

If she wins, she will be the southern African nation's first female president.

"I am not going to be around for the elections so don't panic," Mbumba said in a move that is rare among African leaders who have often sought to retain power once it is in their hands.

"My aim was to be a school principal, which I achieved and now I have to thank the Namibian people for the honour they have bestowed on me to be their president, for a short period," Mbumba said at his swearing-in ceremony.

SWAPO's constitution forbids making changes once the candidate has been picked two years before the poll is due.

The party has ruled Namibia - a mining hotspot with abundant diamonds, uranium and also lithium needed for electric car batteries - since independence from South Af-

rica in 1990

Geingob, in power since 2015, died aged 82 in the early hours of Sunday after a brief battle with cancer.

"It is poignant and reassuring to note that today, even in this time of heavy loss, our nation remains calm and stable," Mbumba said. "This is owing to the visionary leadership ... of president Geingob who was the chief architect of the Namibian constitution."

Geingob leaves behind a middle-income country fighting to push economic growth above 3% following a pandemic-era slow-down and reverse racial inequalities left over from colonialism and annexation by South Africa's former white minority government.

He led Namibia's efforts to recast itself as a leader of the global green economy and in 2022 Namibia became the first African country to agree to supply the European Union with green hydrogen and minerals needed for clean energy.

Last year, Namibia began constructing Africa's first decarbonised iron plant, to be powered exclusively by green hydrogen - which is extracted from water using electrolysis powered by renewable energy - blazing a trail in the reform of steelmaking, one of the world's most polluting industries.

These developments put Namibia ahead of its economically bigger and more industrialised neighbour South Africa, whose green energy transition efforts have been faltering. (Reuters)



▲ Nangolo Mbumba swears in as president following the death of Hage Geingob, in Windhoek, Namihia

Senegal police fire tear gas at protest against election postponement

DAKAR - Riot police fired tear gas outside Senegal's National Assembly on Monday as crowds tried to gather to protest the postponement of the Feb. 25 presidential election, a move that caused anger and unrest over the weekend.

Lawmakers are set to debate a bill in parliament that would reschedule the election for Aug. 25 and extend President Macky Sall's mandate until his successor is installed.

Senegal has never postponed a presidential election, and Sall's announcement on Saturday pitched the West African nation into uncharted constitutional waters that threaten to further tarnish its reputation has a bastion of democratic stability in a region swept by coups.

The African Union on Monday joined a chorus of calls from regional bodies and Western governments for a new election date to be set as soon as possible.

Outside parliament, armoured police fired tear gas in an attempt to disperse around 100 people who had gathered to protest. They also made arrests, Reuters reporters said.

A widespread public outcry over the postponement has raised concerns the country will face violent protests like those that have intermittently broken out over concerns Sall would run for a third term and the alleged political sidelining of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko.

Sall said he delayed the election due to a dispute over the candidate list and alleged corruption within



A demonstrator waves a Senegalese national flag during protests in support of

the constitutional body that handled the list.

Several prominent opposition figures, including Sonko, were barred from running for president, stoking discontent about the election process.

But there has been strong pushback against the delay, which some opposition and civil society groups have called an "institutional coup". Some contenders have said they would still push ahead with campaigns meant to kick off over the weekend. Others have vowed to challenge the postponement in court.

At least two female presidential candidates were detained when police in riot gear broke up protests in the capital Dakar on Sunday, firing tear gas and rounding up participants.

The authorities also took local television channel Walf off air on Sunday and revoked its licence, Walf said in a statement.

Senegal's sovereign dollar bonds fell on Monday, with its 2023 bond dropping to its lowest level in more than two months, according to Tradeweb data.

Barclays warned against downplaying the risk of clashes between the opposition and security forces and said the election delay could lead to further democratic backsliding. "Such a postponement could open the door for subsequent postponements and allow the president to do many things," it said in a note.

(Reuters)

Egypt, France foreign ministers discuss Gaza

EGYPT'S top diplomat received his French counterpart Stephane Sejourne on Sunday in the New Administrative Capital.

In a news conference after the meeting, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry warned of a wider conflict in the region if a ceasefire was not reached in Gaza.

"The war in Gaza, the threats we are seeing towards the navigation in the Red Sea, the military operations that took place in Syria and Iraq as well as the military situation on the Israeli-Lebanese borders, all warns from the escalation of the situation and slipping towards a wider conflict," Shoukry said.

In his first official visit to the region, Sejourne said he rejects the forced displacement of Palestinians towards Egypt.

"You are worried about the forced displacement of people into your territory, we completely understand your concerns and the position of France is constant, we condemn and we refuse all actions that are a threat in this context."

Tensions have been rising in the region since October 7.

The European Union on Saturday expressed deep concern over reports that the Israeli military intends to take its battle against Hamas to the town of Rafah at Gaza's border with Egypt where more than a million people have escaped the fighting.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that around million Palestinians "have been displaced progressively against the Egyptian border. They claimed they were safe zones, but in fact what we see is that the bombing affecting the civilian population continues and it is creating a very dire situation."

Such an offensive could push the refugees into Egypt, undermining Israel's peace agreement with the country and angering the United

It might also torpedo slow-moving peace talks with Hamas and complicate efforts to release scores of Israelis abducted when the militant group rampaged through southern Israel on Oct. 7.

(AFP)

South Korea, Saudi Arabia sign agreement on defence cooperation

SEOUL - South Korea and Saudi Arabia on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding to expand defence cooperation, Seoul's Defense Acquisition Administration **Program** (DAPA) said, as Seoul looks to ink further arms sales in the region.

The agreement will see the two establish a joint committee to form a working group for weapons systems research and development as well as production to continue cooperation in defence, DAPA said in a press release on Monday.

Defence minister Shin Won-sik, who was visiting Riyadh for the World Defense Show as part of a week-long trip to the Middle East, and his Saudi counterpart Khalid bin Salman Al Saud were present during the signing of the agreement, according to DAPA.

A foundation of defence cooperation, which amounts to a "future-oriented strategic partnership," has been established, Shin was quoted as saying in a South Korean defence ministry press release.

Shin also held talks with Abdullah bin Bandar Al Saud, the minister of Saudi Arabia's National Guard, to discuss strengthening bilateral military cooperation and defence partnerships, the ministry said.

South Korea is looking to boost sales to become one of the world's largest suppliers of weapons, despite stiff competition from other global arms exporters.

Its arms sales jumped to \$17 billion in 2022 from \$7.25 billion the year before, data from the defence ministry showed.



▲ Saudi Arabia's newly appointed Defence Minister, Prince Khalid bin Salman Al-Saud is seen during his meeting in the Ministry of Defence in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

The country's weapons exports to the Middle East grew nearly tenfold between 2013 and 2022, according to the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In recent years, South Korean companies Hanwha, Poongsan and LIG Nex1 concluded deals with Saudi Arabia, collectively worth around \$989 million, for multiple rocket launchers, ammunition and electro-optical systems, and more deals could be in the works, according to a November report by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

"Arab Gulf states are looking to diversify their sources of defence procurement and partnerships beyond their traditional Western suppliers," the report said. "And Seoul can offer increasingly advanced equipment alternatives, often at competitive prices and with shorter lead times."

(Reuters)



🔺 Canada on Sunday announced a two-year extension to a ban on foreign ownership of Canadian housing, saying the step was aimed at addressing worries about Canadians being priced out of housing markets in cities and towns across the country.

Canada extends ban on foreign ownership of housing by two years

Sunday CANADA announced two-year extension to a ban on foreign ownership of Canadian housing, saying the step was aimed at addressing worries about Canadians being priced out of housing markets in cities and towns across the country.

Canada is facing a housing affordability crisis, opens new tab, which has been blamed on an increase in migrants and

international fueling students, demand for homes just as rising costs have slowed construction.

"As part of using all possible tools to make housing more afforda-🔺 Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia

for Canadians, the ban on foreign ownership of Canadian housing, which is currently set to expire on January 1, 2025, will be extended to January 1, 2027," Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said in a statement.

The Canadian government has said foreign ownership also has fueled worries about Canadians being priced out of housing markets in cities and towns across the country.

> Last month, Canada announced an immediate, two-year cap on international student permits and said it would also stop giving work permits to some students after graduation as it seeks to rein in record numbers of newcomers seen aggravating housing crisis.

> > (Reuters)

'France to summon Russia's ambassador'

PARIS - France will summon Russia's ambassador on Monday after the death of two French humanitarian workers following a Russian strike in Ukraine, and what Paris said was an upsurge in Russian disinformation, a French diplomatic source said.

Two French volunteer aid workers were killed and another three wounded in a Russian drone attack in the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson on Feb 1 in what Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne described as an act of "barbarity".

"France will reiterate its condemnation of the Russian strikes," said the diplomatic source. "It will also denounce an upsurge in disinformation targeting France."

Already frosty as the war in Ukraine nears its second anniversary, Franco-Russian relations have deteriorated further in recent weeks as Paris has increased its support to Ukraine, including promising to send more long-range cruise missiles.

It has accused Russia of habitually spread-

ing false information. At the end of January it dismissed any notion that Paris had mercenaries operating in Ukraine a day after Russian lawmakers adopted a resolution condemning French 'mercenaries' in Ukraine.

It has also accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of relaying false information after suggesting missiles that had downed a Russian plane carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war could have been from a French air de-

The foreign ministry has warned of further Russian disinformation ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Ukraine later this month.

Just two days after he announced new weapons' deliveries on Jan. 16, Russia's defence ministry said its forces had killed some 60 French mercenaries in a strike on a building in Kharkiv.

It did not provide evidence to back the assertion and France rejected the allegations.

(Reuters)



▲ French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne looks on as he meets with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry (not seen), amid the conflict between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

M Nation thrills in India

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

FROM Eswatini to India, one song at a time!

In a stunning display of Eswatini's rich cultural heritage, a talented musician from Pigg's Peak, M Nation, has captivated audiences at the Surajkund International Craft Mela Festival in India.

With his mesmerising performance alongside an Eswatini culture troupe, M Nation took fun lovers on a musical journey, showcasing the beauty and diversity of Eswatini's music and culture. Having arrived in India last Friday, M Nation and the culture troupe wasted no time in making their mark on the festival. On Sunday, they took to the stage, delivering a performance that left the audience in awe.

Through their performance, they painted a vivid picture of Eswatini's cultural dance and music, beautifully dressed in Eswatini traditional regalia. The cultural troupe consisted of Lutsango, Ingatja, and Imbali. Among the songs performed by M Nation were 'Limuva Lami' and 'Calvary.'

The Surajkund International Craft Mela Festival, now in its 37th edition, is renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and celebration of global cultures. Happening between February 2 to February 18, 2024, the festival is a hub of creativity, offering visitors a chance to immerse themselves in a rich tapestry of crafts, music, and cultural performances.

Wandile Ndlovu, popularly known as M Nation, has been making waves in the music industry since his debut in 2015. Hailing from the town of Pigg's Peak in Eswatini, his soulful voice and unique



▲ M Nation pictured performing in India.

musical style have won the hearts of audiences worldwide.

Talent

Last year, his talent was recognised when he emerged as one of the top ten winners of the prestigious MTN Bushfire Firefly competition. This achievement opened doors for him to perform at various highprofile events.

As the Surajkund International Craft

Mela Festival continues, M Nation and the culture troupe will embark on a 19-day tour of India.

They aim to promote Eswatini's cultural heritage, fostering cultural exchange and understanding between nations.



Trend Twins to headline a show in Mozambique

LOCAL DJs, Trend Twins have been invited to headline a show in the vibrant city of Maputo, Mozambique.

This talented DJ duo, consisting of Nkosenhle Dlamini and Nosimilo Dlamini, will take centre stage at the 'Fancy Summer' event, which will be hosted on February 24, 2024, starting at 3 pm.

With their upcoming performance in Mozambique, Trend Twins are set to bring their signature style to the South Beach of Maputo. The 'Fancy Summer' show promises to be an unforgettable experience, with the duo showcasing their ability to create an immersive atmosphere that will have the crowd dancing from start to finish.

Show

In an interview with the Trend Twins, they said they are 100 per cent for the Mozambique show. "This is our second 2024 show, and we are so excited," they said. The duo promised to deliver a fire performance at the event.

The Trend Twins, both in their twenties, have been making waves in the Afro House scene, captivating audiences with their unique sound and electrifying performances. What sets them apart is their ability to seamlessly blend different genres, creating a musical experience that transcends boundaries.

> Their journey began as part of a dance group, but it wasn't long before their passion for music led them to explore the world of DJing. Inspired by renowned artists such as Shimza, Cairo, and Da Capo, the duo honed their skills and quickly gained recognition for their exceptional talent.

Since joining forces in 2016, Trend Twins have been on an upward trajectory, leaving an indelible mark on the music industry. Their infectious beats and energetic stage presence have earned them a

well-deserved spot alongside some of the biggest names in the business.

Poetic General to headline War Words 4

RENOWNED Eswatini wordsmith, Poetic General, has been announced as the headliner for the highly anticipated poetry event, War Words 4, set to take place at Bethel Court.

The event's director, Anthonimass, expressed excitement over the selection, citing the intensity and captivating imagery in Poetic General's writings as the primary reason for his inclusion.

"He is not just a reciter of words; he is a true performer. Poetic General can captivate the audience's emotions, often leaving some in tears," Anthonimass explained. He further praised the poet's unique talent of bypassing the ears and speaking directly to the souls of the audience. "His artistic approach to writing makes him the perfect poet for War Words 4. We wanted a powerhouse of words, and Poetic General fits the bill," he added.

Scheduled for March 23, 2024, at Bethel Court Hotel, War Words 4 promises an afternoon of poetic brilliance that will leave the audience in awe. The doors to this poetic battleground will open at 1:30

pm, with tickets priced at E130. Attendees are encouraged to dress in casual black and camouflaged attire or opt for an allblack ensemble, setting the tone for an atmosphere charged with intensity and creativity.

Anthonimass urged the public, especially poetry lovers, to attend this captivating show. He also extended an invitation to those who have never experienced previous editions of the poetry event, encouraging them to give War Words 4 a chance.

"In addition to Poetic powerful General's performance, we have a line-up of talented poets from Eswatini and South Africa. To spice up the poetic mood, we have also included two musicians and two theatre productions," he revealed. The director promised unveil the rest of the featured poets and musicians next week, building

▶ Poetic General.

anticipation for an unforgettable event.

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini

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LOCAL entrepreneur, and author Bonkhe Shabangu, has sent waves of excitement through social media by announcing that his second book, titled 'Hustlerpreneurs Perspectives,' is 99 per cent complete.

Shabangu, known for his insightful writings and engaging public speaking, took to his verified Facebook page to share the news with his followers where he expressed joy in nearing the completion of his highly anticipated book.

"I've been saying that I am going to publish my second book. Saying it like I'm singing a song. Today, I announce to you that the book I started writing in 2019 is now 99 per cent complete," his post read.

Shabangu's upcoming book, 'Hustlerpreneurs Perspectives,' promises to be a treasure trove of practical insights and relatable life events, curated from both the Eswatini context and beyond. With a total of 228 pages, readers can expect to delve into the mind of a seasoned entrepreneur and gain valuable knowledge and inspiration.

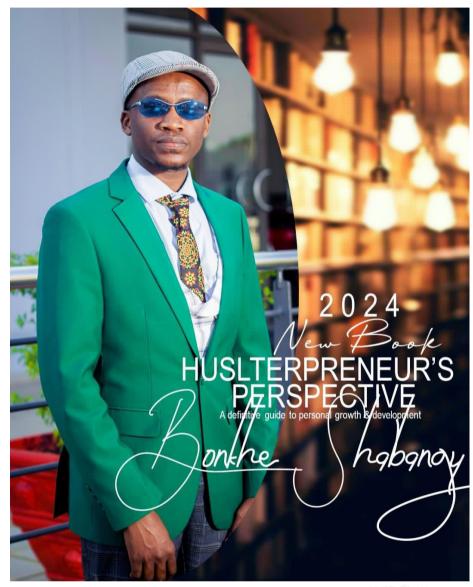
Shabangu has assured those who have read his first book, 'A Journey to a Definite Place of Purpose', and those anticipating the release of "Hustlerpreneurs Perspective" that 2024 is a better time to publish the book. With the unveiling of the front and back covers of the masterpiece, Shabangu has given his audience a glimpse into the visual aesthetics that will accompany his profound words.

Shabangu is not only an accomplished entrepreneur but also an educator, lifestyle influencer, and public speaker.

His dedication to engaging with young professionals, entrepreneurs, tertiary students, high school students, and rural communities has earned him a reputation as a mentor and role model. Through his involvement in brand influencer campaigns with prominent corporate brands in Eswatini, Shabangu has gained invaluable exposure to the corporate world, which he generously shares with others.

Bonkhe Shabangu's book:

'Hustlerpreneurs Perspectives,' nears completion



▲ Bonkhe Shabangu will publish a new book this year.

Lady Sphesh, DJ TPZ to drop 'Sikhiya Senhliziyo'

TALENTED local vocalist, Lady Sphesh, has joined forces with renowned South African producer DJ TPZ to create a love song titled 'Sikhiya Senhliziyo'.

Set to be released on February 14, 2024, 'Sikhiya Senhliziyo' will be available on all major digital platforms. Lady Sphesh revealed that the decision to release the song in February, the month of love, was intentional. The track is a tribute to love and is aimed at resonating with lovers around the world.

The recording and mixing of the song were expertly handled by TN\$ Savvy, while the final mastering was entrusted to the skilled hands of DJ TPZ. The result is an Afro-House masterpiece that celebrates the joy of being loved and appreciated by one's partner.

Lady Sphesh, although currently not in a romantic relationship, found the process of creating this song to be surprisingly easy. Drawing from her experiences and memories of being deeply in love, she effortlessly captured the essence of that euphoric feeling.

She described how the creative process began with a simple melody, which she then translated into heartfelt lyrics.

Notably, this is not the first time Lady Sphesh has collaborated with DJ TPZ, as they have a belt of successful hits to their names. The pair has already collaborated on songs like 'Nguwe', which has over 100 000 views on YouTube only, and 'Ngabe Yini', which has accumulated over 50 000 views on YouTube only.

Collaborating with the best producers in the music industry, such as DJ TPZ, has been an incredible experience for Lady Sphesh. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn from these talented individuals and praised the entire team for their unwavering support.

Lady Sphesh.



M Age

Emalovulovu line-up revealed

LOVE and poetry will intertwine at the highly anticipated Emalovulovu event, as the line-up for this enchanting evening has been revealed.

Poet Chie, M Age, and Bobo LaMkhabela are among the guests who will grace the stage, alongside the talented poets from the UNESWA Poetry Society (UPS) - Caregiver, Words, Zweli, Albus King, Tumelo, Wazi, and Mashay'nembeza.

The lineup for Emalovulovu showcases a diverse range of poetic styles and voices, ensuring a thought-provoking evening for all. Poet Chie is known for his soulstirring performances and profound insights, whilst M Age, with his unique blend of spoken word and storytelling, is a master of wordplay and word-split. Bobo LaMkhabela, known for her poem, 'Mhla Ngiya kaGocanyawo,' will also bring her raw poetry to the stage.

Scheduled for February 14, 2024, at the Commerce Lecture Theatre, Kwaluseni Campus, Emalovulovu promises to be a fun-filled experience for poetry enthusiasts and romantics alike.

Emphasised

As February is known as the month of love, the event organiser, Caregiver, emphasised that Emalovulovu is primarily dedicated to celebrating love through the art of poetry. He also made it clear that the show welcomes all who appreciate

the beauty of words, regardless of their relationship status.

"We want everyone to join us in experiencing the magic of poetry," he said.

The event will commence at 6:30 pm, with the ambiance set to transport attendees into a realm of deep and romantic spoken word poetry.

Caregiver shared that the inspiration behind Emalovulovu stems from the inherent connection between

poetry and love. "People have an innate love for poetry, and what better way to celebrate love than through the power of words," he revealed.

Tyla wins her first Grammy award

SOUTH African singer Tyla won her first Grammy Award for her hit song 'Water' which received international fame last year.

At the 66th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, the singer accepted her award for Best African Music Performance.

This is the first year the Best African Music Performance category was introduced to the awards.

The 22-year-old faced off with other tough African acts; Burna Boy, Ayra Starr, Asake, Olamide and Davido featuring South African artist Musa Keys. "If you don't know me, my name is Tyla. I'm from South Africa and last year God decided to change my whole life, so thank you so much to God," she said.

"Thank you to my team, my family; I know my mother's crying somewhere in here. Thank you to the Recording Academy for this category. It's so important and I know I'm forgetting some things, but I won a Grammy! Thank you, thank you."

Speaking to the Recording Academy af-





▲South African popstar Tyla with her Grammy. (Right) Businesswoman, rapper and influencer Boity with pop sensation Tyla at the 66th Grammy

ter accepting her first Grammy award, Tyla exclaimed how she was "shaking" and was honoured to win the award.

She told the reporter that her father already called dibs on the award and has already marked a place to put it in his room.

Social media has been buzzing with congratulatory messages for the singer.

(IOL)

Rapper Killer Mike arrested at the Grammy Awards

KILLER Mike was arrested at the Grammy Awards on Sunday.

The rapper — whose real name is Michael Render - was escorted out of the Crypto.com Arena in handcuffs, shortly after winning three of the four rap categories during the pre-show part of the ceremony, but it is unclear what cops had booked him for.

The Hollywood Reporter's Chris Gardner shared video footage of the incident on X, formerly Twitter, and wrote: "Breaking: Rapper Killer Mike has been taken away in handcuffs in Crypto arena after winning 3 #Grammys during telecast (Best Rap Song and Best Rap Performance for "Scientists & Engineers," Best Rap Album for Michael) "Free Mike" someone shouts as he walks past.

"An official tells someone on his team that it's possible he may be released later tonight from the arena. Unclear if he's being booked here and what he's charged with. Trying to find out. #Grammys"

He later wrote: "Just spoke to an official who tells me it's a misdemeanour and has nothing to do with anything that happened today here inside the arena. Likely he will be released once it's sorted. "It's a big nothing," source says.(sic)"

A Los Angeles Police Department spokesperson has yet to comment.

The arrest came shortly after Mike had spoken to media backstage about his wins, which come more than 20 years after hie career began.

He said: "It feels absolutely grand. If it feels like some people are reaching the finish line first, don't worry. Just keep running your race. The only thing stopping you is your imagination. It's our responsibility to be grand in every action."

(Bang Showbiz)

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▲Rapper Killer Mike.

Soulja Boy asks fans if he should apologize for dissing Blueface, Chrisean Rock's son

SOULJA Boy is asking his fans whether he should apologize to Blueface and Chrisean Rock for saying their baby has Down syndrome.

On Sunday (Feb. 4), Soulja Boy hopped on Instagram Live to chat with his fans, and asked them whether it'd be worth saying sorry to Blueface and Chrisean Rock for dissing their child in January.

Y'all think I should apologize to the opps for talking about their kids?" Soulja Boy said. "But I feel like they been talkin' about my kids first, right? Let that s**t go. Y'all let me know. If my fans want me to I will... I just feel like n***as was talkin' about my kids first. They ain't gonna apologize to me for talking about my son? But I just feel like that ain't in my character. I just really feel like I did this s**t just to respond to what they said. I don't know, Ima let my fans decide, what y'all think?"

Draco then let his fans sound off, and it appeared that most of those fans believed Draco didn't need to apologize. However, Soulja chose to be the bigger man.

"So you don't think I should apologize? Y'all I should just leave the whole situation alone? I don't know s**t been on my mind. So I'ma



▲ Controversial hip hop star Soulja Boy. say it like this. Chrisean I wanna apologize to you, but since your homie was talkin' crazy about my son. I had to talk crazy about his son, and I know he won't apologize to my baby mama for lyin' and talkin' crazy. So I would say that I'm sorry

you got caught in the middle of it.

He concluded, "You should leave that between me and him. I'm gonna be the bigger man because I'm just too viral, I'm too pretty. It's not an apology it's just an understanding."

(XXL Magazine)

21 Savage's American Dream is No. 1 for a second week

21 Savage's American Dream is No. 1 for a second week

Coming in at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart dated Saturday is Morgan Wallen's One Thing at a Time, followed by Drake's For All the Dogs at No. 3, Green Day's Saviors at No. 4 and Noah Kahan's Stick Season at No. 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Taylor Swift's 1989 (Taylor's Version) at No. 6, SZA's SOS at No. 7, Nicki Minaj's Pink Friday 2 at No. 8, Zach Bryan's self-titled record at No. 9 and Swift's Lover at No. 10.



▲Hip hop artist 21 Savage.

THEALTK News

ACCORDING to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), acne is the most common skin condition among children and adults in the United States.

Acne presents as various types of blemishes, or "pimples," that break out on the skin. These lesions can range from mild to severely inflamed.

Anyone can get scarring and hyperpigmentation from acne, regardless of their skin color. However, for Black people, scarring and hyperpigmentation may be more pronounced.

In this article, we will discuss how acne affects Black people, treatment options, and the importance of finding acne care catered to dark skin.

HOW DOES ACNE AFFECT BLACK PEOPLE?

Acne is a skin condition characterized by inflammatory and noninflammatory skin lesions. Blackheads, whiteheads, papules, pustules, nodules, and cysts are all different types of acne lesions.

There are many causes of acne, including hormones, hygiene, diet, and more.

While acne affects any skin color, Black people are more susceptible to a condition called post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation.

Hyperpigmentation happens when certain areas of the skin appear darker than others. Post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation occurs as a side effect of inflammatory skin conditions, such as acne.

According to a 2018 study, there are significant differences in how acne affects skin of color. In this study, researchers found that people with dark skin were more likely to experience post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation after an acne breakout

WHAT ARE THE TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR ACNE IN BLACK PEOPLE?

Treatment for acne begins by visiting a healthcare professional who can review your symptoms and medical history to determine what kind of treatment you need. This can be your primary care doctor or a skin specialist called a dermatologist. For more severe acne cases, your primary doctor will likely refer you to a dermatologist.

According to the AAD, seeking early treatment for acne is especially important for Black people and can help prevent complications from acne, like scarring and dark spots.

Acne treatment is generally the same for all skin types. It typically includes topical, oral, or combination therapy, depending on the severity of the acne. However, some of these treatment options are also beneficial for fading acne scars on dark skin.

DISPARITIES IN CARE FOR ACNE FOR BLACK PEOPLE

Researchers have found potential disparities in care and treatment for Black people with acne. One 2020 study found that non-Hispanic Black people with acne are less likely to receive prescriptions for oral treatment for acne than non-Hispanic white people.

A 2017 study found that Black people who have acne are less likely to visit a dermatologist for acne treatment. But researchers found that when Black people with acne were treated by a dermatologist, they were more likely to receive

Treatment options for black people with acne

... According to a 2018 study, there are significant differences in how acne affects skin of color. In this study, researchers found that people with dark skin were more likely to experience post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation after an acne breakout.







a variety of treatment options, including topical and oral antibiotics and isotretinoin.

This study illustrates the importance of seeing a dermatologist for treatment of acne, especially for people with dark skin.

The Skin of Color Society can be one resource for help finding a dermatologist with experience treating People of Color.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO HELP ACNE

While chronic acne generally benefits from professional treatment, there are some things you can do at home to help reduce the risk or severity of a breakout:

Apply sunscreen liberally. It's a myth that people with dark skin don't need sunscreen. In fact, frequently using sunscreen can help prevent further hyperpigmentation from acne. Use OTC treatments early. Treating acne early greatly reduces the chance of scarring and hyperpigmentation.

Check your hair products. Most hair care products designed for Black people contain oils to help keep hair soft and moisturized. Sometimes these oils can make acne breakouts worse.



Wash your fabrics often. Oils and bacteria that seep into bedding and hair accessories can easily spread to the face and lead to more acre.

WHY DO PEOPLE GET ACNE?

Acne develops when the pores of the skin become clogged with oil, bacteria, or shed skin cells. Acne can also develop during periods of hormonal change or even because of ingrown hairs. According to the AAD, common causes of acne include:

Genetics. Studies on genetics and acne suggest that people who have a close relative with severe acne may be more at risk of developing acne.

Hormones. Certain hormones, specifically androgens, lead to an increase in oil production in the skin and more clogged pores.

Stress. Stress can greatly affect hygiene, sleep, and other factors that may lead to a worsening of existing acne breakouts.

Sleep. Sleep is important for overall health and well-being, and getting too little sleep may increase your risk of an acne breakout.

Skin care. An effective skin care routine plays a huge role in keeping the skin clear



of bacteria, excess oil, dead skin, and other pore-clogging debris.

Diet. Poor dietary habits can impair the health of the skin, especially for people with inflammatory acne.

Nicotine. Some studies have suggested that people who smoke may be at a higher risk of developing acne lesions.

CAN YOU PREVENT ACNE?

From changing your skin care products to visiting with a dermatologist, here are some of the ways you can prevent acne breakouts:

Maintain a good skin washing routine to keep your skin clean and clear of bacteria, dead skin cells, and other debris.

Choose noncomedogenic makeup and skin care products to limit the amount of oil that can clog your pores.

Avoid popping pimples. Doing so can damage the skin and potentially lead to another outbreak, or scarring and hyperpigmentation.

Apply OTC acne treatments if you feel a breakout coming on to help prevent the possibility of eventual dark spots and scars.

Sometimes changes like maintaining a good skin care routine, limiting your exposure to oils, and other interventions aren't enough to prevent acne breakouts.

If these efforts don't prevent an acne flareup, visit a dermatologist as soon as possible to discuss your long-term treatment options.

WHAT'S THE OUTLOOK FOR BLACK PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACNE?

When acne causes post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation in dark skin, it can take anywhere from 6 to 12 months for the pigmentation to fade without treatment. Hyperpigmentation that runs deeper may take longer to heal.

However, with treatment, postinflammatory hyperpigmentation can be successfully treated.

Treatment of the underlying acne is crucial in reducing the severity of hyperpigmentation. Generally, this type of treatment requires a visit to a dermatologist for prescription medications and other treatment options.

The cost of a dermatologist visit varies depending on your location, the professional's level of expertise, and whether you have insurance. The same applies to your treatment costs.

As mentioned above, it can help to find a dermatologist who has experience with treating acne in people with dark skin. Choosing a specialist with experience in treating Black people can help assure you that you are receiving the best treatment options for your skin type.

With the right treatment, you should notice relief from hyperpigmentation and other acne scarring within a matter of months.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Acne can affect anyone of any skin type or color, but people with dark skin are at a higher risk of developing hyperpigmentation from acne.

Generally, the best course of action to prevent acne scars on dark skin is to treat acne early. Wear sunscreen, keep the skin clean, and use OTC products when necessary.

If at-home treatment isn't enough, just be sure to seek out a dermatologist who has experience treating acne in Black people.

Healthline

MORE and more Black mothers are breastfeeding their babies, but yet, there is still a major disparity between the number of white mothers who opt to breastfeed and their Black counterparts.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 86.7 percent of white babies are breastfed compared to 73.7 percent of Black babies.

WHY FEWER BLACK MOTHERS **BREASTFEED**

Andrea Freeman, PhD, the author of "Skimmed: Breastfeeding, Race, and Injustice," says there are many reasons historical, cultural, and practical — that Black women opt not to breastfeed or that they do so for a shorter period of time than their white counterparts.

"It is not always an individual choice," Freeman says.

Freeman suggests that doctors and their nursing staff make assumptions about Black women's interest in breastfeeding their babies. "They are not offered the same kind of assistance after giving birth," she says.

"In fact, many Black women are offered infant formula to feed their babies, without discussing the health benefits of breastfeeding."

Lisa North, 28, agrees. She gave birth 6 weeks ago and had planned to breastfeed in the hospital and continue as long as possible. "I was surprised when they gave me formula for my daughter, even though I kept saying no," she said. "My husband had to call my doctor to get it straightened

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that mothers breastfeed exclusively for the first 6 months of an infant's life.

But it can be an obstacle for Black moms who often have to return to their jobs earlier than other racial and ethnic groups. They have more challenges to breastfeeding or expressing milk during inflexible work hours.

And while the numbers of Black mothers who breastfeed is growing, they often find fewer support systems and role models among their friends and families.

Kimberly Seals Allers, journalist, breastfeeding advocate, and author of "Mocha Manual to a Fabulous Pregnancy" and "The Big Letdown: How Medicine, Big Business, and Feminism Undermine Breastfeeding," says that "as much awareness there is in communities of color, there are still negative perceptions of breastfeeding that have to be overcome."

BREASTFEEDING OFFERS BIG **BENEFITS**

There are so many direct health benefits to both mother and baby that can have an impact after birth but could also have longterm benefits.

Breastfed babies have been shown to have fewer gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses and a reduced risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and other causes of infant mortality.

Long term, children who are breastfed have fewer allergies, and a reduced risk for diabetes and obesity. The breastfeeding experience also supports and strengthens bonding between baby and mother, starting right after birth.

Black women stand to gain a variety of

Black mothers and breastfeeding



health benefits through breastfeeding.

Studies suggest that women who opted to breastfeed their babies were able to reduce their risk for:

- ▶ postpartum depression
- ▶ aggressive forms of breast cancer
- ▶ postpartum hemorrhage
- ▶ obesity
- ► metabolic syndrome
- ovarian and uterine cancers

GETTING BREASTFEEDING **SUPPORT**

Felicia Williams, 34, who gave birth last year and is still breastfeeding 9 months later, says, "I wanted to breastfeed, but I knew I wouldn't be able to keep going without support."

She gave birth at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, which is one of many medical facilities that have a "baby-friendly hospital" designation.

Baby-friendly hospitals have policies in place to support women as they seek to get off to a good start.

"Breastfeeding isn't always easy and can be a little stressful until you get the hang of it," Williams says. When she got to the point where she wanted to quit, she says she got additional support from some of the hospital's peer educators.

Peer educators — and lactation consultants who work in the community — can help guide a new mom through the challenges that might prevent them from continuing breastfeeding and help make sure their babies are thriving and getting enough nourishment.

Seals Allers says there is a lot that goes into supporting mothers and babies in breastfeeding successfully.

Hospitals and birthing centers wield enormous influence over the first days of life and play a critical role in determining breastfeeding success.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR **BREASTFEEDING**

- ▶ If you're thinking about breastfeeding, do your homework. Here are some things you can do to help prepare yourself for the breastfeeding journey.
- ► Talk to your doctor and their staff about breastfeeding.
- ► Talk to a certified lactation consultant. They're available to work with you at many OB/GYN offices and clinics.
- ▶ Talk to your partner and your family support system about your decision to breastfeed and the kind of support you'll need from them.
- ▶ Find out if there are Black Breastfeeding Clubs that are available to you.
- $\blacktriangleright\,$ Find a Facebook support group for Black breastfeeding mothers.
- Find women in your circle of family and friends who have breastfed their babies that you can call for support.
- ► Talk to your employer about what supports are available to you when you return to work. Will you be able to take breaks to pump your milk? Is there a way to refrigerate the milk, or will you be allowed to bring in a
- ▶ Make sure you talk to and work out a plan with your daycare provider regarding giving your baby breast milk over formula.

Reach out to organizations like the Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association (BMBFA) to find support. Healthline

u+ **©CBS ©CBS**

▲ Tyla poses with the Best African Music Performance award at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, U.S.



 \blacktriangle Karol G accepts the award for Best Musica Urbana Album for Manana sera bonito.



 \blacktriangle SZA accepts the award for Best R&B Song for Snooze during the 66th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Memorable moments from the Grammy Awards



lacktriangle Jay Z accepts the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award as his daughter Blue Ivy Carter looks on.



▲ Burna Boy performs.



▲ Travis Scott performs.

BARCELONA - A Spanish court on Monday rejected ex-Brazil footballer Dani Alves' argument that he had suffered trial by media and should be given more time to prepare for his criminal prosecution for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman in Barcelona in 2022.

The 40-year-old former Barcelona defender was arrested in January last year and has since been held on remand in a jail outside the city.

The public prosecutor accuses Alves of forcing the woman to have sex and of not using a condom and is seeking a nine-year prison term and for Alves to pay damages worth 150,000 euros (\$163,215) to his alleged victim. Alves initially denied any sexual encounter with the woman whom he said he did not know. He later said he had consensual sex with her in the VIP bathroom of a nightclub, adding that he had denied it originally to protect his marriage.

Alves, dressed in blue jeans and a white shirt, sat on the front row in a courtroom at the Provincial Court of Barcelona, the highest in the province, as his trial began on Monday. His mother, accompanied by one of his brothers, blew kisses and made a heart-shaped sign with her hands as Alves, handcuffed and escorted by police officers, entered the room.

The three-judge panel denied a

Dani Alves' bid to suspend sexual assault trial rejected

request by Alves' lawyer Ines Guardiola for the trial to be suspended on the basis that he was not given enough time to prepare for his first police interview after his arrest and had suffered a parallel trial by media. The case has attracted significant attention not only due to Alves' profile as one of the greatest players of all time.

Sexual assault is a dominant political theme in Spain, even more so after the alleged non-consensual kiss that then Spanish Football Federation chief Luis Rubiales planted on the lips of Jenni Hermoso after the team's World Cup triumph last August.

Alves' trial is one of Spain's highest profile since a 2022 law from the socialist-led government made consent a key factor in sexual assault cases and increased minimum jail time for such assaults involving violence.

The law was prompted by the 2016 gang-rape of a teenager during the San Fermin bull-running festival after the five men were originally convicted by a lower

court of sexual abuse, sparking mass protests. The country's top court subsequently ruled they were guilty of rape.

The case triggered national soul-searching on the topic that continues to this day as gender violence rates remain high.

In Spain, a claim of rape is now investigated under the general accusation of sexual assault, with rape as an aggravating factor.

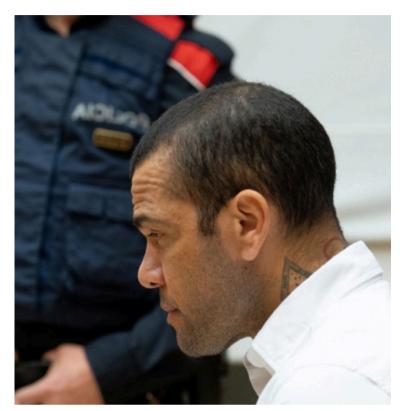
The Alves trial is expected to last three days.

The alleged victim testified on Monday in a closed doors session. She talked from behind a screen, with her voice distorted to protect her identity.

A total of 30 people will give evidence, with Alves due to take the stand last.

Alves has won more than 40 trophies for Brazil and clubs including Barcelona, Sevilla, Juventus and Paris St Germain. Following his arrest, he was fired by Mexico's Pumas UNAM.

(Reuters)



▲ A Spanish court on Monday rejected ex-Brazil footballer Dani Alves' argument that he had suffered trial by media and should be given more time to prepare for his criminal prosecution for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman in Barcelona in 2022.

Osaka aims to return to top spots this year

FORMER world number one Naomi Osaka believes she can get back amongst the top spots in the rankings by the end of the year as the Japanese player draws inspiration from being a new mum.

The four-time Grand Slam champion suffered an early Australian Open exit following 15 months out of the sport after having her first child but is confident of getting back to the top as she prepares for the WTA 500 event in Abu Dhabi. "I obviously have so much respect for (the top-ranked players) and everything that they've done. But I don't really see myself as a challenger, which is a weird thing," Osaka told The National in an interview published on Monday.

"It's really bold to say but I know what I'm capable of and I know people are going to probably drag me for saying this, but I don't think it's a stretch for me to say that I see myself there. "I hope that I can get there this year, hopefully towards the tail-end of the year. But if not I'm okay with being patient, I've always been a patient person, so I'll get there eventually."

There will clearly be sacrifices to get back to the top for the 26-year-old, who in July became a first-time mum, but her daughter Shai is motivating Osaka to reach her objectives

"I'm always the type of person that would rather set really high goals and maybe I'll do only 25 percent of that but the 25 percent is still really amazing," Osaka said. "I don't think that I'd have come back and be like, 'Oh my goal is to get to the quarter-final of a slam', which is still really good, but that's not why I'm spending time away from Shai."

Osaka, who plans to play tournaments in Dubai, Indian Wells, Miami and Charleston



▲ Former world number one Naomi Osaka believes she can get back amongst the top spots in the rankings by the end of the year as the Japanese player draws inspiration from being a new mum.

to get back into her rhythm, said becoming a mum had helped her gain a new perspective.

"I really think having Shai balanced me out a lot," she said. "It feels nice to know that no matter what happens, someone's going to be there that loves you and cares about you.

"Of course I'm not saying she's the only person. But for some reason she's the only one that I think about."

Osaka faces 71st-ranked American and 2022 Australian Open finalist Danielle Collins, 30, in the round of 32 at the Abu Dhabi Open on Tuesday.

(Reuters)

Ex-Bafana star out on bail for assault

FORMER Bafana Bafana player and retired football star Thandani Ntshumayelo made a brief appearance in the Randburg magistrate's court on Monday before being released on bail. Ntshumayelo, who was taken into custody on Saturday on charges of domestic violence, was granted R1 000 bail.

The former Orlando Pirates and Super-Sport United midfielder faces charges of assault under the Domestic Violence Act after his girlfriend opened a criminal case against him.

He is accused of striking his girlfriend with an open hand and hitting her against the wall. The case has been postponed to April 4 for further investigation.

Itumeleng Alice, Ntshumayelo's girlfriend, declined to comment after the postponement of the criminal case.

Ban for testing positive for drugs

In 2016, Ntshumayelo was slapped with a four-year ban after he tested positive for drugs.

He entered a guilty plea, received a fouryear ban, and the management at Orlando Pirates terminated his contract, causing his career to prematurely slow down.

Nevertheless, the prohibition was revoked following his successful appeal.

In June 2023, the former dribbling wizard made an announcement that he was hanging up his boots for good. He was 33 years old at the time.

"After careful consultation and lengthy consultation with my family, I've decided to officially announce my retirement from football with immediate effect," he said in a statement that was released in June 2023.

"I feel privileged to have realised my dream

of becoming a professional footballer."

Ntshumayelo has played for the national



▲ Former Bafana Bafana player and retired football star Thandani Ntshumayelo

team, SuperSport United, Orlando Pirates, Baroka, and Swallows. A warrant of arrest issued for Gabuza

Meanwhile, Thamsanqa Gabuza, another former Orlando Pirates player, has an arrest warrant issued for him

This follows his non-attendance in court regarding a charge of intentionally causing damage to property.

The striker is scheduled to return to court on February 15 and give a justification for his absence.

Gabuza, who also played for SuperSport United as a striker, is currently plying his trade with Premier Soccer League club TS Galaxy. The 36-year-old is out on R3 000 bail. (Sunday World)



FRICA CUP OF NATIONS Cóte d'ivoire 2023



Broos wary of Nigeria challenge

SOUTH Africa coach Hugo Broos is wary of an ever-improving Nigeria, but believes his side can keep their surprise run going at the Africa Cup of Nations and come out victorious in Wednesday's semifinal in Bouake.

Bafana Bafana booked their berth with a dramatic 2-1 penalty shoot-out victory over Cape Verde in which goalkeeper Ronwen Williams saved a tournament record four spot-kicks.

They have now kept four clean sheets in a row, as have Nigeria, and it is set to be a titanic clash between two old foes, even if the Super Eales likely go in as favourites.

"Nigeria are a team who have become better and better with every game at this Afcon," Broos said. "It's a good team and a very good side with a few good players like the one, what's his name? Look ... (Ademola Lookman). The one who scored the goal.

"He is a very good player. We have to analyse them a little bit more now that we know we are playing against them in the semifi-

"We will see how we can use the weaknesses in this team and be aware of the qualities of this team. It's going to be a little bit special because in a few months we are playing in the World Cup qualifiers. So, it can be a test for the both of us."

Not many inside or outside South Africa expected to see Bafana in the semifinals, but their excellent organisation and desire from the players has pushed them to this point.

"This means a lot," Broos said. "We came here and, I think, there were many people in South Africa who didn't believe in the team. But we believed in it, the fact that it could happen, and it hap-

"It is a very good thing for South African football. South African players are in the picture now. That means there will be more interest in South African football.

"And I hope that those who saw the games, and there will be a lot of people who saw the games, are now convinced that the PSL [Premier Soccer League] level has to be higher.



Egypt sacks head coach Elephants to continue roller-coaster ride?

2023 Africa Cup of Nations hosts Ivory Coast will look to continue their roller-coaster ride of a tournament when they face DR Congo in a semifinal clash at Alassane Ouattara Stadium in Abidjan on the evening of Wednesday 7 February 2024. Kick-off is at 10pm CAT.

Ivory Coast continued to ride their luck in the tournament: after narrowly squeezing through the group stage and then overcoming Senegal on penalties, the Elephants defied being both a goal down and having two men sent off to defeat Mali 2-1 after extra time in an incredible quarterfinal this past Saturday evening. Simon Adingra and Oumar Diakite scored the key goals for Ivory Coast as they recorded a victory which has the host nation be-

lieving that they are destined for glory. DR Congo, after record-

four

draws in the

(three in Group

F against Zambia,

Morocco and Tan-

zania, and then,

tournament

successive

ing

in the round of 16, a 1-1 stalemate after extra time with Egypt before edging through on penalties), finally clicked into their higher gears this past Friday evening when they came from a goal down to trump Guinea 3-1, thanks to goals from Chancel Mbemba, Yoane Wissa and Arthur Masuaku.

Suspension

Ivory Coast will be without Odilon Kossounou and Oumar Diakite due to suspension, as both were sent off in the quarterfinal against Mali. Wilfied Singo or Willy Boly are the likely

replacements for the former in the starting XI, while the latter's absence gives the Elephants fewer attacking options off the bench.

DR Congo players celebrate after knocking out Egypt.

DR Congo has the road." Ivory Coast: Seko Fofana remains

ported injury or suspension worries and are likely to select the same XI that did duty against Guinea in the previous round.

Hugo Broos.

"We need to revise how we start our games, we have to master the game from the beginning and not to be obliged to have a lot of pressure," said Ivory Coast caretaker coach Emerse Fae, who added: "We were not far from being eliminated [against Mali], the players especially, didn't give up, they fought into

"Now it's possible to go to the final," said DR Congo coach Sebastien Desabre. "I think we had the victory we deserved. We met a great Guinean team who gave us tactical problems. It wasn't easy, but the most important thing is to continue on

> player for Ivory Coast and he put in a performance of both great technical quality and selfless endeavour help his team shrug off the disadvantage of playing most of the

120 minutes against Mali a man down. Also keep an eye out for Sebastien Haller, who is gaining in form and fitness, and the aggressive Simon Adin-

(Supersport)

RUI Vitoria has been sacked as Egypt head coach after the African football giants hopes of a record-extending eighth Africa Cup of Nations triumph were dashed last week, the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) an-

In a statement, the EFA board of directors "thanked Portuguese manager Rui Vitoria and his staff," adding it was "reviewing foreign coaches' resumes".

nounced.

In the interim, former al-Ahly coach Mohamed Youssef would take charge of the national side, who were knocked out of the competition last week in a dramatic penalty shootout against the Democratic Republic of Congo. The loss in the

last 16 was a bitter pill for the Egyptians, who had gone to Ivory Coast hoping to win a first Cup of Nations since 2010, a year before talisman

Mohamed Salah made his senior international debut.

here because the hunger is big to play the

final on Sunday." (Supersport)

The team had already lost the Liverpool star to a hamstring injury, after what local pundits called a lacklustre group stage performance with three draws.

The EFA had last week "apologised" to Egyptian fans for "not achieving their ambitions".

Vitoria, whose tenure with the Pharoahs lasted under two years, is among a host of Afcon coaches on their way out.

The tournament has been a success for the continent's underdogs, and disappoint-

ing for its heavyweights. The five top-ranked African nations were all knocked out before the quarterfinals, as well as the four semifinalists from the last edition.

> (Supersport)

▲Egypt has fired coach Rui Vitoria

A league with mixed emotions!

By Sibusiso Masilela

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THE MTN Premier League continued to thrill, shock and surprise fans following batch 16 of matches.

We will give you a full review of the past weekend's Y'ello action.

1. Green Mamba's biggest shock

Defending champions Green Mamba were the biggest shock of the week following their 2-0 defeat to Illovo. The green and white side has now recorded a win in the second round, which should be a cause for concern for the Ernest Mavuso-led charges.

The result helped ease relegation fears for the sugar belt side, as they further completed a double over the Correctional Services ensemble.

2. Leopard consolidates top spot

Royal Leopard has taken charge of the title race after consolidating the top spot with a 4-2 win over Manzini Wanderers. The police side have picked up form in the second round since their 2-0 win over Green Mamba and they are currently leading the log standings with 31 points after 16 games.

3. Junior closes in on Sikhali

Royal Leopard playmaker Junior Magagula has put more pressure on Green Mamba marksman and current top goal-scorer Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa.

Magagula now has 11 goals under his belt, two behind Ndzinisa and was one of the scorers during the 4-2 drubbing of Manzini Wanderers on Saturday at Mavuso Sports

4. Moment of silence for the late 'Ndezi' Masangane

The late legend Bongani 'Ndezi' Masangane was honoured with a moment of silence during the Game 16 batch of matches.

The ex-Black Leopards and Mbabane Highlanders star was laid to rest on Saturday morning after a short battle with an undisclosed illness while being treated at Mbabane Government Hospital.

5. Pirates still winless in 16 matches

The struggle continues for Moneni Pirates, as they remain winless in 16 matches after their 1-all draw against Denver Sundowns on Sunday at Tambankulu Stadium. The 'Sea Robbers' are still sailing low on the log table, as they are rooted at the bottom of the table with 10 points after 16 matches.

6. Four teams in relegation headache

Four teams are in the relegation dilemma and the culprits include Moneni Pirates, Manzini Wanderers, Denver Sundowns and Rangers. Two teams within the quartet with certainly kiss Premier League football goodbye at the end of the season.

7. Nsingizini, Ezulwini United luring supporters from big teams

The leading marketing trend and vision of both Nsingizini Hotspurs and Ezulwini United are certainly winning the hearts of many supporters from the traditional big three teams in the country, especially Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders.

Wanderer's super fan Sidumo Ngwenya was seen clad in Nsingizini colours during their 1-0 over Manzini Wanderers.

...Defending Champions, Green Mamba's shock defeat to Illovor elegates the 'Correctional Services' side to the fourth spot while Leopard take a two-point lead and Moneni Pirates record their first win of the season



▲ Manzini Wanderers were beaten 2-4 by log leaders Royal Leopard.



▲ Manzini Wanderers supporter Sidumo Ngwenya was glad in Nsingizini Hotspurs regalia on Sunday during the MTN Premier League.



▲ Manzini Wanderers supporter Sidumo looks dejected while watching his team losing 2 - 4 against Royal Leopard on Saturday.



lacktriangle Royal Leopard players celebrate their 4-2 win over Manzini Wanderers on Saturday.



▲ Green Mamba who dropped to fourth place in the league standings.

Judoka Lamulela unstoppable in African Champs preparations



▲ Lamulela Magagula shows her gold and silver medals that she won in Johannesburg, South Africa this weekend, next to her is coach Sensei Mashumi Sihlongonyane.

Stories by Ntokozo Magongo

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THE Sky is the limit for Judokass Lamulela Magagula who won two medals in the Gauteng Open in her preparations for the Judo African Championships to be held in Cairo, Egypt from April 25-28 2024.

Magagula has intensified her preparations as she hopes to make it to the African Championships. In her preparation she has been attending training at the High Performance Centre (HPC) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

The process began with Bulgarian coach Sensei Nicolai who, after the expiration of his contact as Head Coach at HPC, handed over to South African coaches Sensei Zack and Sensei Patrick.

Those preparations saw her attending the Gauteng Open on the 3rd February 3 (Saturday) at Wits University where she won a gold medal in Group 5 for athletes born between 2004 and 2006. Lamulela was born in 2005 but she also entered the seniors Group 6 for athletes born in 2003 and earlier and she won a silver medal in that division.

Magagula attended the competition under the guidance of her coach Sensei Mashumi Sihlongonyane, who participated in 4 World Championships.

The Eswatini Judo Federation, through the President, has collaborated with the High Performance Training Centre at UP as well as Judo Mozambique for Eswatini judokas to train with them thereby providing them with international exposure.

Athletes will train in Maputo next weekend and will attend the South African National Ranking Event in Pretoria on the February 24.

"EJF is very proud of Lamulela's achievement especially because she has managed to balance her academic career with her judo career. We are working hard to equip four other athletes earmarked to form the male team for representation at the NRE in SA," said Sensei Tertius Esterhuysen, Eswatini Judo Head Coach.



▲Jwaneng Galaxy's Mxolisi Mkhonto in action for his team.

Mxolisi inspires Jwaneng to second spot

BOTSWANA's Jwaneng Galaxy new acquisition Mxolisi Mkhonto inspired his side to the second spot of the Botswana Premier League on his full debut.

Mkhonto who joined the Botswana side last month was given a start in the match against VTM on Sunday and they went on to win it 1-0, climbing the ladder from third sport to second, behind, Township Rollers.

Jwaneng Galaxy have secured maximum points since Mkhonto joined them as he debuted for the club on the bench and he was a late substituted in the 1-0 over Security System last Wednesday.

Galaxy have 28 points after 11 matches while the leaders, Township Rollers are leading with 31 points having played four games more. Jwaneng Galaxy will be back in action on Wednesday when they face Gaborone United in one of their pending fixtures.

Meanwhile, all is not well for former Mbabane Highlanders Banele 'Stiga' Ndzabandzaba's side, Botswana Police XI. The team is facing relegation. They are third from bottom of the table.

The country has two players playing in the Botswana Premier League where they are reported to be earning better than the locals as their salaries are above E15 000.

'Bhubesi' roars in Manzini Singles tournament

By Sibusiso Masilela

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POOL star Nkosinathi 'Bhubesi' Sihlongonyane roared into the top spot of the Manzini Singles tournament.

The national team player managed to beat Siyabonga Dlamini 7-6 during the finals played on Sunday at Manzini pool club.

He took home E2 000 first prize money while runner up Dlamini received E1 000.

The E1 000 third prize went to Khanyo Simelane while veteran player Flag Nxumalo

received the same prize money after finishing fourth.

Sihlongonyane dedicate success to hard work.

"I am happy with my achievement in the tournament which is a result of resilience and commitment. I would like to thank my family for supporting me especially my wife especially my wife for supporting in my career," he said.

Meanwhile the tournament coordinator Sithembiso 'Dodge' Matsebula congratulated the champion for his success.

"Congratulations to the champion for his splendid performance on the day as the tournament helped players prepare for the new season. We would like to thank our sponsor Solomon Shongwe for supporting the tournament which contributes towards the development of sports in the country," he said.

The full results: Semi-finals

Siyabonga Dlamini 7-6 Khanyo Simelane Bhubesi Sihlongonyane 7-4 Flag Nxumalo

Final

B Sihlongonyane 7-6 Siyabonga Simelane

The prize breakdown

1. Bhubesi' Sihlongonyane
2. Siyabonga Dlamini
3. Khanyo Simelane
4. Flag Nxumalo
E 2000
E1 000
E600



▲Manzini singles tournament champion Nkosinathi 'Bhubesi 'Sihlongonyane receives his E 2 000 prize from Manzini Pool club owner Solomon Shongwe on Sunday.

Bull' put Enzo on ice for 30 days

... Mbabane Highlanders have done a first, suspending midfielder Enzo Motsa for 30 days even after he won his disciplinary case where he had been charged for misconduct recently.

By Sibusiso Masilela

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A first of its kind!

Mbabane Highlanders have put midfielder Enzo Motsa on ice despite the player winning his misconduct case during a recent disciplinary hearing.

The ex-Mbabane Swallows and Denver Sundowns player won't be part of the team's activities for the next 30 days.

The player is set to miss the Ingwenyama Cup quarter-finals clash against Ezulwini United and the next four league fixtures against Royal Leopard, Illovo, and Nsingizini Hotspurs.

He has already missed the 'Black Bull's 1-0 win over the 'Stingers' on Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

The player was recently reinstated to the team after being hauled before a disciplinary committee together with Ndumiso Mabuza, goalkeeper Mxolisi Dlamini and Mandla Palma, who later left the club.

Motsa and Mabuza formally apologised before the team's boss Chief Ally Kgomongwe.

Palma and Dlamini both left the team before the second transfer deadline on Friday evening.

Highlanders Public Relations Officer (PRO) Kenneth Dlamini neither denied nor confirmed the latest when contacted.

"The player has been excused from the team activities after the technical bench felt he is now behind in terms of fitness with the rest of the team. He has been



▲ Mbabane Highlanders midfielder Enzo Motsa.

given a special training program to follow during the period," he said.

Motsa is on his second stint with the black and white ensemble since the 2015/16 season during the era of former Boss Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane.

The two times Ingwenyama Cup finalists

recently enlisted the services of two



'Papi' eyeing top eight finish with Wanderers

By Sibusiso Masilela sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

MANZINI Wanderers new signee Xolani 'Papi' Sikhondze is targeting a top eight finish with his new team.

The veteran midfielder said this after joining the 'Weslians' during the transfer deadline on Friday.

"I am happy to be back in the team, I am here to fight so that we can survive relegation and get a top eight finish. I have been warmly welcomed by the entire team and I'm confident that we will achieve our goal at the end of the season," he said.

The crowd-pullers also confirmed the signing of three international players in Hasan Balogun (Nigeria), Zicco Luyaba (DR Congo) and Junior from Mozambique. The 'Weslians' Chairman of the Managing Committee (MC) Berger Nxumalo said they were still finalising paperwork for the foreign trio. "We are happy to have the trio on board. This is part of our efforts to assemble a strong squad that will help us survive relegation," he said.

The international trio has joined the likes of Simanga Shongwe, Sidumo Dlamini, Majaha Nhlabatsi and Sibusiso Mkhonta in the list of new signings for the struggling hub crowd-pullers. The Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe will take on their hoodoo side Madlenya in their MTN League outing where they will look to improve their current log standings.

The maroon and white ensemble is currently sitting on position 13 with the same number of points after 16 matches.

➤ Xolani 'Papi' Sikhondze.



▲ Ezulwini United's Mphucuko 'Smoothies'

We want revenge -'Smoothies'

By Sibusiso Masilela

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EZULWINI United will be out for revenge against Mbabane Highlanders when the two teams' cross paths in the Ingwenyama Cup quarter-final this forthcoming weekend.

The 'Stingers' captain Mphucuko 'Smoothies 'Dlamini after their 1-0 loss against the capital city giants in a league clash played on Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

"We will be out for a win during the cup match against Highlanders. We cannot afford to lose to the same team twice in a row and we have rectified the mistakes which we made during the league encounter," he said.

Goals

The ex-Moneni Pirates attacking player also stated that his target was to help the team reach greater heights.

This is despite being the current top goal scorer in the prestigious knockout tournament with five goals.

"My main goal is to see the team doing well in the tournament and the award will come as a bonus. We urge our supporters to attend our next match in numbers and we promise not to disappoint them in the upcoming match," he said.

The Mphumelelo 'Mapho' Ngwenya recently enlisted the services of Mandla Palma (Mbabane Highlanders) and Eric Kazardi (Moneni Pirates) in the recent transfer window.

However, Palma won't be part of the cup tie after featuring for his former team in the same tournament.



We want revenge -'Smoothies'

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... Mbabane Highlanders have done a first, suspending midfielder Enzo Motsa for 30 days even after he won his disciplinary case where he had been charged for misconduct recently. *Page 23*