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/ Gallo Images



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- SACP says corruption and irregular expenditure must stop

Play my music — demands Moonchild page 3

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SABC's Mxakwe 'a boss from hell'

Wotshela writes grievance letter over GCEO's actions

By **Aubrey Mothombeni**
Mothombeni@sundayworld.co.za

SABC GCEO Madoda Mxakwe has been labelled a bully and accused of abuse of power by a group executive, who claims he has been trying to purge her.

The GCEO is also accused of having instructed SABC head of IT, Craig van Rooyen, to hack her e-mails and those of former COO Chris Maroleng while they were on a work trip in Limpopo.

Nada Wotshela, group executive for radio, also revealed that the SABC top boss always humiliated her publicly during staff meetings and sometimes in the presence of junior staff, portraying her as an incompetent executive.

Mxakwe has also been accused of ordering a clandestine investigation against SABC head of provinces Leuba Ramakgolo, to find dirt he could use in order not to renew his contract.

All these details are contained in a grievance letter filed by Wotshela and sent to SABC

board chairperson Bongumusa Makhathini and other board members.

According to the letter, dated March 19, Wotshela said she nearly resigned after one of the confrontations during which he allegedly labelled her an incompetent executive.

However, Maroleng, who was her line manager at the time, convinced her not to.

She mentioned in the letter several events instigated by the GCEO that left her hopeless and feeling defeated.

Among the events Wotshela listed was the hacking of her e-mails and those of Maroleng.

She said Maroleng received a call from Van Rooyen, informing him that he had been asked by Mxakwe to give him access to their e-mails. She said she was shocked by the request, saying that to this day, she still does not

know what she was being investigated for.

She said she was also put under pressure by Mxakwe to suspend or discipline Bonga Mpanza, the former SABC KZN provincial GM, despite the fact that there was no solid evidence linking him to any wrongdoing.

Wotshela detailed an inci-

dent during which she was put under pressure by Mxakwe to discipline an employee and her line manager for allegedly using her personal credit card to pay for certain elements of the Metro FM Music Awards. She said she had chosen to subject the employee to a progressive DC for saving a dire situation,

but she said Mxakwe was not happy, and he used the situation to question her leadership skills, accusing her of letting the employees off the hook.

She also detailed another incident where Mxakwe lashed out at her in his office in the presence of three colleagues after she cautioned against the publishing of a DC report of an employee who had turned to Facebook to criticise the SABC's decision to terminate her contract.

She said Mxakwe accused her of being indecisive and poor leadership in front of her colleagues. She said she nearly resigned after this incident, but said she was stopped by her line manager from doing so.

On abuse of power allegations, Wotshela said Mxakwe had instructed Maroleng and Van Rooyen to formulate charges against her. She said he never did because they knew she had done nothing wrong to warrant such action against her.

The straw that broke the camel's back, according to Wotshela's grievance letter, was a recent event during the Coronavirus pandemic after employees were allowed to travel to Morocco to attend a conference.

She said she was asked by Mxakwe to attend to a complaint by a shop steward, but said he later lashed out at her because the employees had already left the country. She said Mxakwe had accused her of putting the country at risk, despite that there was no travel ban at the time.



Madoda Mxakwe. / Gallo Images

Wotshela's letter

"It has taken me the longest time and serious anguish to get to this point where I find myself having no option but to file a grievance... I have endured bullying and the most acrimonious treatment at the hands of the SABC GCEO.

The events of the past week and even this week have demonstrated to me that this will never end until I do something about it. This treatment started few months after the

GCEO joined the organisation and at the time I dismissed it.

"I thought it to be the behavior of somebody who does not understand the broadcasting environment, hoping that he will soon learn that some of the things that vex him are part of the environment we operate in... However, months went by and the attacks and abuse of power continued and got even worse, to a point where last year I was seriously considering resigning."

SABC responds

SABC spokesperson Mmoni Seapolole said: "The SABC can confirm that the group executive for radio, Ms Nada Wotshela, submitted a grievance letter to the SABC board against the SABC's GCEO, Mr Madoda Mxakwe.

"All allegations made will be dealt with in an independent forum where both executives will be afforded an opportunity to deal with the issues raised."

Mxakwe instructed Maroleng to formulate the charges

Borothis in line for prestigious global UN award

'Isibaya' actress flies SA flag higher

By **Nokuthula Zwane**
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Isibaya actress Ayanda Borothis is flying the South African flag higher during the uncertain times of the Coronavirus following her nomination for the United Nations Most Influential People of African Descent, Under 40, Global 100 List.

Borothis, who was locked up at home during the national lockdown period, said she was

humbled by the recognition.

Among other prominent personalities previously awarded is *Black Panther* lead actor Chadwick Boseman and the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, in 2018.

"It's humbling. I think what it has certainly done for me is cement the ideology of 'a new normal' that everyone keeps talking about at this time," she said.

Honorees are decision-makers in over 60 countries worldwide and are selected based on political clout, business acumen, social media following and humanitarian endeavors



Ayanda Borothis

in support of UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

The actress, author of best seller *Unbecoming To Become*, philanthropist and activist, added: "Activism is not just about being on the ground, but it can manifest in different ways. The norm of activism itself is being redefined."

Borothis is best known for playing the role of Nomzamo in the SABC1 sitcom *Nomzamo* since 2007. She has since played many roles in popular television productions like *Soul City*, *Home Affairs*, and her cur-

rent leading role as Phumelele on Mzansi Magic's award-winning drama series *Isibaya*.

This nod comes before her work as the director of Phatha-Africa was publicised. Phatha-Africa is an initiative that includes the Between Brothers for Boys and The Becoming Space for Girls programmes; which equip young people with life skills through workshops covering personal, spiritual, and leadership development, and facilitate inter-generational exchange through mentorship programmes.

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Moonchild Sanelly

Moonchild protests 'ban' of new song

By **Boitumelo Kgobotlo**
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Local musicians Moonchild Sanelly and JazziQ have organised a petition for their song to be played on SABC radio stations.

This after Moonchild, real name Sanelisiwe Twisha, took to social media this week and opened up about the unfairness of radio stations for their refusal to play *Askies*, two months following its release.

The *Weh Mameh* hitmaker told Sunday World she realised that her protest would be effective only if she opened up on social media, but did not take a step further to put up a petition

for the original version of the song to be played on air.

The petition only needs to be signed by 5 000 fans for the song not to be censored or having the lyrics altered.

"The song has no vulgar, I stand for that. There is nothing I say in that song other than expressing the beauty of various body shapes by describing the body parts," she said.

"This petition will help radio stations realise that it is not wrong to describe body parts in our own home languages, because I feel like that is the problem. If it was someone else singing in English, then the song would have gone through with-

out experiencing any problems. Something is wrong here."

The producer of the single, JazziQ, said the song has been misinterpreted as they had no intention of using vulgar but to drag down body-shaming.

He said the message was that women should not be afraid to show off their bodies, but this was not a call for men to pursue

women without their consent "and feed into our patriarchal norms".

"We believe that our song has been taken out of context. We would like to have consultations with broadcasters to understand the criteria used to deem a song not radio compliant. There are far worse rap songs on radio that speak very foul of women and promote violence and substance abuse."

SABC spokesperson Mmoni Seapolele said: "The SABC can confirm that the song in question is not banned on SABC's respective radio stations. In fact, most of our radio stations have not received the song."

There are far worse rap songs that speak very foul of women

“

Andile a dad, and his mom is not happy

Mam'Mkhize doesn't love DJ Sthelo

By **Philani Mzila**

Flamboyant celebrity mom and extravagant businesswoman Shauwn Mkhize is not ready to be a granny.

The star of Mzansi Magic reality show *KwaMam'Mkhize*, who was previously known as Shauwn Mpisane before her much-publicised divorce last year, is reportedly a grandmother after her 21-year-old son, gqom artist Andile, fathered a child with a 27-year-old DJ Sthelo Shoji.

According to three sources close to the situation, but who asked not to be named, DJ Sthelo began dating Andile in 2018.

Sources claim that an excited DJ Sthelo gave birth this week and, soon after that, she began circulating the pictures of herself and the new-born baby.

"We were all shocked that she

had given birth because she was hiding the truth behind the pregnancy because Mam'Mkhize was against their relationship," the source said.

"She never approved DJ Sthelo as someone who could date Andile since she had another child from her previous relationship. Mam'Mkhize does not love DJ Sthelo and she cannot hide it."

When approached for comment, Mkhize said she did not know anything about the baby or its mother. "Woow! I don't know anything about Andile's girlfriends. I can't believe that Andile can hide something so big from me. We are very open to each other but I can't be telling him who he must date and who he must not. Andile is still young and I can't involve myself in his private affairs," she



Shauwn Mkhize and her son Andile are dealing, in different ways, with the birth of Andile's son.

said. "The only person I will entertain is a wife. Once he tells me 'here is my wife mother', I'll get involved. I don't know anything about who gave birth to what and when, I really don't know anything about being a grandmother, it's the first time I'm hearing of such news."

DJ Sthelo's boss at Kotin Records and restaurant owner Siyabonga Nkwanyana, who is famously known as DJ Kotin, said he was shocked that DJ Sthelo was flaunting the pictures of herself and her new-born baby. "People have been asking me about

her pregnancy and I denied it. Now I'm being seen as a liar. I defended her when she was in fact pregnant. I don't know what to say, but it's her private life," said DJ Kotin.

A third source revealed that Andile went against his mother's wishes to separate from DJ Sthelo. "Andile loves DJ Sthelo. He made sure he finds her a flat in Umhlanga after taking her away from where she was renting in the hustle and bustle of the Durban CBD. Andile spoils her with expensive gifts. That's why his mother decided to cut his

monthly allowance. His mother believes that DJ Sthelo is in this relationship with Andile not because she loves him, but because she just wants to benefit."

A fourth tipster added that when DJ Sthelo and her elders went to report the pregnancy to Andile's family, Mkhize chased them away. "They went to Shauwn's place to report the pregnancy as tradition requires. Shauwn chased them away, telling them to go and report it in Lamontville [a township outside Durban], where her ex-husband Shu Mpisane stays, the source said.

"Shauwn does not want anything to do with Sthelo. She accuses her of planning the pregnancy so as to be part of the Mpisane-Mkhize family.

"When Shauwn hears her

The only person I will entertain is a wife

“

songs on radio, she switches the radio off. During her pregnancy, Shauwn went to collect Andile's car, which he had borrowed Sthelo. Let's hope that one day she will accept her grandchild."

DJ Sthelo declined to comment, while Andile could not be reached.

Arthur partners with Sony to release his early kwaito hit albums online

By **Boitumelo Kgobotlo**
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Kwaito legend Arthur Mafokate has joined hands with Sony Music to make available his 999 Music catalogue that made him a household name.

Kwaito fanatics can enjoy a trip down memory lane as Mafokate's albums have been made available for pre-order since Friday.

The second wave of albums will be available for pre-order on May 22, while the third batch will be released on June 12.

According to the *Mnike* hitmaker, the catalogue is

aimed at ensuring people stay informed about the apartheid culture and serves as a reminder of Mafokate's contribution to the creation of kwaito music and how it has evolved.

He said fans always asked him for a certain song or album and this was his opportunity to ensure that older music, which was still relevant today, was made available for streaming or downloading.

"With the help of amazing collaborators and artists over the years, 999 Music has made me what I am. I hope the release of the catalogue provides our fans



Arthur Mafokate

with access to the music that soundtracked their coming-of-age," Mafokate said.

"But I also hope it gives young people the chance to see the journey that I took in helping create a genre of music and in my own career – and a record label that is still thriving. I am proud to have sustained the label for 25 years and now be able to show the world where it all began."

The first batch includes his first album released in 1994, *Windy Windy*, as well as *Kaffir*, *Die Poppe Sal Dans*, *Umpostoli*, *Haai Bo*, *Clap Your Hands*, *Oyi Oyi*, *Dankie*, *Chomi* and *The Best*

of Arthur.

Sony Music Entertainment Africa CEO Sean Watson said he was proud to have worked with Mafokate to release all his work.

"Working towards this moment has also allowed me to reflect on the sheer force of Arthur's role in the making of kwaito at a time when no such genre existed.

"Everything that has followed since then, including current genres like amapiano, are a testament to the influence he and a handful of his peers have had on where we are today," explained Watson.

COVID-19 spending secrecy challenged

NGO joins calls for more transparency in procurement, funds

By George Matlala

Matlala@sundayworld.co.za

Calls are intensifying for transparency and accountability in the procurement of millions of rand of medical equipment to fight the spread of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Sunday World has reported on the secrecy surrounding a panel of people who have awarded lucrative contracts to mainly lily-white companies using money from National Treasury and the Solidarity Fund.

Business for South Africa



Procurement Officer
Estelle Setan

(B4SA), which has been procuring personal protective equipment (PPE) on behalf of the government and the Fund, has re-

fused to disclose the names of those who have been awarding the contracts.

The organisation – a group of business formations – has been accused of undermining the country's redress policies in the awarding of the contracts for PPEs. Questions have also been asked why National Treasury initially outsourced the procurement to B4SA, which is largely constituted by private individuals, to preside over the process instead of government.

Treasury recently reversed its decision to centralise procurement of medical equipment after an uproar by black business formations that the process was excluding black-owned entities. Corruption Watch this week joined calls for transparency in the procurement of medical equipment, warning it could be susceptible to corruption.

In a letter to Treasury's acting chief procurement officer, Estelle Setan, Corruption Watch executive director David Lewis said it had concerns regarding the release and repeal of different instructions regulating emergency health procurement.

"We are generally concerned by the lack of reporting and publication requirements in the instructions. The absence of transparency in this process poses a significant corruption risk and undermines the constitutional requirement that procurement be done in accordance with a system which is transparent,"



Medical practitioners are at the frontline of the fight to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. / WHO

The absence of transparency in this process poses a corruption risk

he said, giving Treasury until Wednesday to respond to concerns raised by the organisation.

Treasury said it would reply directly to Lewis, noting that it was committed to the constitutional objective of having a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective processes to procure health products.

"This process should be compliant with the country's imperatives of promoting structural transformation, and broaden participation in the economy, to strengthen economic development and empowerment of previously disadvantaged groups and individuals," it said.

B4SA has previously maintained that 50% of their suppliers during the "emergency phase" had a broad-based black economic empowerment level of between 1-4, adding that the organisation was going to prioritise local black-owned companies in the "stabilisation phase". "B4SA welcomes and continues to support all interventions, including this one, that strengthen governance, and oversight of procurement under the national state of disaster," the organisation said yesterday.

SACP spokesperson Alex Mashilo said spending on PPEs and other COVID-19-related procurement must be transparent to curtail corruption and irregular expenditure. "We need to safeguard the entire R500-billion package recently announced by the president, as well as the resources of the Solidarity Fund," said Mashilo.

Nketoana Local Municipality
Reitz, Petrus Steyn, Lindley & Arlington

NKETOANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Nketoana Local Municipality is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer in line with the Employment Equity Act.

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The appointment will be made in compliance with the provisions of Section 82 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998 and Section 57 of Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000 and related Regulations.

Remuneration: Minimum: R 1,067,587 Midpoint: R 1,227,113 Maximum: R 1,386,637 per annum for a category 3 Municipality (Annual Total Remuneration Package will be determined by competence, qualifications, experience, and knowledge read together with the guidelines as set out in the Government Gazette 43122 dated 20 March 2020).

Requirements: A Bachelor's degree in Public Administration/Political Science/Social Science/Law or equivalent. Applicants must have a minimum of five years relevant experience at senior management level and have a proven successful institutional transformation within the public or private sector. A valid SA driver's license (Code EB) and his/her own roadworthy vehicle.

Added Advantage: A post-graduate degree or relevant NQF Level 7 qualification, registration with a relevant professional body and a certificate of competence (e.g. CPMD or MFMP) will serve as a strong recommendation.

Knowledge: Advanced knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation; Advanced understanding of institutional governance systems and performance management; Advanced understanding of council operations and delegation of powers; Good governance; Audit and risk management; establishment and functionality and Budget and finance management.

The incumbent must have the following leading and core competencies as per Government Gazette No. 37245 of 17 January 2014:

Strategic direction and leadership; People Management; Program and project management; Financial Management; Change Management; Governance leadership; Moral competence; Planning and organizing; Analysis and innovation; Knowledge and information management; Communication and Results and quality focus.

Key Performance Areas: As the head of Administration, the incumbent will be subject to the policy direction of the municipal Council responsible and accountable for: The formation and development of an economical, effective, efficient and accountable administration; The management of the municipality's administration in accordance with the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) (MSA) and other legislation applicable to the municipality; The implementation of the municipal's Integrated Development Plan and monitoring progress with the implementation of the plan; The management of the provision of service to the local community in a sustainable and equitable manner; The appointment of staff other than those referred to in the MSA, Section 56(a), subject to the Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act 55 of 1998); The management, effective utilization and training of staff; The maintenance of discipline of staff; The promotion of sound labour relations and compliance by the municipality with applicable labour legislation; Advising the political structures and political office bearers of the municipality; Managing communication between the municipality's administration and its political structures and political office bearers; Carrying out the decisions of the political structures and political office bearers of the municipality; The administration and management of the municipality's by-laws and other legislation; The exercise of any powers and performance of any duties delegated by the municipal Council or Sub delegated other delegating authorities of the municipal manager in terms of the MSA, Section 59; Facilitating participation by the local community in the affairs of the municipality as well as developing and maintaining a system whereby community satisfaction with municipal services is assessed; The implementation of national and provincial legislation applicable to the municipality; Responsible and accountable for all assets and discharge of all liabilities of the municipality; all income and expenditure of the municipality; and proper and diligent compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) Ensure implementation of Council policies and Resolution/Represent the municipality at Provincial and National forums.

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2. All applicants must fill in the Application form for Employment Annexure C of Government Gazette no. 37245 dated 17 January 2014. This application form can be obtained on government website at www.gpwonline.co.za
3. No applications will be considered if it is not on the official application form.
4. Recommended candidates will be subjected to Competency Based Assessment over 2 days prior to appointment and be subjected to security vetting.
5. The appointed candidate will be expected to sign an Employment Contract on or prior to the assumption of duty. A Performance Agreement (60 days within the new financial year) and disclosure of financial interest.
6. Caravanning will automatically disqualify a candidate.
7. The appointed candidate will be expected to sign an Employment Contract on or prior to the assumption of duty. A Performance Agreement (60 days within the new financial year) and disclosure of financial interest.
8. The municipality reserves the right to fill the advertised position.

All applications must be addressed to:
The Mayor
Nketoana Local Municipality
PO Box 26, Reitz, 9810
Or
Handed in at the office of the Mayor, Reitz, during office hours.
Enquiries must be directed to the Mayor: Cllr M T Mokoena at Tel: 058 863 2811

CLOSING DATE: 05 June 2020

The Mayor
Cllr Mokoena

Maepa faces revolt in Tshwane

ANC leader warns he will sue over 'lies'

By George Matlala

A threat of legal action by Tshwane ANC regional chairperson Kgosi Maepa has lifted the lid on the internal strife that has partly hampered the ruling party's efforts to regain control of the capital city.

Maepa has threatened to sue some members of the party for R5-million, accusing them of saying he was a member of the student wing of the Afrikaner Broederbond during his student days in the late 1990s.

Maepa's lawyers, Makhubela Attorneys, have sent a letter of demand to Pheello Oliphant, saying he must name people involved in the circulation of a media post in which it is claimed that Maepa was the only student belonging to a right-wing organisation at the University of Pretoria in the late 1990s.



Kgosi Maepa

The ANC leader said that another member behind the allegations was Thabo Kupa, the former Gauteng secretary of the ANC Youth League and another member, Mzwakhe Mbatha.

Maepa said this week that it was not a secret that he served once in the board of the FW De Klerk Foundation, adding the ANC had told them to work with white people after the organisation "dissolved" the National Party.

"If some individuals have ambitions, they must go to ANC branches to lobby and wait for the regional conference of the ANC as outlined in the ANC

constitution," said Maepa.

"I don't know the reasons for this character assassination and soiling of my image. I suspect those are nefarious actions by individuals outside the work of the ANC that we are tasked to do."

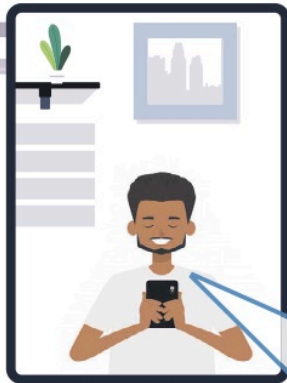
But ANC insiders in the region said there was frustration with Maepa's leadership, with his detractors saying he has failed to broker a deal with EFF leader Julius Malema to oust the DA from the metro.

Oliphant said he had written the post in 2017 and was now being used as part of factional battles in the ANC in Tshwane.

"It looks like there is a storm around Kgosi Maepa there in Pretoria. The council was dissolved simply because he misled other councillors."

"Now councillors are without jobs," said Oliphant, adding that his lawyers were responding to Maepa's letter of demand and that he had since left Pretoria for the Eastern Cape.

PLAY YOUR PART STOP THE SPREAD



Ntwana I have a new game that I want us to try, I'm coming to your house now.

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Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Maintain a hygienic home, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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Stay home except when you need to buy food and medicine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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(Download at App store or at Google Play Store)

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GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

UL helps ease non-communicable disease burden in rural Limpopo

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are the major health burden in industrialised countries and are increasing rapidly in developing countries owing to demographic transitions and changing lifestyles.

Research has shown that NCDs have their roots in unhealthy lifestyles or adverse physical and social environments. Risk factors such as inadequate nutrition over a prolonged period, smoking, physical inactivity, excessive use of alcohol, and psycho-social stress are among the major lifestyle issues.

While there is firm knowledge on what should be done for the prevention of these diseases, the key question at present is how it should be done. How can our existing knowledge of NCDs be best applied for effective prevention in real-life situations?

The University of Limpopo (UL) has two projects – the Ellisras Longitudinal Study (ELS) in Waterberg district municipality and DIMAMO Population Health Research Centre (PHRC) in Dikgale, Mamabolo and Mothiba villages – under the Capricorn district. Both projects were initiated in 1996.

The two projects have carefully planned community programmes which are an important component of the strategy to help prevent and reduce the occurrence of NCDs. These projects were established to investigate the gap between known knowledge about what needs to be done and the everyday situation of most of the people in rural areas.

Ellisras longitudinal study

This study aimed to identify risk factors for NCDs among the same individuals over time, from 1996 to date (ie, from childhood into adulthood).

The NCDs profile has been suggested to be changing rapidly among rural South Afri-

The university shares the knowledge on healthy lifestyles



Staff from the DIMAMO HDSS and guests celebrate the opening of the centre. The team has been working hard to help reduce NCDs in the community.

“The strength of initiatives is collaboration of community groups

cans. High salt intake is a major contributor to hypertension, which is a major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases. South African legislation limiting salt levels in manufactured foods is an example of what a progressive government can do to improve health at a population level. However, salt reduction policies are currently fragmented and there are no action policies particularly at Waterberg municipality level even though they are embedded within national action plans.

Sharing knowledge

The ELS team decided to educate the Lephalale community about the dangers posed by high

salt intake given the increasing high prevalence of hypertension and obesity over time.

This was done through the ELS conference, which was held twice – from November 27-28 2017 and from December 3-5 2019. The ELS team is planning a third conference in November 2021.

The conference provides a unique inclusive platform for discussion by ordinary members of the Ellisras community, expert scholars, students and experienced professionals from all over the world, offering a truly special international networking experience. It is a comprehensive and interactive programme in which participants can cultivate their cross-cultural and communication skills while shining a light on different topics related to poverty and cardiovascular diseases.

Changing behaviour

The ELS team's salt watch campaign is aimed at changing consumer behaviour among the Lephalale community.

This can be achieved by identifying key behavioural change goals and messages that could then be integrated into broader Waterberg district municipality health communication strategies like the food-based dietary guidelines, as a framework to address salt reduction based on a whole-of-diet approach at a population level.

The Waterberg district municipality will be encouraged to join hands with the ELS team in spreading the message around reducing salt intake.

DIMAMO PHRC

This project is in Dikgale, Mamabolo and Mothiba villages under the Capricorn district and aims at investigating the major risk factors of NCDs in or-

“NCDs have their roots in unhealthy lifestyles in communities

der to develop interventions to reduce and prevent occurrences of NCDs.

Several publications have tried to summarise the results of the major community-based preventive interventions in these rural areas.

Risk factors for NCDs such as smoking, alcohol consumption, low physical inactivity, hypertension and obesity were prevalent among adults in Dikgale HDSS but was predominant among younger participants.

The findings suggest a need to develop an integrated community chronic care model and implement other intervention programmes in order to reduce predisposing factors contributing to the epidemic of NCDs.

Barriers of chronic disease management

Nurses and chronic disease patients mentioned similar barriers to chronic disease management which, among others, are a lack of knowledge on chronic diseases, shortage of medication and shortage of nurses in the clinics. The result was that patients were often forced to wait for long periods before being assisted at the clinics.

Health-care workers are also poorly trained on the management of chronic diseases. Lack of supervision by district and provincial health managers, together with poor dissemination of guidelines, has been found to be a contributing factor to the lack of knowledge in nurses working at the clinics within the study area.

Both patients and nurses mentioned the need to involve community health workers and traditional healers and integrate their services in order to early detect and manage chronic diseases in the community.

Concerted action is needed to strengthen the delivery of medications at the clinics, improve the chronic disease knowledge for both nurses and patients by conducting in-service training or workshops, increase the involvement of community health workers and establish a link (through formal referral system) with traditional healers.

Strengthening intervention programmes

The UL is continuously working to strengthen the integrated community-based intervention programmes that will form comprehensive packages in which different kinds of feasible activities are combined to produce a synergistic effect.

Thus, strictly speaking, the effect of the components cannot be singled out. Some of the main components of these interventions include health education and media campaigns which play a prominent role in DIMAMO PHRC. The most simplified form of these campaigns used by DIMAMO PHRC is the involvement of community advisory teams (CATs) which comprise local leaders or members of the community nominated by the traditional council to form part of the project.

Health service interventions do not have as much visibility as the major media campaigns, but the systematic involvement of the CATs, in the long run, will be one of the most effective intervention tools.

This may be particularly true where the CATs encourage community members to reduce risk factors for NCDs such as smoking, alcohol consumption and low physical inactivity in order to control and prevent hypertension and obesity.

In conclusion, the strength of DIMAMO PHRC is the involvement and collaboration with various sectors of the community such as non-governmental organisations, drop-in centres and old-age homes.

The DIMAMO PHRC also demonstrated the potential of involving lay opinion leaders, a concept that has been successfully applied on many occasions in developing countries. A major role of the community-based project is to demonstrate and stimulate a national NCD prevention policy.

*Stweya HJ – Executive Dean: Faculty of Science and Agriculture
Monyeki KD – Professor: Department of Physiology and Environment Health; Ellisras Longitudinal Study
Maimela E – Director: DIMAMO PHRC; Department of Public Health*



Prof Mahlo Mokgalong, UL vice-chancellor and principal; Thomas Auf der Heyde from the Department of Science and Innovation; and Prof Marianne Alberts from DIMAMO HDSS officially launch DIMAMO HDSS.

Rape claims rock Zondo's pulpit

By **Ngwako Malatji**
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Niece 'bribed with R1 and sweets'

Rivers of Living Waters Ministries International leader Bishop Bafana Zondo's niece has added another rape docket to the bible-puncher's ever-growing bible of rape cases.

Sunday World can sensationally reveal that Zondo's niece, who cannot be named for legal reasons, alleged that Zondo raped her at least three times 40 years ago and tried to buy her silence with a R1 coin and sweets.

The woman opened a case of rape against the bishop at the Booysens police station last week Friday and the docket was transferred to the Evaton police station for investigation.

In a police statement, which Sunday World has seen, the 46-year-old woman, who now lives in De Dur, alleged that Zondo, who was 14 years

old then, plundered her at her grandmother's house in Sebokeng, south of Joburg, in 1980 when she was just six years old.

Relating the ordeal, the woman said she was living with her grandmother Alina Zondo in May 1980.

She said her grandmother, who was preggies at the time, went to her parent's place when she was suffering from pregnancy-related complications, leaving her under the care of Zondo.

She said she was playing outside the house with other children when Zondo, whom she referred to as "Uncle Fani Zondo", invited her into one of the bedrooms. She alleged that while inside the house, Zondo asked her to wash his socks and ordered her playmates not to

enter the bedroom.

"He told her to climb onto the bed and he pulled her legs, undressing her and himself. He started playing with his penis, put Vaseline [petroleum] on his penis and around her vagina. He then penetrated inside her vagina [sic]," reads the statement.

The woman also said when she screamed, he took out his penis and told her not to scream. He then penetrated her again.

"The complainant screamed louder and he stopped and ordered her not to tell anyone and gave her R1 coin and many sweets. After some days he repeated three times until she ran away from her grandmother to her father's house.

She said she broke her silence in 2000 when she told



Bishop Bafana Zondo.

her brother about the incident. Gauteng provincial police spokesperson Mavela Masondo confirmed that the niece has

opened a case of rape. "A case of rape has been opened. No arrest has been made," said Masondo.

Bushiri boots out 'rebels'

Pastors 'mocked church doctrine'

By **Aubrey Mothombeni**
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Enlightened Christian Gathering church leader prophet Shepherd Bushiri has expelled seven of his foreign pastors and suspended five others pending an investigation, after accusing them of rebelling against him and his leadership.

The controversial church leader's decision is contained in a leaked audio recording which was shared by the church's branch leaders and pastors across the country, in which Bushiri states that the pastors created a private WhatsApp group, where they were plotting a serious rebellion against him.

In the same audio, Bushiri accused the pastors from various African countries of labelling him a false prophet and mocking his church doctrine.

The seven pastors who were booted from the church, according to Bushiri's clip, include Reverend Arthur, Martin Kunje, apostle Stanley, pastor Dunamis, Mike Faiton, Wilson Madise, and apostle Felixosis. Those who were suspended pending an investigation, Bushiri said, were apostle Hoppings, pastor Kadzuwa, pastor Eric Kusane, and pastor Wisdom and David Ruach. He said they had not said much on the WhatsApp group.

Bushiri, who is originally from Malawi, said he was in possession of screenshots of WhatsApp messages shared by the pastors in their private



Prophet Shepherd Bushiri has appealed for unity. / Facebook

WhatsApp group.

He said the contents of the messages were so bad they didn't warrant a disciplinary hearing but an outright dismissal.

Major One, as Bushiri is popularly known among his followers, also said he felt double-crossed by pastor Felixosis, adding that the pastor had been the last person he had expected to be part of the rebellion against him.

Bushiri said the pastor was among the ring leaders of the WhatsApp group.

He said Felixosis had made pastors feel unwanted and unimportant, though he was one of the pastors that had benefited

personally from his generosity after having grown and lived in his house.

In the clip, Bushiri said he had personally taken in pastor Felixosis and loved and cared for him. Bushiri ends the clip by calling for unity, saying that the church was an organisation, and not a personal company, project or programme.

• See page 14

Contents of the messages are so bad they warrant dismissal

DA politician brings Uzalo's comical Sbu down to earth

Lovebirds can't get hands off each other

By **Philani Mzila**

SABC1's *Uzalo* actor Simphiwe Majozi has found love in the arms of Elundini local municipality DA councillor Kekeletso Mahlelebe.

Majozi is famous for the comical role

he plays as Sbu "Sbu" Rememberance Makhathini in the SABC 1 drama series aired on weekdays at 20.30pm. The much-liked and popular drama has since ran out of episodes because no shooting was taking place during the Coronavirus lockdown.

Majozi is said to be head over heels in love with Mahlelebe, who hails from Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape, according to two reliable insiders close to the lovebirds. They said Majozi was now a different man since falling in love with Mahlelebe.

"He is so in love. Before Simphiwe met Kekeletso, he was all over the place, just like the character he plays in *Uzalo*. But after he met her, he has outgrown all those kasi tendencies and behaviour. I guess Kekeletso came into his life at a right time," said our source.

When contacted, Majozi refused to comment on the matter. "My private life remains private. I might be in the media industry but please respect my privacy. I don't want a situation where I can't be myself. Sbu from *Uzalo* stays on TV, not in my real life," he said.

Another source said that Majozi and Mahlelebe are always seen in high places like the Gateway Theatre of Shopping in Umhlanga, north of Durban, holding hands.

"They are one of few cute couples in Durban. They can't get their hands off each other. Before lockdown they were always seen together holding hands in malls. It's nice to finally know who is the person in his life besides the girlfriend he has on *Uzalo*," said the source.

When Mahlelebe was contacted for comment, she didn't deny nor confirm her relationship with Majozi.

Kekeletso Mahlelebe and Uzalo actor Simphiwe Majozi in love. / Facebook



Editorial

Justice for the Khosas

“This is not a moment for skop and donner. This is not a moment for skiet and donner. This is a moment to be supportive to our people. I, therefore, order you to go out and execute this mission with great success. Thank you very much.”

This was a clarion call from the nation's Commander-in-Chief Cyril Ramaphosa from the Doornkop Army base in Soweto, an evening before the commencement of the lockdown.

Many knew then that regardless of his appeal, the hotheads in the army are raring to show off their rage and ill-discipline. True to form, it wasn't long when newspapers, television screens and social media were abuzz with both police and army officials dishing up abuse, showing the middle finger to their commander-in-chief.

Not only did members of the army go out to skop and donner – they beat to death Collins Khosa at his home in Alexandra, Johannesburg, according to his family and their lawyers.

On Friday, judge Hans Fabricius, agreeing with the Khosa family lawyers, ordered the state to suspend members of the army who were present at the scene when Khosa was murdered. It is a shame – is it not?

That Khosa lost his life at the hands of security officials who were supposed to ensure high discipline, not harassment, torture and lawlessness. It is shameful that those given to violence did not even think twice about what Ramaphosa said about being “supportive to our people” as we confront the faceless enemy.

It is also a shame that after his killing, government has had to be forced by a court to suspend Khosa's potential killers. For a government that cares about citizens and, to use Ramaphosa's call, ought to be “supportive to our people”, would, all things equal, not protect potential killers of Khosa from overdue suspension.

Such a government would be an active partner in trying to find justice for the Khosa family.

Lead us, Mr President

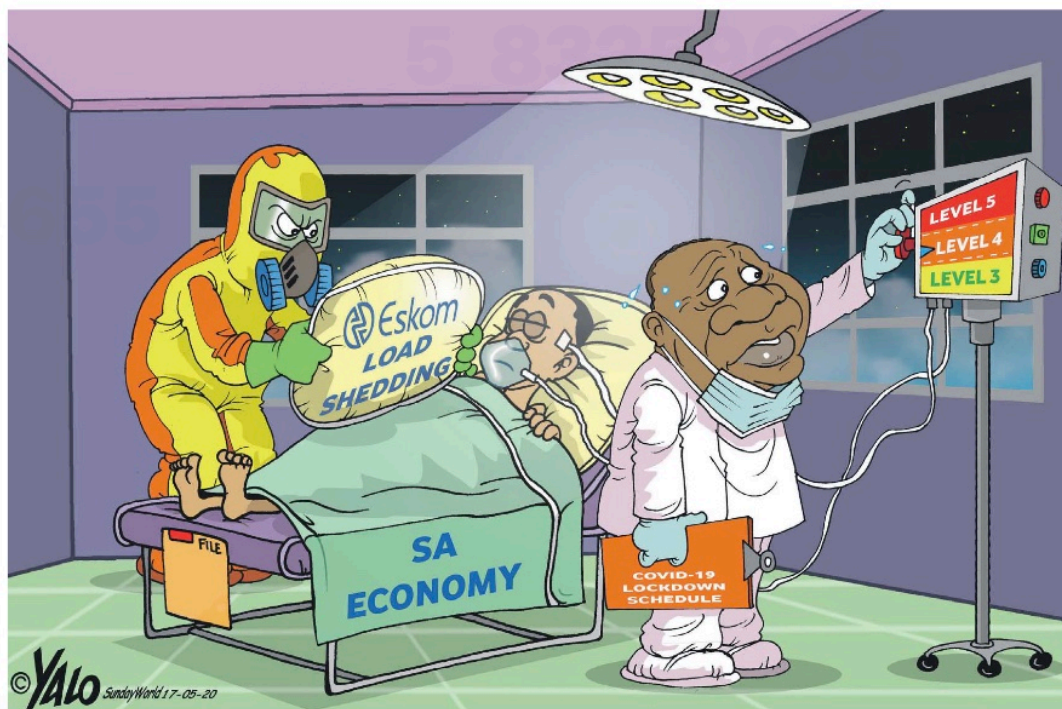
The indignation and palpable disappointment many felt following President Cyril Ramaphosa's address to the nation mid-week comes at a time when government requires all the confidence it could muster.

As the country veers toward the COVID-19 peak, with positive cases increasing at a disturbing rate, signs of a president unsure what to say, much less what to do, send wrong messages to the populace.

Two days after his equivocation, Ramaphosa indicated that we will move to level 3 following consultations.

Some on social media were quick to point out – and threw in memes for measure – that Ramaphosa was fearful of being contradicted by Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, a throwback to the president's announcement that a cigarette ban would be lifted only to have his announcement withdrawn by the minister.

If there was a time the nation needed clear, consistent messaging from government – it is now!



White boys' club

Transformation is under threat during pandemic

IN the book, *Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon makes a poignant observation about a devastating pathology rooted in our “core beliefs”, contradicted by empirical evidence or facts. “Sometimes people hold a core belief that is very strong,” Fanon writes in his 1952 classic. “When they are presented with evidence that works against that belief, the new evidence cannot be accepted. It would create a feeling that is extremely uncomfortable, called cognitive dissonance. And because it is so important to protect the core belief, they will rationalise, ignore and even deny anything that doesn't fit in with the core belief,” he writes.

Fanon's seminal text sought to situate internal contradictions for black people in a world meant to make them believe they were inferior. Drawing from his experience of racism in the French colony of Martinique, his timeless writing is instructive to most post-colonial societies. But it is important to turn the logic of racism on its head.

In South Africa, the core belief among some white people about their denial of black disadvantage is so strong, that “when they are presented with evidence that works against that belief, the new evidence cannot be accepted”.

For them, the racial fault lines of our country are an imaginary creation. Their retort is – we must all compete as equals. That our constitution enjoins us to ensure redress is, for them, unfortunate.

A few ministers have, of late, been kept busy in various courts and on a global stage because of a rearguard battle against imperatives of transformation fought by a white boys' club.

DA leader John Steenhuisen last week wrote to International Monetary Fund (IMF) MD Kristalina Georgieva with a view to exert pressure on the IMF to force the country to disregard transformation or redress in how it will spend COVID-19 relief funds, should SA receive any help

Makhudu Sefara



from the IMF.

“There is a big difference between a government redress programme and emergency relief during a pandemic,” argues Steenhuisen.

What is apparent here is that Steenhuisen and the DA, who are just emerging from a bruising race-based battle that saw the party's first black leader Mmusi Maimane and others removed, has taken on the COVID-19 battle on behalf, for the most part, of white firms.

That South Africa remains a deeply divided, highly unequal country with the black poor most adversely affected by the virus is lost to Steenhuisen. That it is, in fact, small black firms hit the most by the virus, is immaterial for Steenhuisen.

As far as he and the DA are concerned, only funds from the government could be used in line with its transformation mandate derived from the constitution.

Funds from the IMF, even if the government will be expected to pay them back, must not be subject to the imperatives of transformation. Read correctly, they must be channelled to white, advantaged business.

The thing about racism in South Africa is that we no longer talk about it and, those who are racist, who serve a narrow Afrikaner agenda, are emboldened to pursue racism with shamelessness.

Steenhuisen, supposedly leading a progressive liberal party, feels no shame, sees nothing wrong with suggesting we forget about transformation – even when his suggestion will disadvantage millions of black people he expects must vote for the DA in the coming local government elections.

In the past, there would have been some subtlety to the racism. Maimane would have used some sophistry to betray his fellow blacks. Not that it's

any better. But the pursuit of a racist agenda is today very naked.

And so “the core belief” which Fanon writes about is so strong in Steenhuisen that any empirical evidence that his argument, if acceded to, will unleash pain on black people is ignored.

Right-wing movements AfriForum and Solidarity targeted the departments of small business and tourism, but were correctly rebuked by the high court in Pretoria under judge president Dunstan Mlambo who, correctly, pronounced on the imperatives of transformation in relation to the government's COVID-19 response.

“The response to the crisis must therefore recognise this uneven playing field and therefore calibrating such a response to deal with the impact of the crisis as well as the effect of historical disadvantage is not only permissible at the level of principle, but warranted and necessary,” Mlambo said as he ruled in favour of Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane. A victory for transformation. A victory against a white sense of privilege.

A similar battle by the DA which, I repeat, is unlike Solidarity and AfriForum, is set to unfold in the same court against Small Business Development Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni. When white firms and white interests are vulnerable, the white machinery – AfriForum, Solidarity and the DA – come out fighting.

Remember how white firms benefited from the Solidarity Fund meant to help raise funds to fight COVID-19? To date, they blatantly refuse to say who sat on a committee that advantaged white firms. The white power structure protects and serves its own interests.

They do this because, in spite of the evidence of the harm their pursuits might have on black people, it is important, Fanon taught us, to “protect the core belief” and racism, to “rationalise, ignore and even deny anything that doesn't fit in with the core belief”. Kubayi-Ngubane and Ntshavheni, who are kept busy by the white boys, deserve all the help and support. Transformation must be defended.

By Mosibudi Mangena

Unless you are US President Donald Trump or President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro, you would appreciate the potency of science in the fight against COVID-19 or any other virus for that matter, especially if it is the pandemic that it is. Trump and Bolsonaro are impervious to science and keep on making idiotic decisions and pronouncements based on nothing.

To pursue his disdain for Barack Obama, Trump pulled the US out of the Iran nuclear deal and the 2016 Paris climate pact the entire world had agreed upon. This despite the fact that scientific evidence suggested that they were the correct measures to take. The world based its decisions on solid scientific research done by many scientists from all over the globe.

Trump continues to accuse China of accidentally creating COVID-19 in their virology laboratory in Wuhan, despite the assertion by scientists that this Coronavirus was not man-made, but naturally produced.

Not having gone into any laboratory himself to conduct research and not having any scientific training whatsoever, he differs openly with medical scientists on a lot of issues, including lockdowns and the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the virus in his country.

As a result of his refusal to be guided by science in his approach to COVID-19, the US fight against this virus is sham-bolic, and Americans are dying in large numbers. His most senior health adviser, Dr Anthony Fauci, has his hands full trying to assist a science ignoramus.

Straying from science

On this score, he and Bolsonaro are in the same WhatsApp group. The latter dismisses COVID-19 as a little influenza, demands the full opening of the Brazilian economy and refuses to wear a mask in public. He insists on the opening of beauty salons, restaurants and gyms as a way of keeping the Brazilian economy on the move.

Unlike these two men, the initial South African approach to the battle against COVID-19 was understood to be evidence-based and won widespread support within the population and the World Health Organisation. The media, business, sporting bodies, the faith communities of every stripe, organised labour and ordinary citizens of South Africa supported the measures put in place by the government.

Medical scientists, epidemiologists, actuaries and experts were roped in to explain the nature of this pandemic to the nation and the motivation for the tough measures that needed to be taken to combat its spread. So, when everything was shut down, the population was fully behind the government. Despite the pain and suffering that came with the lockdown, the whole population scurried together with the government against the scourge.

The understanding of everyone in the country was that it was not a political, religious or ideological enterprise of any type. It was the truth as far as scientists and doctors understood it.

However, like the English scrum during the World Rugby Cup final against the Springboks in Japan late last year, our unity began to crumble once the actions of the government started emitting aromas of other agendas. Although some prohibitions were dodgy from the beginning, their debatable nature became pronounced with the climb from stage 5 to stage 4 of the lockdown.

In particular, the continued prohibition of the purchase of alcohol and tobacco has weakened the government's

Let science lead

Veering from evidence-based decision-making costing state its credibility



President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro, left, and US President Donald Trump do not want to base their decisions on science and facts.

case. Although it is a scientifically proven fact that smoking is injurious to health, especially the lungs, the lockdown was not meant to fight smoking, but the virus.

In a similar vein, the lockdown was not designed to fight sugary drinks and foods that tend to increase obesity and therefore the incidences of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and kidney failure. These are co-morbid conditions that render the sufferer vulnerable to COVID-19. So, why tobacco but not sugary foods?

Hidden agendas

Once the suspicion started taking root that the lockdown is being used as a cover to launch a crusade against smoking, the credibility of the government's actions suffered. And this prohibition was made by politicians, not scientists. Of course, all of us know that smoking is a health hazard. By all means, the government and many other people who are so inclined should campaign against it. But to use the declaration of a state of disaster as a cover to advance the struggle against smoking is not helpful. It begins to feel more like a "Trumpian" way of thinking than a rational decision-making method.

It did not help that after the decision was made, political groupings and other anti-smoking bodies jumped onto the bandwagon to cheer the government on. The government started losing its almost total support from the population when it appeared there were other agendas and prejudices being pursued through the lockdown.

Trust on matters like this COVID-19 is

much greater for doctors and scientists than political parties or politicians. Even the president of the country would have much greater credibility on this matter if he is seen to have the backing of science, not just likes and dislikes of politicians and different interest groups.

Whilst closure of shebeens and taverns is fully understood and explainable in the sense that people who are intoxicated would not be amenable to the notions of social distancing, frequent washing of hands or sanitising. However, it is not clear why individuals cannot buy alcohol and drink in their own homes. Once more, these decisions have a subtle smell of prejudice and moral posturing.

Prejudiced decisions

The point is that once decisions are not based on evidence, but on prejudice, morality, religious beliefs or the preferences of interest groups, they become more contestable. It follows, therefore, that the more the government decisions related to the fight against COVID-19 are removed from science and evidence to prejudice or whims, the more the government will lose the support of the population.

It is puzzling that food take-aways are not allowed, but the elderly, who are more vulnerable to the Coronavirus, are subjected to long queues at pay-points where social distancing is non-existent. Where is the logic here? Why prohibit self-employed individuals or other categories such as gardeners from working and then subject them to gatherings for the delivery of food parcels? Surely they are more likely to spread the virus at such

gatherings than when working alone in a garden.

At the beginning of the lockdown, when it appeared that the government's decisions relating to the fight against COVID-19 were based on science, a lot of people hoped it might be the beginning of a new era in South Africa where government decisions would be evidence-based.

We are in the soup in which we are today because decision-making in the state was based on familial, social and political connectivity rather than on evidence or facts.

People were appointed municipal managers not based on their proven competence or qualifications, but on who they are connected to socially and politically. The result is the shambles that are our municipalities, with the vast majority of them dysfunctional and receiving disclaimers or qualified audits from the auditor-general, year in and year out. Nobody seems to care.

The boards of state-owned entities (SOEs), such as Eskom and SAA, as well as their management teams, are similarly appointed not on the basis of evidence of their competence, but their connections. It is simply not true that South Africa has no sons and daughters who can run our municipalities and SOEs properly. Until such time that we take decisions on the basis of facts, we would keep on stumbling in our public life.

• Mangena is a former president of the Azanian People's Organisation and former minister of science and technology

No kissing and telling in Coronaland

An act of affection has been relegated into a dangerous conduct

Vusi Nzapheza

STRAIGHT
& 2 BEERS



Some researchers believe that kissing began millions of years ago as a result of mouth-to-mouth feeding, with mammal mothers chewing food and then "forcing it" into the mouths of their young.

I remember my first kiss like it was only yesterday. It happened decades ago at a boarding school when I was about 16 years and under the tutelage of an older girl.

We were returning from night studies when I accompanied her to the entrance of the female residence and we took a turn to lovers' lane.

With my back rested against a tree trunk, she suddenly planted a smackeroo on my lips as my inexperienced hands fumbled for a place to hold on to.

Once I had my arms around her waist, she twisted her head slightly and started nibbling on my lower lip with hers. The confusion in my head was only mitigated by the kilowatts of electricity flowing down my



President Cyril Ramaphosa came with a bag full of bad news for lovers when he discouraged kissing.

spine into my loins.

By the time she opened my mouth and massaged my tonsils with her tongue, my underpants were dripping wet. When I came up gasping for air, my firm spear was prodding her thighs.

I never slept that night, wondering what the universe held in store for me the next day. If she's reading this column today, I extend the gratitude of many women who benefited from her tutoring and guidance.

Kissing is an expression of affection, romance and desire.

It has fascinated poets dead and alive over millennia, and cemented relationships in the four corners of the universe.

That was until a Coronavirus escaped from China and spread across the globe.

Over the past few months, we battled to maintain social distancing and avoided shaking hands. But the worst was still to come. As the nation waited in anticipation for President Cyril Ramaphosa to open the bars and let the beer flow this week, he came bearing the bad news. Kissing and hugging were things of the past, he

said. My head spun that I even forgot my pineapple brew.

The president did not provide further details whether he referred to a peck on your aunt's cheeks or the prelude to a roll in the hay with your loved one in the bedroom.

Along with many other new normals the Coronavirus is corralling us into, kissing has been relegated to dangerous conduct.

I can only imagine the shock on your grandmother's face when you refuse to kiss her on your next visit.

I just hope that Trade and Industry Minister Ebrahim Patel is not assigned to draft regulations to prevent people from kissing.

Patel had already banned the sale of meat pies and regulated what winter clothing we cannot buy during the relaxed lockdown.

The last thing we need is the anti-kissing unit of the South African police and the army peeping through our bedroom windows and forcing us to frog jump for kissing our partners.

The lockdown is stressful enough as our bodies are stuck at home while our minds are on the other side of town.

How I hate you, Covid-19!

Ramaphosa critics are ignoring facts

Kabelo Khumalo

CONSCIENCE
OF A CENTRIST



It has become customary to mock President Cyril Ramaphosa's handling of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the republic.

And Wednesday was no different. Much ink and airtime were spent criticising his consultative approach to reopening the economy. But it is tosh to have expected the president just 13 days into level 4 to summarily announce a move to level 3, when there are economic implications to ponder over.

Consultations close room for miscommunication and the eroding of confidence in public institutions. We as a people decided that we will have a president and not a king. Even a concession by Ramaphosa that the government has had missteps in its efforts to ward off the deadly virus drew scorn.

It boggles the mind why would people expect a government fighting a novel virus not to make mistakes. One of the best ways to minimise mistakes when facing an unknown enemy is to consult as broadly as possible before recklessly taking decisions.

In all the mud thrown at government's admitted missteps – data and facts have become a distant cousin. But perspective matters. A great deal. The concentration of economic activity in the provinces of Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal and their metros has laid bare the challenges facing Ramaphosa in deciding which areas to assign level 3 and which ones to retain at level 4. It cannot be an emotional decision, but a practical one with eyes set firmly on what will be good for the economy.

Data produced by Statistics SA (Stats SA) show the complexity of the decision-making and consultation Ramaphosa has to undertake as he navigates this tightrope. For example, Gauteng contributed just over a third to South Africa's economic output in 2016.

If it were a country, it would be the seventh-biggest economy on the continent. Northern Cape by comparison contributed just 2% to national gross domestic product, making it the smallest provincial economy.

Looking at the same 2016 data, the stats agency found that KwaZulu-Natal produced a level of economic output that was bigger than Ghana and Tunisia – the coastal province would be the 12th-largest economy if it were a country. The Western Cape would be the 16th-biggest economy in Africa, generating about the same level of economic activity as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The three provinces are also the biggest employers. According to the latest jobs data from Stats SA, Gauteng has a workforce of 5-million people, and KZN has a workforce of 2.6-million. When we talk about reopening the economy – surely by relaxing regulations in my home province of the Free State and keeping stricter regulations in Gauteng – will be a folly.

The discussions to move most of the country to level 3 must take the impact on the economy into consideration while also minimising the risk of a second wave of the spread of COVID-19. That is a decision that cannot be rushed into.

Letters



swletters@sundayworld.co.za

READER ENGAGEMENT

Moegoe

We take the privilege to graciously award the moegoe of the week honour to AbaThembu King Buyekhaya Dalindyebo for disowning his son, acting king Azenathi Dalindyebo, and demanding a DNA test.

Moegoe Dalindyebo, also known as the dagga king for his use of weed, has also given his son until the end of this month to vacate the palace after informing Azenathi and his mother that they have no claim to royalty.

There has been running battles between the king and his family members since he was released on parole in December following his conviction for assaulting his subjects. As far as this king's antics go, we give up on him.

Charmza

After celebrating the International Nurses' Day, we would like to honour all the nurses in the country and worldwide during these trying times of the Coronavirus pandemic.

And this week's charmza accolade goes to the nurses and all those in the front line trying to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

The charming nurses and other caregivers like doctors should get the credit for a job well done so far, working long hours but often remunerated with low pay.

The situation becomes more dire when they have to take to the streets protesting about the lack of personal protective equipment. We salute you, charmzas.



Rules or punishment?

The sterling work that the government is doing in easing and containing the spread of Coronavirus infections is appreciated, but there is room for improvement.

I am saying this just to register my concern with regard to some of the lockdown regulations. I have reasons to believe that some of these regulations are unreasonable and they do sound harsh.

Recently, former finance minister Trevor Manuel expressed his concerns about some of the lockdown regulations. He said they are "irrational".

Allow me to mention some of these "irrational" regulations. Recently, I went to one of the supermarkets for shopping. I thought of buying computer games to keep my kids busy while they are locked inside the yard.

I was told by one of the employees that all the toys have been removed from the shelves. I was astonished as I could not find any sense in that. Children need toys for recreational purposes and to refresh their minds.

Visiting patients in hospitals is also prohibited.

One of my congregants was hospitalised and no one was allowed to visit him in the name of lockdown regulations. Even his children were denied access to their father.

Some people who are hospitalised are healing and recovering speedily when they see their loved ones.

I so wish the government can review some of these regulations.

Rev Maudu Morudu
Temba, Hammanskraal



Trevor Manuel

Shame on you, SA's cruel 'leaders'

In the wake of the nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19, government and humanitarian organisations stepped in to assist indigent families with basic necessities such as food, which were distributed as parcels.

While this move is widely commended, it was very sad to read about political leaders who saw an opportunity to loot and exploit this great gesture. We have seen stories of community leaders being arrested for food-parcel fraud.

Poor people were left helpless by the greedy leaders in charge of the process of food-parcel distribution. What kind of leaders choose to capitalise on an unfortunate situation to fill their own stomachs and those of their friends?

I appeal to our leaders to display a high level of morality by acting in a manner that seeks to build society.

Malphia Honwane
Gottenburg, eManyeleti

11 Business

SMEs hang by a thread

Small businesses in the country might not be able to survive beyond the lockdown

By **Kabelo Khumalo**

South Africa is in a race against time to save small businesses, with a study released by the South African SME Finance Association (SASFA) showing that 75% of small and micro businesses will go bust if the lockdown goes beyond next month.

SASFA said the survey, which involved 2 300 business owners, found that even under level 4, 70% of SMEs were not allowed to trade.

Retail Capital CEO Karl Westvig said only a fraction of businesses surveyed had received any financial support from the government's relief schemes.

"Only 47% of business owners applied for relief from the government or financial institutions, because many of the remaining 53% did not believe they would qualify. But even among the 47% who did apply, only 32% were successful. This means that a mere 15% of SMEs with a turnover of below R10-million per annum had any support," Westvig said.

He added that the R200-billion loan guarantee scheme from the National Treasury administered through the banks would also fail to arrest the near demise of small businesses.

"Banks follow the traditional credit-vetting criteria, which often requires surety and security. It is also expensive and difficult to underwrite funding for small SMEs with turn-



Businesses like Kedi-bone Ntsoane's Kota Central in Kaalfontien could go bust. / Bongile Mchunu

overs of less than R10-million per annum. As such, the bulk of this support is going to medium-sized businesses who can provide security and have longer track records."

One of the qualifying criteria for businesses to receive the government guaranteed loans is that a business must be up to date with its other loan repayments or be an account holder without any loans as at end-February 2020.

National Treasury said banks were required to check the qualifying criteria of applicants. "They will use their existing

processes and infrastructure to process loan applications. Banks have discretion on whether they wish to extend a loan to an applicant. Banks will cede any loans under this scheme to the Reserve Bank as security and will report regularly to the Reserve Bank on the performance of the loan portfolios."

Only 47% of business owners applied for relief

The tourism sector is one industry where COVID-19 has wreaked havoc and threatened the viability of many businesses.

A study by the Tourism Department and World Bank's International Finance Corporation found 99% of the 1 600 firms surveyed were affected by COVID-19. It also found 83% in the industry reported revenues in March were down more than 50% compared to the same time last year, and that 58% of firms were unable to service their debts. Fifty-four percent of firms were unable to cover fixed costs in March.

Another rate cut is on the cards

By **Kabelo Khumalo**

Economists expect the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to cut interest rates further when the monetary policy committee (MPC) convenes for its scheduled meeting this week.

Eighty percent of the economists polled by [finder.com](https://www.finder.com) said the SARB would again slash interest rates.

The MPC last month took the markets by surprise when it cut the benchmark repo rate by 100 basis points (bp) to 4.25% following a similar cut the previous month. That cut fell outside the scheduled calendar of the MPC, underscoring how seriously the central bank views the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

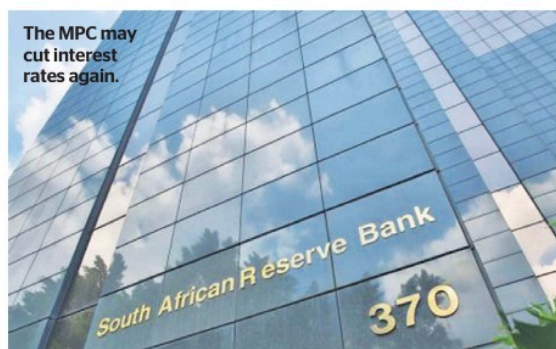
Rand Merchant Bank economist Mpho Molopyane said she expected another steep cut. "We expect the SARB to cut interest

rates by 50bp at the May MPC meeting and then put rates on hold at 3.75% through to the end of the year," Molopyane said.

"This is slightly more and faster than what is implied by the [quarterly projection model], but it fits with a reactive central bank trying to walk the tightrope between providing accommodation to an economy in shock, while ensuring inflation does not suddenly skyrocket."

The MPC is scheduled to meet from Tuesday to Thursday. At its last meeting, the bank said it expected the economy to shrink by 6.1% due to COVID-19 and its

We expect the SARB to cut interest rates by 50bp



The MPC may cut interest rates again.

impact on economic activity.

Associate professor at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, Sean Gossel, said the SARB should cut by 50bps (0.50%) given the "unusual circumstances".

"The SARB has to balance setting interest rates that will attract foreign capital, but at the same time must ease interest rates to stimulate domestic economic activity. Historically, the SARB has favoured a high interest rate differential to keep the economy moving using interna-

tional capital flows, but these are not normal times," Gossel said.

BNP Paribas economist Jeff Schultz said he expected a 75bp (0.75%) cut. "A combination of further GDP growth downgrades, which we deem as likely alongside growing evidence that inflation is likely to breach below the SARB's lower bound of its 3-6% inflation target range, means that the bank is likely to be in a position to deliver further substantial monetary easing from its 21 May MPC meeting," Schultz said.

Ubank, BBC set up fund for black SMEs

By **Kabelo Khumalo**

Blue-collar lender Ubank and lobby group the Black Business Council (BBC) have come together to establish a R1-billion fund for township and rural economy revitalisation.

The two institutions said the fund would support township and rural black business ventures and start-ups that operate in information technology, manufacturing, agriculture and agro-processing, retail, infrastructure, and tourism.

The fund will be managed through a joint Ubank/BBC steering committee.

Ubank CEO Luthando Vutula said the funds would be made available to BBC members and other small businesses to the value of R250-million per annum over the period of five years.

"As the workers' bank of choice, driven by our commitment to serve and empower our communities, I believe this partnership could not have come at a better time. The R1-billion Township and Rural Economy Fund will offer immense opportunities to small businesses, especially black businesses which contribute positively towards townships," Vutula explained.

"It will furthermore enable the township businesses to become active par-

Partnership will ensure that our country is transformed

ticipants in our overall economy and have some resources to give them the prospect of success."

BBC head of policy Tlison Manyoni said the core objective of the partnership would be to develop township and rural market solutions, support the development of black industrialists and enable economic transformation.

"This partnership ... [between Ubank and BBC] will ensure that our country is transformed, develop the township and rural economy as well as build a new cohort of black industrialists, and black businesses."

"We are now bringing policy advocacy to implementation," Manyoni said.

12 Education

GIBS ranked top in Africa

UP, UCT are among the top institutions

By **Kabelo Khumalo**

The University of Pretoria's (UP) Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) and University of Cape Town's (UCT) Graduate School of Business (GSB) continue to battle it out over which institution is the best business school in the country.

GIBS has strengthened its place as a premier business school after being ranked the top South African and African business school for executive education by the Financial Times (FT) in its Executive Education 2020 ranking.

The FT also ranks GIBS in the top 50 globally – sitting at position 38. GIBS dean Nicola Kleyn said 2020 marked the 17th year in which the school had consistently ranked among the top 50 best executive education providers globally.

"We are delighted to be ranked once again by the Financial Times," Kleyn said.

"As we seek to continuously evolve to meet our clients' changing needs, the FT plays a useful role in enabling us to be benchmarked against the world's best business schools," she added.

UP vice-chancellor Tawana Kupe said the university provided across-the-board high-quality teaching and learning that was relevant to the sectors it serves.

"We provide programmes that matter and enable business to navigate the ever-changing and complex environments



GIBS has been ranked the top South African and African business school for executive education by the Financial Times. / UP Facebook page

of our continent and the global economy. Post-COVID-19 a quality business education is going to be even more relevant in creating a new landscape," Kupe said.

Rankings are based on input from schools and clients. UCT's GSB also made a strong showing in the rankings. The school was ranked in the top 40 globally for future use (the likelihood that clients will use the school again).

The UCT GSB was also ranked number one in Africa in terms of growth, which measures overall growth in revenue.

Kumeshnee West, director of executive education at the UCT GSB, said these measures speak to the value that the school places on building relationships of trust with its clients.



The Financial Times ranked the UCT Graduate School of Business number one in Africa in terms of growth. / UCT

"Our rapid growth and rise in repeat business indicates that clients are seeing a return on investment and a return on value," West said.

"I believe that this is a direct result of our responsiveness and agility and an endorsement of our 'high touch' client-centric approach."

UJ students pour cold water over virtual grad

By **Nokuthula Zwane**
zwane@SundayWorld.co.za

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) has found a fun quirky way to celebrate graduation ceremonies during this global COVID-19 pandemic.

This week, UJ launched its first virtual graduation ceremony where over 13 000 graduates will have the opportunity to don their graduation attire in the comfort of their homes and observe social distancing.

Due to restrictions on public gatherings during the nationwide lockdown, the university had to suspend and postpone all its 60 autumn and winter series of graduations, from March 16 to May 13.

Ten thousand undergraduate diplomas or degrees, 3 000 postgraduate degrees, including 669 master's and 133 doctoral degrees have been virtually awarded by the university's vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Tshilidzi Marwala.

Marwala said the ceremony is such a momentous occasion in a student's life. "We trust this virtual ceremony will afford graduates, family and friends to experience some elements of a graduation ceremony. The university is also planning an in-person celebration at a later stage provided government restrictions are lifted on public gatherings," said Marwala.

We are more than willing to wait for actual graduations, honestly

A first for a South African university, the virtual graduation selfie application gives students the opportunity to have images of themselves on the graduation stage and in front of the historic water fountain at the Auckland Park campus.

However, reactions to the app have been mixed with students saying that they would rather wait for their actual ceremony.

Twitter reaction to the selfie app @BiancaMahoko said: "UJ needs to seriously rethink that virtual graduation app, no way."

"So our grandparents must tolerate for pixels? Nah fam, the graduation ceremony can be postponed," said @Lisckey on Twitter. While @Golethabom said: "We are more than willing to wait for actual graduations, honestly."

UJ spokesperson Herman Esterhuizen confirmed the app was outsourced in consultation with the institutions' experts.

COVID-19 pandemic opens window for new innovations

By **Nokuthula Zwane**

Innovation will need to be the next best thing for many South Africans to cope with the "new normal" during this COVID-19 pandemic.

A student from Tshwane University of Technology, Denzil Bothma, has been shortlisted for his innovative solutions in the Dubai Global Grad Show to address COVID-19 issues.

The third-year industrial design student created two concepts that have now gone global, to fight against this disease. The concepts include the Wheeler Hub – food trucks on the move and Micro-Mask – a smart mask for uninterrupted protection.

"After submitting my de-

signs to the Global Grad Show they were evaluated by a panel. Thereafter, they contacted me and I was informed that one of my designs, the Wheeler-Hub, was shortlisted among 30 others," said Bothma.

The ecstatic 21-year-old came up tops from the 390 other entries from all over the world.

"My first thought was that this is unreal but then it eventually struck me. I was really excited to be on the shortlist, selected from a group of 390 excellent designers. This was an opportunity to help me get exposure."

The Montana, Pretoria-born student said the Wheeler-Hub is a food truck concept based on the ice-cream kombis that drives up and down the neighbourhoods



Innovator Denzil Bothma

selling ice-cream.

"The Wheeler-Hub will be loaded with essential goods [for example food, beverages, pet food and sanitizers]. These

trucks will be sent out to the cities, towns and villages.

"[The plan is to] make it easy [for people] to buy essentials from the trucks, preventing them from gathering in groups in shops, assisting those who don't have transport to get their essentials and, in the process, to also help create jobs."

Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said in a statement: "It is extremely encouraging to see, in critical times such as these, that one of Dubai's own homegrown initiatives calls on the world to come together and find solutions for current and future problems posed by the spread of COVID-19."



Doja Cat

The pride that we can't even claim

Dumisani Dlamini's daughter Doja Cat teamed up with Nicki Minaj and their track, *Say So*, that is top of the charts. Halala! If only we could claim her as our own, but she doesn't care a hoot about daddy Dumisani.



Nicki Minaj

Last in line will be folks in Giyani

The proposal to uplift the ban on alcohol during alert level 3 and allowing people to buy liquor according to the first letters of their surnames sounds like a big joke. Shwa reckons that our brothers and sisters in Giyani, the Eastern Cape and KZN with surnames starting with letter M like Maluleke, Mathonsi, Mangena, and X, such as Xayiya, Xaba, Xaluva and others like Zungu, Zola, Zulu, will start their own toyi-toyi. Not only is the proposal divisive, but it will take us back to the olden days of umqombothi as a way to quench thirst.



Twin boys for kicking doctor

Kicking muso Doctor Malinga welcomed his twin boys this week. Now a daddy of five children, Shwa sees why he refers to his little swimmers as "super sperm".



Motherhood never looked this good

Jo-Ann Strauss, who won the Miss SA crown just the other day, is expecting baby number four. What? When did she have number two and three? She's still as flawless as ever.



COVID-19 a real disruptor

Mara these sex workers are naughty. They were told they are not essential. Shwa reckons selling vetkoek would've been a better option to put food on the table. Now after testing positive for COVID-19, 13 sex workers have to provide their clients' details. Whoooo!



Can rap, can act, can do it all

If Nasty C's rapping game is so on point, imagine his acting debut. Not all rappers can act, but Nasty C has that genie luck, everything he touches turns to gold. Shwa can't wait to see him in his debut role on the Netflix original African series, *Blood & Water*.



Who knew Ebrahim Patel was a fashionista of sorts? The trade and industry and competition minister, what a title? He mentioned cropped bottoms, not even Shwa, who is the queen of the red carpet, knew what the heck that was. Perhaps he needs to sit on fashion week boards and leave the portfolio to the real experts.



Lerato Kganyago breaks a record...

Lerato Kganyago must have had the shortest marriage in history, mos. And what's this reason about work schedules getting in the way of a couple deeply in love during lockdown? Something just doesn't add up.



I thought I was the most indecisive person until the Ramaphosa presidency hit us. Ramabillionaire this week took his indecisiveness up a notch during his address about when the country would move to alert level 3. But only after consultations. Whatever that means. Don't speak to us when you have nothing to say.

Pearl Thusi

Pearl messed with the wrong woman this time

Pearl Thusi, it was truly a blessing when you were off social media. Shwa wasn't having unnecessary headaches. It hasn't even been a moment and there you go, insulting one of the most beautiful women born, Jill Scott, on some you "wish you could powder her face". Don't ever cry again when people make fun of your pale skin. Nxh!

52598

'Major One' boasts strong support

Despite making headlines for all the wrong reasons at times, controversial Enlightened Christian Gathering (ECG) church founder and self-proclaimed prophet Shepherd Bushiri remains an attraction to a number of SA soccer stars.

Sunday World picks five prominent footballers who, when they look to the heavens, are captivated by the Malawian-born, flamboyant man of the cloth.

Tiyani Mabunda (Mamelodi Sundowns)

Mabunda is a proud congregant of Bushiri's ECG. The 32-year-old Sundowns and Bafana Bafana midfielder always thanks Bushiri, who's also known as "Major One" to his thousands of followers, for "saving his life". Such is Mabunda's devotion to ECG that whenever he wins Man of the Match award, he dedicates it to Bushiri.

Lebo Mothiba (Strasbourg, France)

Mothiba is mentored by Mabunda and most of the time when the France-based Bafana striker is in the country, he visits Bushiri's church. Before the start of last year's Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt, Mothiba, alongside Mabunda and their Bafana teammate, Buhle Mkhwanazi of Bidvest Wits, visited Bushiri's church to pray for blessings ahead of the continental finals, where they would eventually crash out in the quarter-finals after convincingly dispatching the hosts 1-0 in the last 16.

Buhle Mkhwanazi (Wits)

He is known to be a spiritual man. The towering centre-back has also visited Bushiri's church a number of times, we have gath-



A number of PSL players are not ashamed to walk the talk in showing where their loyalty lies. Many have been seen visiting the Enlightened Christian Gathering church, founded and led by controversial Malawian-born prophet Shepherd Bushiri. /

Instagram

Mabunda always thanks the man of the cloth for saving his life

trio normally read the bible and spend time together.

Tshegofatso Mabasa (Orlando Pirates)

Last year, pictures of Mabasa at ECG went viral. On YouTube, there's also a video where the "Major One" is praying for the Buccaneers striker by placing his hands over his head. The 23-year-old Mabasa hardly steps

The players visited the church to pray for blessings ahead of Afcon

onto the pitch without wrist tapes written various biblical scriptures, proving to everyone

that he is a religious young man. **Sibusiso Mthethwa (Stellenbosch FC)**

Notwithstanding the fact that he was not part of the Bafana squad for the last edition of the Afcon, Mthethwa, 29, was among players who visited Bushiri's church before the national side went to the finals in Egypt last year.

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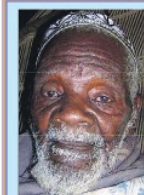
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Light at end of football tunnel

Xolile Mtshazo

SOCCER
SCENE
Opinion

There has been a beehive of physical training among football players since the move by the South African Football Association (Safa) and the Premier Soccer League (PSL) to put their differences aside and work towards the common goal of ensuring soccer action resumes in earnest in the next few weeks.

Tired of exercising in their backyards, the players took to the streets a fortnight ago as the country entered level 4 of the nationwide lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of the deadly Coronavirus.

With the government coming under pressure to ease the restrictions, President Cyril Ramaphosa this week announced a likely move to alert level 3 at the end of this month.

The news could not have come at a better time as Safa and PSL officials are readying themselves to submit a blueprint document to the government for the reopening of the soccer fields of play. An ad-hoc task team has been appointed to look into the feasibility of sending players onto the field amid all

Proposed safety regulations in global football take centre stage



Gremio players enter the field wearing masks during their match against Sao Luiz scheduled to be played behind closed doors in March in Brazil. /Getty Images

the risks of COVID-19 infections. Football, like many other team sports, is a contact sport.

As some leagues in Europe gear themselves up to resume their programmes, a number of health alerts and precaution-

ary measures have been put in place to curb the possibility of players infecting one another as the Coronavirus is said to spread from person to person through body fluids such as saliva.

It is said we are living in a

"new normal" and life will never be the same again. Fifa has set out rules for COVID-19, including the controversial five substitutions, 23 players in the squad, the checking of every-

the stadium, even if the match is played behind closed doors. A team must use two buses, no handshakes, changing the kit at half time and I like this one: No spitting on the field.

Many are of the view the "no spitting rule" will be difficult to police, as players are bound to break the rule and end up with two yellow cards and risk being sent off for an early shower after two cautions.

There is also talk in the soccer corridors for sports medical teams to come up with creative ways to allow players a touch-line break to leave the pitch for spits, something in the mould of a spitting bin.

But again, that poses a huge problem for the referees because no player may leave or enter the field without the permission of a referee. As things stand, the spitting rule could make the whole match situation tedious.

A soccer bird, with inside information, whispered to me that local football head honchos have proposed that some form of training could be started at the current level four, with one-on-one, skill-based training or partner-based (two players) training while observing social distancing.

Training during the forthcoming level 3 will be restricted to small groups of less than five players. Level 2 and 1 will open up the floodgates for the players to train as a team.

As experts on the novel virus would say, football is in "uncharted territory".

Rumble Africa still hopes to produce future IBF champs

Ntuthu glad for being recognised

By Jabulani Dlamini

Rumble Africa Promotions may have not succeeded in its quest to see Azinga "Golden Boy" Fuzile fight for the IBF junior lightweight title, but promoter Thembaletu Ntuthu has not abandoned that pursuit.

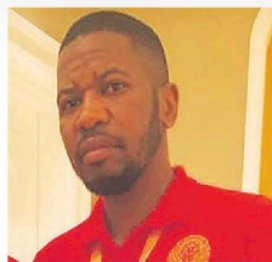
Fuzile lost his elimination fight to Russian Shaykat Rakhimov. Ntuthu says he still believes that some of the boxers from his stable will become IBF champions.

He made this known in a recorded speech thanking the New York-based boxing body for voting his company as the IBF Continental Africa's busiest promoter in 2019.

The announcement was made last week. It would have happened at its convention that was scheduled to take place in California this month, but the event was postponed to next year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

"This is the second award from the IBF in a row [won it in 2018] and we are humbled," said Ntuthu.

"We are grateful and humbled by the award. We wish to thank



Thembaletu Ntuthu

the IBF [for affording us] the opportunity to stage the IBF junior lightweight elimination fight between Azinga and Rakhimov."

It took place at Orient Theatre in September and IBF president Darryl Peoples was ring-side guest. Ntuthu added: "We'd wish to thank the IBF for rating a number of boxers from the African continent, South Africa and, most importantly, from our company."

One of them is 21-year-old sensational Sive "Special One" Nontshinga, who holds the IBF junior flyweight title.

Ntuthu said he would produce IBF champions in the future.

"We would also want as well as the entire boxing community in

South Africa and those outside our country to benefit out of our relationship with the IBF," he said of the boxing body, which has a rich history with South Africa.

The list of South Africans who have held IBF titles includes Welcome Ncita, Phillip Holaday, Vuyani Bungu, Mbulelo Botile, Brian Mitchell, Lehlohonolo Ledwaba and Noni Tenge.

CEO Nomfesane Nyathela said: "These are the best news we could get in this misery of the Coronavirus. We've worked hard to organise fights, but we never thought we could get an award for doing what we enjoy, and actually do so twice in a row."

"This honour underscores our reputation as an international promotion company, and it motivates us to work even harder. The award is a testament to the quality of our bouts, and we want to thank our matchmaker Luyanda Kana."

IBF flyweight champ Moruti Mthalane was honoured with the special achievement award while the IBF Continental Africa junior lightweight fight between new champ Bulana Khanyile and Phila Mpontshane was voted IBF Continental Africa's fight of the year.

Daylight robbery, say runners

Comrades will not refund registration fees for the race

By Matshelane Mamabolo

South Africa's ultra marathon runners are up in arms over what they perceive to be daylight robbery by two of the country's major races.

Upon cancelling this year's race due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Comrades Marathon Association (CMA) went the same route as their Two Oceans Marathon counterparts by declaring that there will be no refunding of the registration fees.

"Every South African entrant [including the 485 who entered during the recent substitution period] will not be refunded their entry fee but will instead receive their Comrades 2020 mrsp-sport runners T-shirt and goodie bag, as well as Comrades badge and flash," CMA chairperson Cheryl Winn said in a statement announcing the cancellation.

CMA announced it would defer foreign entrants' registrations to next year, a decision that has left many fuming.

"It is disgusting what they are doing," said Lauren Mtshali, a multiple Comrades silver

medalist. "What's the use of getting a T-shirt for a race I did not run? Two Oceans did the same. They promised us they will be sending us goodie bags but we are still waiting. So, this year I have just thrown about R1 100 down the drain with registrations for the two races. That is not fair, it is robbery."

Mtshali, like many runners, does not hold a great job and often sacrifices certain needs to be able to enter the races as well as travel to the coast.

Unlike the social runners whose loss is merely the registration fees, the cancellations have hit the professionals the hardest.

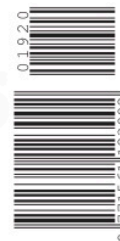
Former Comrades champion Gift Kelehe said: "These people have been taking us for granted for too long now. Our problem is that ASA [Athletic South Africa] is not doing anything for us."

CMA general manager Ketleso Totlhanoye explained: "With three months to go to race day when the pandemic struck, CMA had already incurred significant expenses towards the staging of the 2020 race, few of which could be carried forward to the next year in that they are already dated."

CMA said that they will be making an announcement tomorrow about an innovation to make up for the race cancellation this year.

Soccer stars swear by Bushiri

page 14



Sukazi on the brink of acquiring Bloem Celtic

If successful, TS Galaxy will get new owners

By **Ngwako Malatji**
ngwakom@sundayworld.co.za

Football boss Tim Sukazi could be on the verge of buying Bloemfontein Celtic for at least R60-million and is also selling his first division team TS Galaxy for an undisclosed quantum.

Sunday World can reveal that Sukazi has approached Joburg company owners, known to us, and asked them to buy his outfit, which shot to fame after beating Kaizer Chiefs in the Nedbank Cup final last season.

The company owners have allegedly agreed in principle to purchase the team and have already spoken to their lawyers to prepare an offer to purchase.

Although we were unable to independently verify the purchase price, it is understood that the company has agreed to pay a few millions of rands to secure the team from Sukazi.

Three independent sources, who spoke to Sunday World on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Sukazi has attached a price tag to his team and that he was on the cusp of buying the Free State-based club.

"He has already met with a well-known company that specialises in security and construction services and the offer was tabled and he accepted it in principle. He is favourably considering that offer because he wants to use the money to buy Bloemfontein Celtic. The deal is likely to be finalised by June 1," said the deep throat.

Another mole confirmed that Sukazi,



TS Galaxy gained popularity when they beat fancied Kaizer Chiefs in the Nedbank Cup final at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban in May last year. / Gallo Images



Max Tshabalala



Tim Sukazi

a Joburg-based attorney and owner of law firm Sukazi Inc, is selling his team, which bagged R7-million after pipping Amakhosi 1-0 in the cup final at Moses Mabhida Stadium in May last year.

The source also said Sukazi is on the brink of buying Phunya Sele Sele, as Celtic is pop-

ularly known, and that negotiations to iron out the kinks of the contract are at an advanced stage.

"He has indicated to us that the Celtic deal is in the pipeline and that he is selling TS Galaxy because he would not be able to own two teams at the same time, as that would not be financially sustainable, and besides, the Fifa policies don't allow one person to own two clubs," said the tipster.

Another source confirmed that Sukazi has put up his club for sale. "It's a slam dunk, very soon TS Galaxy will be under new owners, and Tim will be the new owner of Bloemfontein Celtic," said the source.

Sukazi couldn't deny or confirm that he was selling his club and intends buying Celtic. "I will speak to Max [Tshabalala, chairman of Celtic] after the lockdown and if indeed the club is up for sale, I will pursue the deal," said Sukazi.

"The thing is, this is a sensitive matter and various stakeholders need to meet and engage. If we buy Celtic, then TS Galaxy will have to go.

"Many people have approached me, enquiring about my club, and I have given them my response. We will have to go with the highest bidder," explained the legal eagle.

Task team to report in nine days time when football should resume

By **Xolile Mtshazo**
MtshazoX@sundayworld.co.za

The SA Football Association (Safa) and Premier Soccer League (PSL) six-member ad-hoc task team mandated with mapping the way forward for when professional football should resume has until Wednesday, May 27, to submit its report.

The report will then be handed over to the government, through the sports ministry under Sports, Arts and Recreation Minister Nathi Mthethwa to peruse and make the final decision.

This comes after the two soccer bodies' joint liaison committee met this week to chart the path forward for the possible resumption of football action in the country after all sporting activities were suspended mid-March due to the Coronavirus crisis.

The world of football is on tenterhooks at the moment after the German Bundesliga resumed playing competitive matches, with other countries set to follow, but all are taking into consideration that the safety of the players and supporting staff should be guaranteed at all cost.

Safa's newly appointed acting CEO Tebogo Motlanthe told Sunday World yesterday that he was not mandated to speak to the media as member of the task team.

"We will only be able to give details about the work the joint team is doing after we have completed everything and submitted our document to all the relevant parties," said Motlanthe.

"An update on the possibility of when to start playing football again will be given after 14 days from the date the task team was set up. We have to complete our work first for us to be clear as to where we are heading."

He said the member tasked with speaking to the media was Safa executive member Poobalan "Poobi" Govindasamy, but he did not answer his phone when contacted.

Task Team Members

Tebogo Motlanthe (Safa acting CEO), Mato Madlala (PSL acting CEO), Thulani Ngwenya (Safa chief medical officer), Ler-vasen Pillay (PSL head of medical), Poobalan Govindasamy - a member of Safa national executive committee and Jose Ferreira, who is a PSL executive committee member.



Tebogo Motlanthe

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This is a sensitive matter and various stakeholders need to meet and engage. If we buy Celtic, then TS Galaxy will have to go

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