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LAW AND ORDER A MUST FOR UMJINDI



Deputy Minister of Police, Cassel Mathale during his visit on Monday.

Yoliswa Khumalo

BARBERTON - Police have promised that they will enforce law and order when tackling crime issues, including gangsterism and illegal firearms, among others in Umjindi Township. At the same time, the local community expressed their despondency on the police, whom they described as “unprotective and unresponsive” when called upon to attend to serious crime issues, especially at the notorious Extension 11. During a community interactive session, it was revealed by a representative from Extension 11, that crime was at an unprecedented rate in the township and sadly said that police were not available

to assist as he said: “Many a community member who registered their frustrations, chose to remain anonymous to safeguard themselves from being targeted by criminal elements in the area. “There’s rampant shootings on daily basis and people are rampantly attacked in their homes, but there’s no police visibility nor any response to reported cases. “People who report cases at the police station, do not get attended to because there’s only one vehicle and those reported are never attended to by the police, unfortunately. “Even this community meeting, the community was never invited, we will go ahead and speak on their behalf as

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MANAGING COMPANY:
EUPHONIA INVESTMENTS

EDITOR:

Bongani Hlatshwayo

Cell: 079 069 1092

Email:

bongani@mpmirroronline.co.za
brizotime@gmail.com

NEWS EDITOR:

Yoliswa Khumalo

Cell: 082 090 7341

Email:

yoliswa@mpmirroronline.co.za
yoliswahlathwayo@gmail.com

**SPORTS EDITOR & DIGITAL
MANAGER:**

Jabulane Khumalo

Cell: 074 819 4977

Email:

jabulane@mpmirroronline.co.za

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

**Sunrise Heights 27
15 Koraalboom Avenue
West Acres, Mbombela 1200
Telephone number:
(013) 110 4773**

Nkangala Correspondent:

Thulani Lukhele

Gert Sibande District

Correspondent:

Lungile Dube



Audit Bureau of
Circulations of South Africa

**Mpumalanga
Mirror**

“No backlash with the PMU”- Mandla Ndlovu

MBOMBELA - It never rains, but it pours. That's what is purportedly insinuated by the negative report assuming that Premier Mandla Ndlovu's establishment of the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU).

According to an official statement released by the General Manager: Communications, George Mthethwa, it states thus: “The Mpumalanga Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu has noted with grave concern, a misleading report in the media with a reference to the Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

to be established in the Office of the Premier (OTP).

“A Sunday publication suggests that Premier Ndlovu is facing a backlash over an alleged power grab through a plan to establish the Unit.

“In setting the record straight, Premier Ndlovu says the establishment of the Unit is in line with the mandate of the Office of the Premier of strengthening oversight responsibility and monitoring role over departments.

“The Auditor General raised concern on the slow movement, implementation and delivery of infrastructure projects by departments due to lack of oversight responsibility and monitoring thereof.

“This does not only give rise to undesirable audit findings, but render ineffective, government's efforts to improve service delivery, through the implementation of infrastructure development.

“We committed ourselves to the



Premier, Mandla Ndlovu.

Auditor General that we will play our role, through the establishment of the Unit,” Premier Ndlovu explained.

The Premier further outlined the strategic trust and objectives of the Unit aimed at achieving the following outcomes, namely:

- * To monitor and track the implementation to ensure timely delivery of infrastructure projects in the province;
- * To enhance Project Performance through tracking progress and identifying bottlenecks to ensure projects meet

their objectives within scope, timely, and budget;

- * To evaluate and analyse the impact and effectiveness of projects to determine if desired goals are achieved;
- * To inform decision making through provision of timely data and reports to enable evidence-based policy adjustments and resource allocations;
- * To enhance transparency and accountability by fostering a culture of transparency and accountability within government operations, thereby, increasing public trust.

“It is against this backdrop that the Office of the Premier will establish the Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit with technical expertise to improve accountability and strengthening monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure projects that will ultimately enhance service delivery provision in Mpumalanga.

“Premier Ndlovu says the Office of the Premier will focus on monitoring of service delivery projects than to issue tenders. His emphasis is that departmental mandates will not be interrupted. He warned those with little understanding of government systems to avoid misleading the public. “Every government programme is guided by the legislation. Therefore, lack of understanding by some individuals will not deter us from performing our duties as government,” he emphasized.

Female cop in court for double murder

BUSHBUCKRIDGE - Murder accused, Sergeant Nyiko Nyath made her second appearance in the Bushbuckridge Magistrate's Court following police reinforcement on March 12.

She faces two counts of murder after she allegedly hired hitmen to kill her husband and another woman. The case was postponed to 17 March to secure another prosecutor. The reason for the delay is that current prosecutors are conflicted as they worked with her as she's a detective stationed in

Bushbuckridge. An angry community disrupted court proceedings during her first appearance on Monday, March 10 after Nyathi (42) handed herself over at the Bushbuckridge Police Station.

According to reports, last month, Lawrence Alba Mashego (44) was reportedly attacked by a group of armed men at his house in Boikutsong Trust. The armed men robbed him of his two vehicles then got kidnapped. The two vehicles were reportedly used by the suspects as a mode of transport

to reach a certain house in Zoeknoeg. At the house, they found Victoria Lebyane (44), who was Mashego's female friend, in possession of his bank cards. Lebyane was then robbed of about R4 000 cash as well as some bank cards. After that, she was fatally shot by the suspects. Mashego was fatally shot later as well. “Police probed the matter conducting an investigation which led to the arrest of four suspects. One of the suspects pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 77 years imprisonment.

Law and order will be restored

Continues from page 1

community leaders. What's the use of this gathering when the venue is filled up by police who are never there during crises moments accompanied by a brass band,” the community stated.

This was revealed on Monday to the Deputy Minister of Police, Cassel Mathale during a School Safety Programme and community engagement held at Kamhola High School and at a local church.

This community engagement was held in order to strengthen crime prevention efforts and to promote safer learning environments.

Mathale pointed out that besides other criminal activities identified by police,

guns play a predominant role in crime around the area. He said as part of the Operation Shanyela initiative, established last year, operations will be intensified in Barberton.

“We are also discussing options of extending amnesty to encourage the community to bring out firearms they do not have use for, both legal and illegal firearms as our drive is to remove them from the streets,” said the Deputy Minister. Residents who wished to remain anonymous, said living in Barberton has become a nightmare with all the shooting incidents.

“This place used to be safe, but nowadays, we are even afraid to walk alone in the streets. Things need to change and criminals must be reported to the police.” Schools were also encouraged to establish

and maintain Safe School Committees, which comprise of internal stakeholders of the schools, for example learners, educators, School Governing Body (SGB) members and school security personnel.

SGB chairperson of Kamhola High School, Njabulo Sibanyoni, said they welcomed the initiative and visit to the school as it will help learners and communities to understand how the SAPS functions.

“I have hope that the crime rate and gangsterism, in particular, will decrease with government's intervention.” A career exhibition was also held to expose young people to career paths within the SAPS, reinforcing the role of law enforcement in community development.



Actor and comedian to be laid to rest

Yoliswa Khumalo

MBOMBELA - Comedian, Ebenhaezer Dibakwane, will be laid to rest this Friday.

His family revealed the details in a statement confirming that the award-winning comedian will be buried in Mbombela.

Dibakwane passed away on Friday, 7 March, 2025 at the age of 31.

According to the statement, preliminary investigations revealed that he had committed suicide.

"The past few days have been excruciating for us, as we battle to deal with this loss. Preliminary evidence suggests that Ebby died of suicide, which we expect will be confirmed by the post-mortem examination.

"We are touched and immensely grateful for the outpouring of love, comfort and support that we have been receiving from many," reads the statement.

It further reads that he was able to make people laugh, yet he battled with depression for years. "While his passing is devastating for us and for many who loved him, it is our prayer that this tragedy may remind all of us of the need to look out for each other, while taking care of our own mental health, including seeking professional help where necessary," added the family.

The family also encouraged those battling with depression to seek help. His family described him as a sociable being who loved being around people. He was the youngest of five siblings. The former Penryn College student's career highlights include scooping the Savanna Comics' Choice Newcomer of The Year Award and Comedian of The Year, being nominated for scriptwriting and his TV roles among others.

The funeral service is scheduled to take place on Friday, 14 March at Church Unlimited in Mbombela from 07:00.



Snake bite leads lad to snake catching career

Lungile Dube

ELUKWATINI - Derryl Watts did the unexpected when he caught a spitting cobra by his hand after it had bitten him on his leg at the age of 13 years.

Watts who is now a 27 year-old certified snake catcher, recalls how it was love at first bite.

"We were out playing when the snake bit



Derryl Watts.

me on the leg and spit on my cousin's eyes. I quickly grabbed it by the head and took it with to my parents. I guess I was driven by the adrenaline from the snake bite," he said. He said his parents rushed him to hospital for medical treatment while he was still holding the snake in his hand. "Everybody was scared and the hospital staff refused to assist me until I got rid of the snake. I wanted to show them the thing that bit me. They said we boys were crazy and that's when I developed a flair for snakes," he recalled.

Watts, who is also a mine worker, is currently offering free snake catching services to the community of Elukwatini and surrounding areas. He labeled this as an act of love and passion for animals.

"Ever since I was bitten by a snake as a boy, I grew to love animals, including those that are regarded as dangerous. I realized that I could also calm aggressive animals, I believe it's a gift," he added.

Last year, he decided to train as a professional catcher at the Access Professional Development Training Center where he received certification. Although he is offering the service for free at the moment, Watts said he could not attend to most calls due to mobility constraints.

"I receive calls even at night people asking me to assist them with snakes in their houses, but I couldn't go because I currently don't have a car. In that instance, I assist with advice to get the snake out of the house. I am looking for a small bakkie to purchase so I could be able to fully assist," he said.

In addition, Watts said he plans to provide medical facilities with snake venom for the development of an anti-venom treatment.



Mxolisi Guliwe
Production Manager

This isn't a story, **it's a journey.**

My name is Mxolisi Guliwe, and my journey started in KwaThema, in Springs. Growing up in a mining family, I was naturally drawn to the industry. I finished high school and went on to study Mining Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

Both my grandfathers and my father worked in mines, and their stories inspired me. I joined the Glencore Professionals in Training graduate programme, where I gained invaluable experience, from underground mining to surface operations.

Now, as a Production Manager at Glencore's Goedgevonden Complex, I've been empowered to lead a team of my own, focusing on achieving exceptional results safely.

I also proudly mentor local graduates and supervisors, sharing my expertise and making a positive impact on the next generation. I believe good guidance and support can shape sharp minds into future leaders - a passion I share with Glencore.

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NPO offers free literacy skills

Nontsikelelo Nkuna

HAZYVIEW Literacy skills enable children to articulate their thoughts and engage in effective communication. Fostering literacy among young learners is crucial for the acquisition of knowledge, the enhancement of creativity, and the development of critical thinking abilities. The Mpumalanga Department of Education has commended the vital role played by a Non-Profit Organization, Universal Learning Solutions, in advancing early grade literacy skills in different countries within the African continent.

The organization, in collaboration with the department hosted the Jolly Phonics Reading workshop at Tfolinhlanhla Primary School in Hazyview on 26 February. The organization uses the Jolly Phonics literacy program to advance English literacy program that teaches the 42 sounds of the alphabet in multi-sensory, enjoyable and child centred manner. More than 40 grade 1 teachers from various schools in the White-Hazy circuit attended the workshop to learn and equip themselves with a number of skills that will aid in promoting the culture of reading and comprehension in their classrooms. Undoubtedly, a solid foundation in literacy skills during early childhood is essential for achieving academic success and enhancing future prospects.



Teachers holding literacy books.

Mastery of reading, writing, and communication facilitates access to more advanced educational opportunities. The Department's Director for General Education and Training, Nelly Ledwaba believes that the project will lead to a significant improvement in English literacy. She additionally mentioned that executing this project will help address the nation's reading dilemma.

"We really appreciate Jolly Phonics to be implemented in our schools and we thank the Head of Department for agreeing for Jolly Phonics to enter into an MOU with department of education because we all know that the past findings says our learners cannot read and write, and in that regard, we are going to make sure that we

improve the foundation, the basics because the assessment was conducted in Grade 4, therefore, it implies that we are not well-coordinated in the lower grades, grade R-3" Ledwaba said.

Dr. Daisy Reddy, the Director of Universal Learning Solutions in South Africa, emphasized that the initiative plays a significant role in promoting accessible learning skills for children. She further noted that their objective is to extend their reach to as many educational institutions as possible. "We are not only targeting a specific school or district. In working with the province, we target every grade 1 teacher in the entire province, so whether the children come from advantaged or disadvantaged communities, we want every early grade learner, especially

those in grade 1 to begin to improve their literacy skills, but focusing on English skills"

Furthermore, CEO of the organization, Gary Foxcroft stated that the initiative will give learners across the province, particularly those in remote communities, an opportunity for personal growth and development.

"Often the materials are expensive and not affordable for the government schools, but for us our passion is to always help the less privileged. And we really wanted to see how we could try to bring this amazing resource, Jolly Phonics, to the government schools sector so that we can help the less privileged," Foxcroft said.

Thousands of teachers have since been trained through this program.

"So far, we have trained over 230 000 teachers in Jolly Phonics. It is now the biggest English literacy project in Africa.

I am very delighted to be here today to see the teachers, trainers in action, and to see how much support we have been given here in the province. With Jolly Phonics in Mpumalanga, we believe that very quickly we can help children to read and write with joy and in English" Foxcroft concluded.

The teachers were presented with essential resources including colourful posters, teacher guides and learner books. The organization plans to roll out the project across all the primary schools in the province.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MPUMALANGA MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW BOARD FOR EHLANZENI AND NKANGALA DISTRICTS THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS IS 25 APRIL 2025.

The MEC for health in Mpumalanga Province, Ms SJ Manzini, invites nominations for representatives to serve on the Mental Health Review Boards in the Province (Ehlanzeni and Nkangala district for a three-year period. This is in terms of Chapter 1V of the mental health Care Act No.17 of 2002. Mental Review Boards are independent quasi-judicial body that derive their authority from the above- mentioned Act.

The functions of the Review Board include:

- Considering 72-hours assessment made by the head of the health establishment and make decisions to provide further involuntary care, treatment and rehabilitation;
- Considering appeals against decisions of the head of a health establishment;
- Make decisions with regard to assisted or involuntary mental health care, treatment and rehabilitation services;
- Considering reviews and make decisions on transfer of mental health care users to maximum security facilities and periodic reports on mental health status of mentally ill prisoners.
- The mental Review Boards must also investigate any allegation of abuse and uphold the human rights of all mental Health Users.

Appointment will be on a sessional basis and an allowance will only be payable for the hours undertaken in terms of the chapter 1V of the mental health Care Act No.17 of 2002.

Nominations should be a South African residing in Ehlanzeni and Nkangala district respectively and aged 21 years and above and meeting the criteria stipulated in the 3 categories below:

1. **Mental Health Care Practitioner:** Professional qualification and current registration with the relevant council as a (Medical practitioner, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, clinical or counselling psychologists, Occupational Therapists or Social worker). Practical experience in diagnosis of mental disorder or intellectual disability
2. **Legal Practitioner:** Appropriate professional qualification and registration with the relevant body in terms of the laws of the RSA as a magistrate, attorney or advocate
3. **Community member:** good understanding of the South African mental health and referral systems, NGO's, consumer advocacy and community-based care

Nominees are required to send a comprehensive CV with certified copies of all qualifications, contact details of 3 referees as well as a completed nomination form obtainable from Department online application system: www.mpuhealth.gov.za. You are expected to have your own transport and valid driver's licence, not currently serving in other boards in the government Departments as a board member or as an official.

In respect of registration of the professional categories mentioned above one must ensure that the incumbent attach a registration with the relevant professional bodies/boards, (e.g. SANC/HPCSA, Legal Practice Counsel Etc.) and/or are admitted by law to the relevant profession. Download and Complete Nomination Form obtainable from our website: www.mpuhealth.gov.za NB all certified copies should be attached in the application and not exceed six months, kindly specify the district and position you are applying for, you can only apply for one district i.e. Ehlanzeni or Nkangala.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms S. GUMEDE AT 013 766 3145 / SarahG@mpuhealth.gov.za & Mr D. HLOPHE AT 013 766 3314 / DumisaniH@mpuhealth.gov.za



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MEC Speedy Mashilo during an oversight visit.

People's voices heard at TLP

DELMAS- Public participation and engagements have been some of the focuses of Taking the Legislature to the People this week.

This is aimed at giving a platform to communities to participate in the governance of the province. The week long programme officially kicked off on Tuesday, March 11 at the Simon Gondwe Sports Field with a public participation session where people directly interacted with public representatives where service delivery concerns were raised including housing.

During the engagement, residents raised concerns about sewer spillages, the wrongful allocation of houses, delays in issuing title deeds, water scarcity, illegal dumping sites, and land invasions. Community leader, Sabelo Twala pleaded with the government to prioritise the removal of an illegal dumping site, which poses serious health risks. "We are requesting government to remove the dumping site. We can't open windows or sit outside our homes, and we are deeply concerned about our health," said Twala.

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) Speedy Mashilo acknowledged the concerns raised and emphasised the importance of adhering to proper housing allocation processes. He clarified that individuals who wish to apply for government-subsidised housing must meet the required criteria and be registered on the National Housing Needs Register (NHNR). He further reassured residents that the department prioritises vulnerable groups,



Speaker, Lindi Masina.

including people living with disabilities, child-headed households, and the elderly. "We are working tirelessly to ensure that all qualifying beneficiaries receive their houses. Please be patient," Mashilo said. He strongly condemned the illegal sale and rental of government-subsidised houses, warning that it undermines the government's efforts to eradicate homelessness. "Beneficiaries who sell their houses often find themselves back in informal settlements, making it even harder to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness," Mashilo cautioned.

The programme proceeded with oversight visits to various government funded projects including Botleng Clinic, Usizolomphakathi Cattle Farming Project and the public library among others.

Premier, Mandla Ndlovu is expected to conclude the programme with closing remarks on Friday



Attendees at the TLP.



Poppy Kweyama.

WCRD to be commemorated

California Dube

The National Consumer Commission (NCC) has joined forces with the Competition Commission, Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and various regulatory bodies to celebrate World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD), globally commemorated on March 15.

This year's activities will take place in Mpumalanga under the theme: "Empowering consumers – balancing rights with ethical business practices". Bongani Dube, acting director of Business Regulations and Governance at the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, expressed his gratitude for Mpumalanga being nominated as a host province.

"We are honored that Mpumalanga Province has been selected to host this prestigious national event. We are fully prepared to host the event, having completed all necessary preparations to ensure its success," said Dube during a media briefing on March 10 at the GCIS Centre in Pretoria.

In his speech, the Director outlined a series of activities scheduled to take place in the province throughout the week to commemorate this prestigious event. These include a business breakfast with leaders in Mbombela, site visits and inspections of local businesses, and a seminar with students aimed at raising awareness of consumer rights.

"Other activities have begun as we speak, with exhibitions and inspections of businesses in other areas already underway," Dube added.

These efforts aim to guarantee that businesses provide consumers with safe and authentic products, a crucial measure in light of the recent outbreak of food-borne illnesses that left many school learners hospitalised last year in the province. Poppy Kweyama, head of education and advocacy at the NCC, reflected on the progress made in consumer rights, while acknowledging that significant challenges persist.

"Despite advancements, many consumers remain vulnerable to unsafe products, and unethical business practices. The

consumer protection landscape presents new challenges each year, and it remains our steadfast commitment to safeguard consumers against exploitative and questionable practices," Kweyama explained.

This global event aims to promote consumer awareness and empowerment, while encouraging businesses to adopt ethical practices. University of Mpumalanga will host the main event on Friday, March 14, which promises to be an exciting celebration of consumer rights.



Bongani Dube.



Boi Stizy The Dj wins his debut prize!

Bongani Hlatshwayo



Emalahleni's young deejay exponent, 24, has won R10 000 cash to boost his morale as a rising music star who is headed for bigger stakes in the music scene locally, provincially, nationally and May cross the oceans to demonstrate his home-grown music genre that has a potential to land him on the international scene.

KZN's Black Coffee is currently towering on the international scene, so is Boi Stizy headed to. He spoke to Mpumalanga Mirror thus:

"My birth name is Brian Sydney Million (Boi Stizy The Dj). Im 24 years old.

I am a Musical Producer, Dejay, Sound and Recording Engineer.

"In summary, I am a performer. I am based in Reynoridge in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Province."

How did you lend in this music competition?

"The competition was about the grooming of young and upcoming talented youngsters with little or no support of getting to the pinnacle of the trade. It also offered the opportunity to be a residential club DJ at the organisers' venue. I heard about the competition through a friend and

also saw a poster.

"What I know, is that we had a bunch of talented performers throughout the stages. All I thought of, was to go and present a memorable performance, regardless of who had performed or did whatever best"

How was your mood at that stage?

"I was just ecstatic, and over the moon, considering the group of talented individuals I was competing against. Getting the R10k, was the icing on the cake. It was all just about being offered the platform and opportunity, was the best thing to ever happen to me and I believe my colleagues had the same feeling. The crowd going crazy made me more emotional," he reminisced about that moment.

What is his opinion on the organisers offering such opportunities to far-flung communities?

"Emalahleni has a number of people who are talented. It is populated by talented youngsters in different musical codes of entertainment. Talent producers and organisers must also give us opportunities and not only relying on big metropolitans."

What does the future hold for you in the music scene?

"I believe that with every level, comes great opportunities and big challenges. I hope to keep growing and collaborating with other artists, be it locally or internationally, and I will also be exploring other parts of the industry to keep spreading love, peace and hope to the Rainbow Nation with the spirit of Ubuntu, always," he concluded.

All the best for the future for our province's hidden gem. The sky is the limit!



Lwah Ndlunkulu more than ready to dazzle at Miss Mpumalanga

Bongani Hlatshwayo

Saturday, 15 March 2025 is your date with Afro-pop artist, Lwah Ndlunkulu and the Top 10 finalists of the Crowning Miss Mpumalanga 2025.

That's certainly a date not to be missed as Mzimari Productions, organisers of this prestigious beauty pageant, will be celebrating their 15th anniversary and incidentally, crowning their 15th queen, come Saturday evening.

It is on that very note that Mzimari Productions chose to celebrate this 15th crowning event in great style, hence they are bringing the special services of Afro-pop artist, Lwah Ndlunkulu, real name, Lwandile as the main entertainer on the night.

She was born and raised in Hluhluwe, KwaZulu-Natal and she relocated to Johannesburg, to her mother's house while she was studying Grade 11 in 2020.

She got a job at the Hillbrow Radio Station as a radio presenter prior to working at a club situated at Maboneng.

While she was working at the club, she met music producer Celza and invited her to visit Nkabi Records prior to signing a record deal. Lwah signed a record deal and made her debut on Big Zulu's single "Umuze eSandton" which appeared on Ichwane Lenyoka. The song reached number 1 in South Africa. "Home" featuring Sjava, was released in 2021.

Lwah appeared on a joint album of Nkabi Records Inkabi Nation alongside Xowla,

Siya Ntuli, Big Zulu and Mduduzi that was released 2022.

Lwah gained global prominence after her breakthrough debut single, "Ithuba" featuring Siya Ntuli that was released in August 2022. The song was certified platinum by the Recording Industry of South Africa.

"Ngiyeza" was released on January 20, 2023. It reached number #2, #4, #5, #9 iTune Charts, Shazam, Apple Music and Spotify, respectively within the first week of release. It reached Platinum by the Recording Industry of South Africa.[7] [8]

Lwah leads the nominees with 4 nominations for Song of the Year, Afro Pop Artist of the Year, Artist of the Year at 2023 Basadi in Music Awards.

Ndlunkulu announced her debut studio album Imizwa, on November 13, 2023. The album was released on November 24.

Upon its release, it debuted number one on Spotify's Top Albums Charts, and amassed two million streams on Spotify, 10 days after its release. Don't miss the 14 previous queens who will grace the prestigious crowning event. Don't miss the Red Carpet prior to the commencement of the event as you get a glimpse of special personalities that contributed immensely.

Last, but not least, dress to kill in order to contribute to the classic 15th anniversary crowning.

"If it's not right, then it's not us," quipped CEO of Mzimari Productions, Gugu Nyarenda.

See you there!



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JABULANE KHUMALO

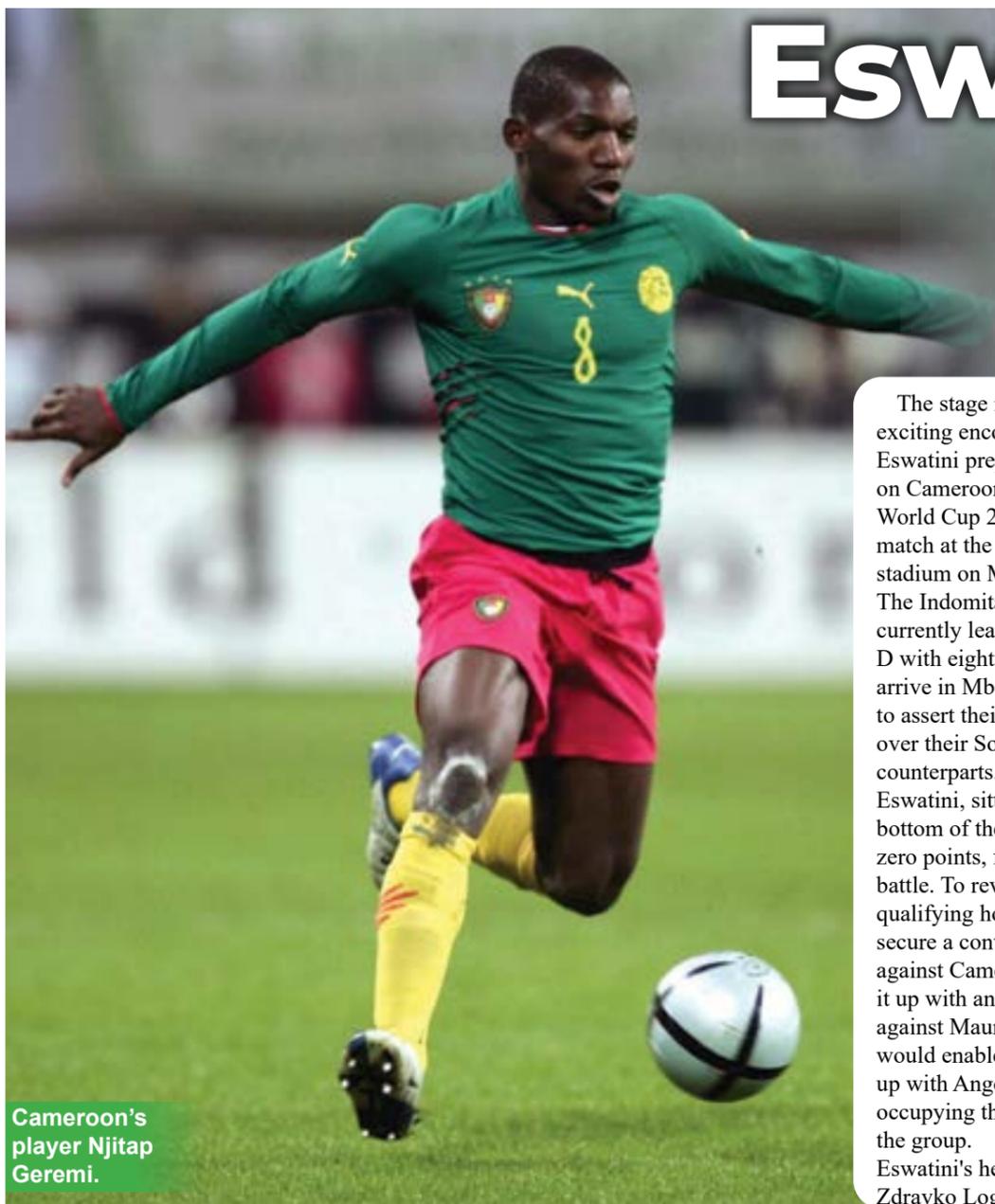
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Eswatini Gears Up to Face Cameroon



Cameroon's player Njitap Geremi.

The stage is set for an exciting encounter as Eswatini prepares to take on Cameroon in a FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifying match at the Mbombela stadium on March 19. The Indomitable Lions, currently leading Group D with eight points, will arrive in Mbombela looking to assert their dominance over their Southern African counterparts. Eswatini, sitting at the bottom of the group with zero points, faces an uphill battle. To revive their qualifying hopes, they must secure a convincing win against Cameroon and follow it up with another victory against Mauritius. This would enable them to level up with Angola, currently occupying the third spot in the group. Eswatini's head coach, Zdravko Logarusic, has

announced a 24-member squad, predominantly comprising home-based players, for the upcoming qualifiers. The team features a few notable foreign-based players, including Zambia's ZESCO United defender Lindo Mkhonta, Mxolisi Mkhontfo of Jwaneni Galaxy FC in Botswana, and Justice Figareido of Bay United FC in South Africa. Experienced striker, Felix Badenhorst, who plays for Royal Leopard FC, will be a key inspiration for Eswatini's attack. Meanwhile, Cameroon boasts an impressive record, having dominated their Africa Cup of Nations qualifying group with an unbeaten run. The Indomitable Lions have also made eight appearances at the World Cup finals, the most by any African team. Cameroon's superior form and experience make them strong favorites to win against

Eswatini. A victory would enable them to pull ahead in the standings before hosting second-placed Libya. Angola, the only other country in the group with World Cup experience, will face stiff competition against Libya and Cabo Verde. If they maintain their impressive form, they could potentially leapfrog both teams. In another crucial matchup, Eswatini will face Mauritius, who currently have four points, at the same venue. Mauritius will be eager to maximize their chances of securing a win against Eswatini, which would propel them up the group standings. The team is looking to put their 3-1 aggregate defeat to Chad in the preliminary round of their continental competition behind them and climb back into the top three.

Four more years for CAF President Mostepe

Dr Patrice Motsepe has been re-elected unopposed as President of the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF) for a second four-year term. The decision was confirmed at the 14th CAF Extraordinary General Assembly in Cairo on Wednesday, extending his leadership of the organisation until 2029. Motsepe's re-election comes after a first term widely praised for stabilising CAF's finances and boosting its global profile. Under his leadership, the organization set several new records at the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), Cote d'Ivoire 2023, attracting a record 1.4 billion viewers worldwide. Prize money for major tournaments, including the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League and TotalEnergies

CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations, has also increased significantly, alongside enhanced financial support for Member Associations. The 63-year-old faced no opposition after the nomination deadline passed in November 2024. His decision to run again followed requests from Member Association Presidents and key stakeholders. "The goal remains making African football globally competitive, stabilising finances, and investing in infrastructure," he said. Dr Motsepe's unopposed re-election reflects both confidence in his leadership and the desire to see him elevate African football to new heights. - CAF



Dr Patrice Motsepe re-elected.

