

## GBR National Vice-chairman Urges Students to Widen their Dreams



By *Thembinkosi Mavimbela*

Keynote Speaker, Musa Ndabandaba, National Vice-chairman of GBR and Managing Director at 360 Degrees Business Solutions (2nd from left) with a section of students (Pic by Lofana Mavuso)

KWALUSENI - A new milestone for Global Business Roundtable (GBR) UNISWA was marked by its main session of the Student Chapter Kwaluseni, at the IDE Lecture Theatre.

The two-hour session was graced by Musa Ndabandaba, National Vice-chairman of GBR and Managing Director at 360 Degrees Business Solutions who gave an inspiring address under the theme, “Using your degree/qualification as a springboard to a satisfying career.”

Ndabandaba challenged the more than 120 UNISWA students to broaden their dreams. “Aim at having breakfast in New York, lunch in London and dinner in Tokyo. Grab as much knowledge on how you can improve your life whilst you still can,” he said. During the session, students got insight on how they can improve on what they have, using their university degree as a

springboard for success.

Commenting on the theme, Head of GBR Student Chapter Kwaluseni said, “The reason why we picked such a theme was because we realized that the ingredients for a successful career we possess as university students may not be as valuable as we think they are. Hence, we chose a theme that is relevant to students and one that opens options of what they can do with their qualifications.” Nkala is also Vice-Secretary General of Ebomini Cooperative, Neliswa Nkala,

The interactive meeting of students and business leaders also facilitated business and procurement opportunities as well as promoted trade and investment among students. “When is the ideal time to start investing?” one GBR member asked during the question and answer session facilitated by the Guest Speaker. In response the

Ndabandaba stressed that investment begins as soon as one is able to put aside money that one will not need and decide to invest it in whatever age.

Being the first session of the current academic year, it was attended by UNISWA students from both Kwaluseni and Luyengo campus; representatives from GBR Future Leaders Swaziland; GBR Roundtables around the country, as well as random GBR members.

Highlighting the benefits of being a GBR member, Nkala mentioned that students are provided with a networking opportunity at business level over a roundtable which signifies that everyone is equal at GBR.

Through GBR, members are provided with international traveling opportunities and get to learn from people who are in business. Stressing the importance of business

networks, Ndabandaba told students not to learn only from business leaders who have succeeded but those who have failed too; GBR being a good start.

The Head of GBR Student Chapters Swaziland, Sanele Tfwala, unpacking Students Chapters, stated that they are a wing of GBR Future Leaders and currently exist in University of Swaziland; Kwaluseni and Luyengo campus.

“Student Chapters are a platform for students to build business networks and find mentors. GBR members also get opportunities to join Saving Co-operatives, where the culture of savings is inculcated in them,” he explained.

Further, Nkala, extended an invitation to students who want to take their degree/qualification as a springboard to a satisfying career to join GBR.

## STUDENTS DEPRESSED BY LACK OF SCHOLARSHIPS

By *Hlobisile Vilakati*

KWALUSENI - Scholarship issues are the main cause of pain among university students this semester which has seen some resorting to prostitution in order to put food on the table.

This observation was made by Senior Assistant Dean of Students' Affairs, Theresa Mabuza. Mabuza's office has a daily influx of students who need counseling. The campus counselor and developer has cited lack of funding as the main cause to the myriad grievances.

This semester has been dominated by situations whereby students could not get their results or register into the next level because they had pending fee; a situation that prompted some of these to visit Mabuza's office for counseling.

Mabuza said, “A job like this becomes a lifestyle as I have to work with students both in trials, tribulations as well as triumphs and see to it that they get my utmost attention.” Mabuza said that her office gives first preference to students who are overwhelmed with emotions, as these require immediate professional attention.

“I can't leave a crying student,” Mabuza said. She also mentioned that students' problems spiral into substance abuse and prostitution because some see drunkenness as their only gateway to happiness and prostitution the only way to put food on the table.

“I have to be sensitive to all students' needs and my wish is to improve academic excellence so that come the end of semester, they all pass.



Students' Counsellor, Theresa Mabuza, (right) with PGCE student, Bonsile Nxumalo (Pic by Hlobisile Vilakati)



# UNISWA TRAINS 4HIM SECURITY COMPANY

By Lofana Mavuso



A door to one of student accommodation rooms that was broken into (Pic by Lofana Mavuso)

KWALUSENI – In response to security threats around the campus, UNISWA Acting Registrar, Dr. Salebona Simelane, on Thursday, 18 September revealed that the university is currently training the contracted security company, 4Him Services.

These trainings result from a several break-ins reported by students who lost items through theft taking place within the campuses. Commenting on the matter, the Acting Registrar, said, “As the university administration, we are aware of the theft

cases. It is unfortunate that they took place when we had recently installed surveillance cameras around the campuses. We are now conducting training sessions with the contracted security company to ensure the security personnel is clear of what is expected of them.”

The most recent break-in happened last Saturday at P Block at Kwaluseni campus where a laptop and other valuable items were reported stolen. In an interview with Uniswa Today, Mbali Shongwe said she

received a phone call from her roommate, Carol Dlamini on Saturday night, 13 Saturday night, 13 September, 2014 telling her that there had been a break-in.

“My roommate left the room we share to study in one of the classrooms after 19:00hrs. When she returned after 10pm, she found our room broken into. She found the whole room messed-up and the laptop I had placed inside the wardrobe missing,” she related her sad story.

When asked if the surveillance cameras are serving intended purpose, Dr. Simelane stated that there were limitations in installing them inside the hostels as that could be an invasion of student's privacy. This limitation resulted in difficulties in using surveillance cameras to monitor what goes on in the hostels.

The Kwaluseni Tuck shop was also broken into in the first week of reopening where about E900 was stolen. The suspect believed to be a student, was caught by the security personnel whilst trying to make way out of the Tuck-shop.

Tuck-shop Manager, Melusi Dlamini, noted that the break-ins were worrying because installing of the new surveillance cameras and change of the security company over the holidays had given students a sense of safety. “Siyamangala kutsi kantsi ani lama surveillance cameras” he said, meaning the cameras are not seen to be serving the intended purpose.

Another reported case involves a Samsung Galaxy cellphone valued at E800 which is suspected to have been stolen by a student who entered Mthonjeni Room 11 Luyengo campus at 00:30hrs while residents were asleep and had left the door unlocked.

A senior staff resident also lost valuables worth E480 stolen at his house last month at Luyengo campus. A security report about the incident reflects that there were no signs of forceful entry at the door; it was suspected that someone used a duplicate key to the room.

The Acting Registrar, has assured students that their has been prioritized by the university and positive results are expected from the ongoing training sessions of security.

## DRAMA SOCIETY HOLDS AUDITIONS

By Mpho Tshabalala



Tina Khumalo rendering music during the auditions (Pic by Mpho Tshabalala)

KWALUSENI - UNISWA students came in their numbers to display their talents and try out their luck at the auditions held by the Drama Society Auditions on Friday, 19 September 2014.

Founder and spokesperson of the society Ntobeko Dlamini, said she was pleased with the turnout, although she would have loved to see more male students participating.

One of the participants, Banele Zwane, sang and did a touching act about losing someone he loves. Zwane said he believed he had impressed the judges, even though he felt he was not fully prepared.

Zwane also expressed appreciation for the drama society initiative, adding that he believed it was an alternative entertainment for the students and would help in keeping them out of immoral activities.

Talking about her aspirations for the association, the founder said they already have scripts that need a cast.

“These auditions are not the last ones. The association plans to have more auditions and would advertise the time and place as soon as possible. We are also planning on producing more theatre plays for the university and elsewhere. Furthermore, the association wants to create a much needed awareness and promotion of theatre and the arts in general,” said Dlamini

“There are many positive things that can be achieved through theatre. People must just watch and see. I want to share the beauty of theatre with other students as I have experienced it,” she concluded.

## STUDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT THE STATE OF COMPUTERS

By Mndeni Mavuso

KWALUSENI - Students at the University of Swaziland complained about the state of computers in the university's main computer labs.

In an interview with Uniswa Today, the students expressed their concerns and distress about the poor performance and insufficient number of computers.

Students at the campus believe that computers are a priority, hence, the university ought to fix and upgrade them. “Computers are supposed to be a priority since they are mostly used by the students. I believe students are being cheated although they pay their tuition fee. The poor conditions of the computers make the learning process difficult,” Mpumelelo Ndlangamandla, a post graduate student said.

According to some students, computers at the university labs take a long period to start and load their settings and their processing speed is very slow. The students said that the computers are outdated, and can barely run some of the programs that students use. In the Kwaluseni campus, a lot of computers are not working and students have to wait for a long time before they can use the computers. A student identified as Ndumiso Magagula also expressed his disappointment about the computers in the

university. “The computer infrastructure is in a very bad condition. You cannot access a basic programme that is very essential for doing assignments.

How is that possible in an institution of higher learning?” he commented. Magagula asserted that high school computer labs are better than those of the university. “*Ema computer alamvasi ayacwabita, ancono kakhulu ase high school,*” meaning, “The university's computers are slow; high school labs are far better than our own.”

On the other hand, the Head of the Information Technology (IT) department, T.P. Tfwala said that they were aware of the problems on the ground, and are working hard to fix them.

“Inadequate resources is the main problem. As a department, we are working towards upgrading the computers. I am sure you might have noticed the new computers at the library. There will be an improvement before the end of the semester,” he said.

The Dean of Student Affairs, S.S. Kunene said that he was not aware about the current situation regarding computers. Kunene promised that the issue will be addressed as soon as possible.

“On Monday, 22 September, I am going to address the issue with the Information, Technology (IT) Office,” he promised.



Students busy in the Kwaluseni Campus computer lab



# RE-INSTATED STUDENTS FAIL TO MEET REGISTRATION DEADLINE

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By Buhlebethu Nyamane

KWALUSENI - Students whose scholarships have been re-instated are finding it difficult to meet the deadline for registration due to the government's delay in paying tuition fees.

Re-instated students sponsored by the government were at the brink of not being registered, as the government again delayed paying tuition fees for this academic year. The initial registration deadline of 12 September passed and the government's way forward remained uncertain. September 19 was then set by the UNISWA administration as the deadline.

Name of re-instated students were listed on the UNISWA Notice Board in the morning of September 12. However, since government did not address the matter during the extended some students were forced to find other means of paying the registration fee which stands at E2 700, depending on the students' program of study.

Students expressed unhappiness about the matter, lamenting the inconvenience. Nompumelelo Mkhonta, a third year student, pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in

Engineering in Electrical and Electronics, expressed her frustration.

"The process of being re-instated has taken a huge toll on us, both emotionally and academically. We have to miss lectures and go to the Government Scholarship Offices in Mbabane. The red tape that exists has greatly affected us," said Mkhonta.

Sharing similar sentiments was Bagcinile Mabuza, a third year Social Science student who said she had to face a lot of challenges in trying to meet the registration deadline. "Coming up with the money at such short notice, was not an easy task. My father had to sell a cow below cost in order to get the money before the set deadline."

In order for students to be registered at UNISWA they need to pay a minimum registration fee to be registered before the indicated deadline.

Failure by students to pay their tuition fees and complete the registration process the set deadline would have led to non-registration of these students this year.



University of Swaziland students (file pic)

## BRING A LAPTOP OR ELSE...

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By Hlelelwe Dlamini

KWALUSENI- Second year UNISWA students of Demography in the faculty of Social Science have been ordered to bring their personal laptops or miss out on lectures.

Students have to do certain calculations electronically; hence the need to bring to class laptops on certain. Some students did not take kindly to this as they argued that it would be difficult to borrow a personal laptop. They said such gadgets are expensive and they cannot afford to buy them.

"Yes, we cannot run away from the fact that technology is progressing, but our lecturers also need to consider that at this level, not every student is from a well off family. Some of us are even struggling to buy breakfast because of we don't have scholarships," one of the students said.

The students proposed lessons requiring the use of laptops be conducted in one of the university's computer centers. The class representative said that they were still to communicate this suggestion to their lecturer.



## UNISWA PREPARES FOR 2014 GRADUATION

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By Tengetile Mpila



A permanent stage under construction next to the Engineering building at Kwaluseni campus (Pic by Tengetile Mpila)

KWALUSENI - With the UNISWA 2014 Graduation nearing, preparations are already at an advanced stage for the ceremony to be held on October 11 at Kwaluseni Campus.

Head of Groundsmen Timothy Ndzinisa, an employee of the university's Maintenance Department, said they were happy with the way things are going in terms of preparations. Ndzinisa highlighted a change on the set up of this year's ceremony, saying there will be a new permanent stage for honorable guests, such as the country's dignitaries.

"Building a permanent stage has been a dream come true for the university, an initiative that was proposed in the three past years.

As the Maintenance Department, this will make our work easier in the coming years as we will no longer have to build the temporal stage like we used to in the past years", Ndzinisa said. Meanwhile, members of the UNISWA rugby team said they might be forced to find another training ground as a result of the innovation. This, he said, was because the stand has been built at an area which they used for their training.

"We are afraid we might be forced to look for another training ground since the stand is not just ordinary, but for esteemed leaders of the land such as His Majesty King Mswati III. However, should this happen, we will have a challenge as all the other training grounds are already occupied with other sporting activities", he said.

## STUDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT REFECTORY SERVICES

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By Londiwe Qwabe

KWALUSENI- UNISWA students have complained about the services offered by the Refectory at Kwaluseni Campus.

One of the dissatisfied students is Ngcebo Hlophe, a second year student who said he paid for a meal but the portion was too little. Echoing Hlophe's words was Spring Mabila, whose experience was also similar, "Lomsobho bomningi kakhulu kunale rice" he sighed. Mabila said since that encounter, he has not set foot in the Refectory.

"Tantalizing and inviting as the smell may be, the food is the direct opposite. It really tastes bad!" Mabila exclaimed. "Le soup yi-Nala 1 2 3", said one student who identified herself as Lindelwa. She expressed disappointment on the preparation of vegetables, the salads in particular, which she said are stuffed with a lot of onions. Mr Masuku, who's one of the chefs at the Refectory extended his apologies and promised change.

"We apologise to all students who feel the food tastes bad. This will be addressed as soon as possible," Masuku promised. Masuku further mentioned that the gravy did not taste good to him as well, but since students did not complain, he did not put any complaints to his superiors.



Kwaluseni Campus Refectory



# Chaos As Machawe Gets Red Card

By Zwelakhe Nsibande

KWALUSENI - The League clash between defending champions Mighty Bombers and Juventus ended in a chaotic manner on Friday, September 12, at the Butchery Sports arena.

Chaos broke out after Bombers' striker Machawe Thwala was shown a red card for allegedly slapping Juventus defender Nsizwa for impeding him in the dying minutes of the game.

Seeing the red card, Bombers' bench entered the field of play running towards referee, Sabelo Simelane. A group of Juventus supporters also invaded the pitch from the other side rushing toward the scene where Machawe was brought down. Spectators of teams like Flamengo and First born added the numbers in the field in support of Juventus.

As the chaos continued, an unidentified supporter came running into the field as well and caught the attention of Bombers' Balloteli who was trying to maintain order.

"Where are you heading to? Do you know how to play soccer?" Balloteli shouted at the supporter who immediately went back.

The game came to a stand still for close to 5 minutes as match officials tried to clear the mess. Assistant referee Linda maintained that the referee's decision was not sinister.

"The referee red-carded Machawe for an unsporting conduct. From the angle I was standing at, I saw Machawe slapping the defender. He took the law into his hands and that is unsporting conduct," the official explained.

Machawe denied either slapping a player or lashing out at the referee. "I only asked why the referee didn't give the player a card as he had been tackling me from behind all the time. I got the shock of my life to hear his assistant saying I slapped the player, which I did not", Machawe said. The organising committee met midweek and decided that the match be replayed.

## Results from Mvasi League

Played on Friday September 5, 2014  
First Born 1-3 Emazinyane.  
Green Team 4-2 Juventus,  
Legalese 2-1 Flamengo,  
Hotspurs 6-0 New Stars,  
Bombers 5-3 Fire by Force

Played on Friday September 12, 2014  
First Born 0 - 1 Fire by Force  
Emazinyane 3 - 1 Flamengo  
\*Bombers 3 - 2 Juventus  
\* Match to be replayed.



Machawe Thwala (L) and Muzi Maseko during UNISWA Charity Organization (UNICO) Cup finals

## UNISWA STUDENT INITIATES COMPUTER SPONSORSHIP

By Temlangeni Dlamini

KWALUSENI - A Second Year UNISWA Student, Temhlanga Simelane, has approached Micro Project and the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), to request sponsorship for new lab computers in response to a need in the university.

The 22 year-old engineering student to visited the two organisations because she saw the need to update the computers at the main computer and commerce centres as they are now slow and inefficient and also not enough for all students to access.

Temhlanga Simelane said that she was prompted by a need to access information faster which is currently not possible as it takes time to access the Internet in the two labs. "There are many students who want to use the computers yet only a few of them are working," she noted.

Isimelane said that when she first arrived at the institution she was surprised to see that the main lab had many faulty computers and most of them are still using an old operating system, Windows XP.

UNISWA Foundation's Project Manager Vulindlela Simelane said they were impressed by the student's dedication to improving her institutions. "This approach is also part of our Student Volunteer Program.", Simelane further stated that the UNISWA Foundation's mentorship program empowers students to come up with fundraising initiative. "It is encouraging to see one of our students already demonstrating that spirit," he said.

## SOCCER TEAM TRAINING KIT STOLEN

By Malungisa Gina



UNISWA soccer teams team shaking hands before a match at Old Trade Fair Stadium (Pic by Malungisa Gina)

KWALUSENI - Three soccer balls, a yellow card, red card and several bibs which are part of the training kit used by the University of Swaziland is soccer team are reported to have been stolen by unknown people.

Head Coach of the university soccer team, Elvis Dlamini, noted that the loss of the training kit is due to easy access students have to the training kit "Every student has access to the kit thus making it simple to steal it. This habit is affecting the improvement of the school team towards achieving desired results," Dlamini commented.

The university tuck shop is entrusted with keeping the training kit which includes soccer balls, training bibs, cones and whistles.

In order for students to access the kit, they produce a student Identity (ID) card in exchange for the equipment. The student leaves the ID card with the tuck shop to hold that student accountable for whatever equipment the student has in their possession.

The university team Manager, Mcin'seli Dlamini, said that despite this, it is still difficult to trace students who borrow the equipment.

"This procedure is not working because students leave the IDs forever at the tuck shop. They just get new IDs leaving a pile of useless IDs at the tuck shop," he said. As the tuck shop changes managers the procedure is sometimes not followed, giving students an opportunity to steal the equipment since

since tracing them becomes difficult," he said.

Coaching staff and players are calling for a change in the procedure used to access the training kit. "Only coaches, managers, captains and vice-captains should be allowed to access the training equipment. Fines should be paid for any negligence that results in the loss of the kit," Dlamini suggested.

The university team captain, Machawe Thwala also shared similar sentiments. "The procedure must be revisited to make sure the equipment is not lost.

The equipment is important for improving the tactical and technical aspects of the school team. It helps in getting good result that will impress everyone, so this habit of stealing must stop for the benefit of the school team," he said.