

TEACHER ASSAULTS, TRESTOBRIBE PUPIL

BY THEMINKOSI MAVIMBELA

MBABANE – A high school teacher of Kalamadla High School in the Shiselweni Region has assaulted and then attempted to bribe a pupil.

The names of the pupil and teacher are known to this publication but will not be revealed at the moment.

It is said that the teacher assaulted the Form 5 pupil with several slaps in the face in front of about 80 other pupils. The pupil said the teacher assaulted him because he had not brought a parent to the school during an open day earlier in the week of the assault. He also said the teacher instructed him to leave the class and return when his parents were ready to come see him.

The pupil added that he refused to go out of class because he wanted to learn and that was when his teacher uttered a lot of hurtful words, which still pained him to date.

“What pained me the most is not that he beat me, but it’s the way he beat me,” said the pupil.

The pupil further said he was now a laughing stock at the school because of the degrading treatment he suffered at the hands of the teacher. He said he had to endure the pain of being laughed at by some of his peers during morning assembly. The pupil also said he reported the matter to the school’s deputy head teacher, who sat them down and addressed the issue. He said the deputy head teacher advised him to bring his father to school so the matter could be resolved.

However, the pupil said much to his shock, the teacher offered to pay him an undisclosed amount of money if he would drop the matter and not involve his parents.

“My teacher called me to his house on a Tuesday morning and asked for forgiveness and said he was willing to pay me money to not involve my parents in the matter,” alleged the pupil.

He added that he had a question for the Minister of Education and Training Phineses Magagula.

“Are teachers now taught to shift from using sticks to punish pupils using slaps and blows?”

The dejected pupil said he would never forget June 2, 2016, because it was the worst day of his entire high school life. He also said all he wanted was an education and to enjoy his high school life.

The Deputy Head Teacher at the school, Comrade Magagula, confirmed the matter. Magagula said the issue had been sorted and the two had agreed to smoke the peace pipe.

Resolution

“The matter has been dealt with internally and the pupil’s parents were called and a resolution was taken so I cannot say much about it,” said Magagula.

However, the Minister of Education and Training Magagula was shocked to learn of the incident.

He said slapping a pupil should never be done.

“You can never slap a pupil, a teacher who does that is totally against the law, he should be brought to justice and learn to control his anger,” said Magagula.

The minister said slapping a pupil was no longer a form of punishment but a fight with the child.

On the other hand, the Marketing and Communications Officer at Save the Children Senelile Khumalo condemned the conduct of the teacher. She said the teacher made a grave mistake by slapping the pupil. Khumalo further said school regulations do not permit public bashing of pupils.

“Ideally, pupils have to be punished privately to avoid humiliating the pupil and sometimes the teacher,” said Khumalo.

She promised to follow up on the matter, then take appropriate action on it.

The parents of the pupil could not be reached for comment by the time of compiling this report.

FINDINGS OF MBABANE BASELINE SURVEY –

33 850 UNEMPLOYED IN THE CAPITAL CITY

STORIES BY STANLEY KHUMALO

MBABANE – About 33 850 people are unemployed in the capital city of the country, Mbabane.

This is contained in the Municipal Council of Mbabane baseline survey which was conducted about a year ago. According to Lucky Tsabedze, who is the Information and Public Relations Officer of the municipal council, the exercise involved a city household survey and secondary data collection from key city stakeholders.

Tsabedze said the municipality’s objectives to carry out the survey were to eventually setup an open web-portal wherein citizens, visitors and investors and other stakeholders would have access to key city data. He said this sets out to assist in them meeting their various statistical data needs. According to the survey, the capital city has 61 940 residents.

Tsabedze stated that according to the survey, only 14,69 per cent of the population was unemployed.

“About 38 per cent (23 537) of the city population are employed, while 40 per cent (24 776) of the population are

dependents, as they are minors/students,” Tsabedze said.

He noted that 37,73 per cent of the population (household members) was employed. He said only a minority of 7,65 per cent of the surveyed population was self-employed.

Overall, this means 54,62 per cent which is 33 832 of the city population are dependent on the employed or self-employed population, which makes up only 45,38 per cent. Tsabedze explained that the total number of households in Mbabane was estimated at 19 490, with an average number of households by ward at 1 624. The 2007 national data for Mbabane households was used as a base.

The former scribe stated that most households surveyed were from CBD, Datriach West, Mbangweni, Makholokholo, Highlands View and Old Thenbhelhe. While executing the survey, Tsabedze stated that the exercise was conducted using primary or field and secondary research.

“Our primary research involved conducting a city household survey, where randomly selected city households across all the wards were interviewed.

31 143 PEOPLE LIVE IN FLATS

MBABANE – About 31 143 people live in the capital city in flats.

A survey done by the Municipal Council of Mbabane states that 50,28 per cent while 34,87 per cent which is about 21 598 households live in detached houses.

The baseline survey states that only 14,84 per cent of households live in semi-detached houses. Lucky Tsabedze, the Information and Public Relations Officer of the municipality stated that most of the households living in flats are dominant in the wards comprising informal settlements especially Ward 11.

He said otherwise most households with detached houses are in Ward 6.

“A majority of the households have 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms and three bedrooms houses.

MOST HOUSEHOLDS USE ELECTRICITY FOR LIGHTING

MBABANE – Most households in Mbabane use electricity for their lighting.

This is denoted in the findings of the baseline survey which the Municipality Council of Mbabane conducted in August 2015. It states that about 89,37 per cent of households in the city use electricity.

The remaining minority of households which is 10,62 per cent of total households use other lighting alternatives, namely candles, paraffin lamps and gas lamps.

“Most households use electric stoves for their cooking, while an insignificant number of households 13,76 per cent use gas stoves.

A limited number of households use other alternative

sources of energy for cooking, namely wood or coal stoves, paraffin stoves, and open fire. These only account for 8,11 per cent of total households surveyed,” reads the report.

Meanwhile, the report states that 57 per cent of city households have in-house water connections.

The findings show that 55 per cent of city households have full waterborne sanitation, meaning they are connected to the SWS sewer line.

“About 55 per cent of city households dispose of solid waste through door to door Municipal waste collection while, 23 per cent of the city households dispose of solid waste in nearby skips,” the report reads.

4 Swazis join demographers discussing population, development issues

BY TIMES REPORTER

MBABANE – Four Swazis joined Africa’s young demographers, statisticians and population scientists to discuss population and development issues in Africa last week.

The event was held at the Saint George Hotel in the outskirts of Pretoria, where 17 African countries were represented, hosted by Statistics South Africa. This was during the fifth Isibalo Conference of African Young Statisticians held between June 13 and 17.

Representing Swaziland were four young demographers and population scientists: Nontoko Simeleane (a final year UNISWA student), Tenzanile Nhlabatsi (first year UNISWA student), Linderwa Nxumalo (graduate student) and Felix Mamba, also a graduate student.

The four young Swazis presented



Some of the Swazis who attended the fifth Isibalo Conference of African Young Statisticians seated with other participants.

respectively papers on the impact of Swaziland’s demographic dividend for economic growth, the state of Swaziland’s maternal health and food security issues in Swaziland.

The conference, opened by Minister in the South African Presidency, Mr. Jeff Radebe (MP) sought to discuss how Africa would engage issues of population and development, as the bulging youth popu-

lation of this continent presents a demographic dividend that must be harnessed for Africa to meet its development goals.

The conference was opened in a colourful ceremony which saw each country representative carry their country flag, clad in their traditional attire. Simeleane paraded the Swazi flag with the pride befitting of the Kingdom of Swa-

ziland. The conference formed part of the activities of the Isibalo Capacity Building Programme of Statistics South Africa which seeks to develop the statistical capacity of Africans, particularly young Africans, as countries, the continent and the world alike gear up towards the demands for new data and big data to monitor the sustainable development goals.



Nontoko Simeleane carrying the Swazi flag with the pride befitting of the Kingdom of Swaziland.