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Swaziland urges "witch doctor" tax

9th December, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Multiple Choice)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

A politician from the tiny southern African kingdom of Swaziland has proposed a hike in the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has urged the government to levy the tax to help solve his country's worsening economic situation. He believes the time is ripe for upping the tax on the healers, known as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have quadrupled their fees in recent years but are still paying very little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers needed to pay their fair share towards the country's economic recovery, saying: "A majority of our people consult traditional healers but the money they pay to government falls far too short of the money they make."

The sangomas currently pay an annual fee of 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) to ply their trade. Many Swazis visit the healers, who are a key part of the nation's health service. Opponents say raising taxes on the sangomas would bring in very little revenue. Swaziland is in dire financial straits. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 per cent of its GDP. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends a small fortune on his many wives, lavish lifestyle, and a bloated military. The sangomas feel they are being singled out. They have already spent decades trying to rid themselves of a "witch doctor" label given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their cures and medicines.

Sources: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/07/us-swaziland-witchdoctors-idUSBRE8B60P020121207>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_healers_of_South_Africa

WARM-UPS

1. TRADITIONAL HEALERS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about traditional healers. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

politicians / kingdoms / Swaziland / traditional healers / pay their fair share / majority / annual fee / health service / opponents / revenue / dire financial straits / cures

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. TAX: On whom / what should it be levied? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

On...	Levied or not?	Why?	Rate?
Charities			
Prisoners			
The poorly-paid			
Soldiers			
Milk and water			
Books			

4. FAIR: Students A **strongly** believe the taxation system is totally fair; Students B **strongly** believe it's totally unfair. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. GETTING BETTER: What's the best way? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- traditional medicine
- modern Western medicine
- aromatherapy
- mother's remedy
- acupuncture
- time
- mind control
- other _____

6. HEAL Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'heal'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. The king of Swaziland has told traditional healers to pay more tax. | T / F |
| b. The healers have increased their fees four-fold in recent years. | T / F |
| c. A politician believes healers should help the country's economy more. | T / F |
| d. The politician said the healers were already paying enough in tax. | T / F |
| e. The healers pay around \$10 a year in fees to the government. | T / F |
| f. Critics of the proposal say a tax on healers would bring in little money. | T / F |
| g. People in Swaziland believe the king should spend less money. | T / F |
| h. The West has no interest in the traditional ways of the Swazi healers. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 1. tiny | a. encouraged |
| 2. hike | b. terrible |
| 3. urged | c. increase |
| 4. consult | d. yearly |
| 5. make | e. very small |
| 6. annual | f. remedies |
| 7. dire | g. tag |
| 8. lavish | h. earn |
| 9. label | i. seek advice from |
| 10. cures | j. luxurious |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. the tiny southern African | a. fortune on his many wives |
| 2. proposed a hike | b. traditional healers |
| 3. urged the government to levy | c. their trade |
| 4. He believes the time is | d. in the tax rate |
| 5. A majority of our people consult | e. of a "witch doctor" label |
| 6. ply | f. kingdom of Swaziland |
| 7. Swaziland is in dire | g. and medicines |
| 8. He spends a small | h. financial straits |
| 9. trying to rid themselves | i. the tax |
| 10. studying their cures | j. ripe for upping the tax |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A politician from the (1) _____ southern African kingdom of Swaziland has proposed a (2) _____ in the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has urged the government to (3) _____ the tax to help solve his country's worsening economic situation. He believes the time is (4) _____ for upping the tax on the healers, known as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have (5) _____ their fees in recent years but are still paying very little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers needed to pay their fair (6) _____ towards the country's economic recovery, saying: "A majority of our people (7) _____ traditional healers but the money they pay to government falls far too (8) _____ of the money they make."

The sangomas currently pay an annual (9) _____ of 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) to (10) _____ their trade. Many Swazis visit the healers, who are a (11) _____ part of the nation's health service. Opponents say raising taxes on the sangomas would bring in very little revenue. Swaziland is in (12) _____ financial straits. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 per cent of its GDP. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends a small fortune on his many wives, (13) _____ lifestyle, and a (14) _____ military. The sangomas feel they are being singled (15) _____. They have already spent decades trying to rid themselves of a "witch doctor" label given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their (16) _____ and medicines.

share
ripe
hike
consult
tiny
short
levy
quadrupled

lavish
key
dire
fee
cures
out
ply
bloated

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

- 1) proposed _____ tax rate on the nation's traditional healers
 - a. a hiking the
 - b. a hiker in the
 - c. a hike in the
 - d. a hike in a
- 2) He believes the time is ripe _____ the tax
 - a. four up and in
 - b. for upping
 - c. for happening
 - d. for up in
- 3) the sangomas have quadrupled their fees in recent years
 - a. in recent year
 - b. in century years
 - c. in recently years
 - d. in recent years
- 4) the healers needed _____ towards the country's economic recovery
 - a. to pay their fair share
 - b. to pay up their fair share
 - c. to pay, therefore share
 - d. to share their fair pay
- 5) the money they pay to government _____ the money they make
 - a. falls too short far of
 - b. falls short far too of
 - c. falls too far short of
 - d. falls far too short of
- 6) The sangomas currently pay an annual fee of 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) _____.
 - a. to play their trade
 - b. two ply their trade
 - c. to ply their trade
 - d. too play their trade
- 7) Swaziland is in _____ straits.
 - a. die a financial
 - b. dye a financial
 - c. dire finance
 - d. dire financial
- 8) He spends a small fortune on his many wives, lavish lifestyle, and a bloated military.
 - a. fortune on / lavishing / bloated
 - b. fortune on / lavish / bloated
 - c. fortunate / slavish / blow tin
 - d. fortune on / lavish / bloats
- 9) They have already spent decades _____ of a "witch doctor" label
 - a. trying to rid themselves
 - b. try inter-rid themselves
 - c. trying themselves to rid
 - d. themselves trying to rid
- 10) Western pharmacists are now _____ and medicines.
 - a. studying in their cures
 - b. studying their cure
 - c. studying their cures
 - d. study in their cures

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

A politician from the tiny southern African kingdom of Swaziland has (1) _____ the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has urged the government (2) _____ solve his country's worsening economic situation. He believes the time (3) _____ tax on the healers, known as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have quadrupled their (4) _____ but are still paying very little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers needed to (5) _____ towards the country's economic recovery, saying: "A majority of our people consult traditional healers but the money they pay to government (6) _____ of the money they make."

The sangomas currently (7) _____ 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) to ply their trade. Many Swazis visit the healers, (8) _____ the nation's health service. Opponents say raising taxes on the sangomas would (9) _____ revenue. Swaziland is in dire financial straits. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 per cent of its GDP. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends (10) _____ many wives, lavish lifestyle, and a bloated military. The sangomas feel they (11) _____. They have already spent decades trying to rid themselves (12) _____ given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their cures and medicines.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

1. What has a Swazi politician proposed?

2. What is the time ripe for?

3. What are sangomas?

4. By how much have traditional increased their fees in recent years?

5. How many Swazis visit traditional healers?

6. What do the healers pay a fee for?

7. What part do the healers play in providing healthcare to Swazis?

8. What did the article say about the country's budget deficit?

9. What does the king spend a lot of money on?

10. What tag given by Europeans do the traditional healers dislike?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

1. Who proposed a tax hike?
 - a) the king
 - b) the people
 - c) a politician
 - d) a committee
2. Why was the tax suggested?
 - a) to help the economy
 - b) for fairness among all taxpayers
 - c) as an experiment
 - d) to catch those who avoid paying tax
3. What is ripe?
 - a) the time for increasing a tax
 - b) the time for taxing Swazi fruit
 - c) Swazi fruit
 - d) opportunities to make money
4. By how many times has the fee healers charge increased?
 - a) three
 - b) four
 - c) ten
 - d) 200
5. What proportion of Swazis visit traditional healers?
 - a) 82% of them
 - b) all of them
 - c) just less than half
 - d) a majority
6. What costs 10 emalangenì?
 - a) a visit to a traditional healer
 - b) the fee healers pay every year to work
 - c) a medicine made by the healers
 - d) Swazi plywood
7. What role do traditional healers play in Swaziland's health service?
 - a) a key part
 - b) a minor role
 - c) they are the health service
 - d) an increasing role
8. What does King Mswati III spend his money on?
 - a) charity, overseas aid and NPOs
 - b) health care, education and pensions
 - c) wives, luxury and his military
 - d) public services and investments
9. What tag do the traditional healers dislike?
 - a) pharmacist
 - b) European
 - c) tax avoider
 - d) "witch doctor"
10. What are Western pharmacists studying?
 - a) the cures and medicines of the traditional healers
 - b) the Swazi language
 - c) illnesses common in Swaziland
 - d) Western remedies and treatments

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

Role A – A traditional healer

You are shocked you may have to pay more tax. Tell the others three reasons why. You think the king should pay more. He spends most of the country's money on himself. You do a valuable job for your country. You should not be singled out to pay tax.

Role B – King Mswati III

Your citizens all need to pay tax. Tell the others three reasons why. The traditional healers make good money and should pay more. Their fees quadrupled recently but their tax has stayed the same. You hate criticism. You do everything you can to look after your people.

Role C – A Swazi farmer

You think the traditional healers should pay more tax. Tell the others three reasons why. You are a poor farmer and you pay your taxes. You love your king and hate people who attack him. He needs a good lifestyle. He looks after his people. The healers are moneygrabbers.

Role D – IMF economist

You are an expert on the Swazi economy. The king spends too much of tax revenues on himself, his family, his army, etc. He needs to spend more on his people. Tell the others three reasons why. Any tax on traditional healers will bring in very little extra revenue. It's a really bad idea.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'witch' and 'doctor'.

witch	doctor
--------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tiny• solve• ripe• recent• share• short	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• trade• little• 15• wives• rid• studying
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

TRADITIONAL HEALERS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

Write five GOOD questions about traditional healers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

TRADITIONAL HEALERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'healer'?
- c) What do you think of traditional healers?
- d) What is healthcare like in your country?
- e) What do you think of the proposed tax hike on Swaziland's healers?
- f) Is the tax system in your country fair?
- g) How is your country's economic situation?
- h) What do you think the sangomas might say about the proposed tax?
- i) Does everyone pay their fair share in tax in your country?
- j) What should happen to people who avoid paying tax?

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TRADITIONAL HEALERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you know about Swaziland?
- c) Should Swaziland treat its traditional healers better?
- d) Do you think traditional medicine can be better than modern medicine?
- e) Have you ever been in dire financial straits?
- f) How should a country get its budget deficit down?
- g) What do you think of King Mswati III for the way he spends his country's money?
- h) What do you think of the label "witch doctor"?
- i) What questions would you like to ask King Mswati III?
- j) What do you think his answers might be?

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

A politician from the (1) _____ southern African kingdom of Swaziland has proposed a (2) _____ in the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has urged the government to (3) _____ the tax to help solve his country's worsening economic situation. He believes the time is ripe for (4) _____ the tax on the healers, known as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have quadrupled their fees in recent years but are still paying very little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers (5) _____ to pay their fair share towards the country's economic recovery, saying: "A majority of our people consult traditional healers but the money they pay to government falls (6) _____ too short of the money they make."

The sangomas currently pay an annual fee of 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) to (7) _____ their trade. Many Swazis visit the healers, who are a key part of the nation's health service. (8) _____ say raising taxes on the sangomas would bring in very little revenue. Swaziland is in dire financial (9) _____. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 per cent of its (10) _____. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends a small (11) _____ on his many wives, lavish lifestyle, and a bloated military. The sangomas feel they are being singled out. They have already spent decades trying to (12) _____ themselves of a "witch doctor" label given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their cures and medicines.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) tiny | (b) tinny | (c) tin | (d) tinted |
| 2. | (a) trek | (b) march | (c) hike | (d) walk |
| 3. | (a) heavy | (b) gravy | (c) levy | (d) envy |
| 4. | (a) upper-class | (b) uppity | (c) uppers | (d) upping |
| 5. | (a) needed | (b) needy | (c) needless | (d) needing |
| 6. | (a) lots | (b) far | (c) such | (d) so |
| 7. | (a) flay | (b) fly | (c) play | (d) ply |
| 8. | (a) Combatants | (b) Opponents | (c) Foes | (d) Supporters |
| 9. | (a) straightens | (b) straight | (c) straits | (d) strait |
| 10. | (a) GDR | (b) POD | (c) GOP | (d) GDP |
| 11. | (a) karma | (b) cookie | (c) chance | (d) fortune |
| 12. | (a) bid | (b) rid | (c) lid | (d) hid |

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SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

Paragraph 1

1. the tiny tsohreun African kingdom
2. dreug the government
3. rgsoneniw economic situation
4. upaurdlqed their fees
5. the Swazi imleatpran
6. A traojymi of our people

Paragraph 2

7. onpptnose say...
8. Swaziland is in dire financial sttrsia.
9. budget itdcfei
10. spends a small efunrto
11. a bloated ariylimt
12. Western mtshrcisapa

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () his country's worsening economic situation. He believes the time is ripe for upping the tax on the healers, known
- () money they pay to government falls far too short of the money they make."
- () little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers needed to pay their fair share towards the country's economic
- () recovery, saying: "A majority of our people consult traditional healers but the
- () 15 per cent of its GDP. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends a small
- () given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their cures and medicines.
- () The sangomas currently pay an annual fee of 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) to ply their trade. Many Swazis
- () out. They have already spent decades trying to rid themselves of a "witch doctor" label
- () fortune on his many wives, lavish lifestyle, and a bloated military. The sangomas feel they are being singled
- () rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has urged the government to levy the tax to help solve
- (**1**) A politician from the tiny southern African kingdom of Swaziland has proposed a hike in the tax
- () as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have quadrupled their fees in recent years but are still paying very
- () in very little revenue. Swaziland is in dire financial straits. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to
- () visit the healers, who are a key part of the nation's health service. Opponents say raising taxes on the sangomas would bring

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17

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

1. kingdom African southern tiny The Swaziland of.

2. rate healers on the The nation's tax traditional.

3. levy to government the Urged tax the.

4. tax He believes the time is ripe for upping the.

5. people traditional . of A healers consult our majority

6. fee to Pay ply an their annual trade.

7. nation's key health part service of the A.

8. should to say III more Many Mswati do help King.

9. themselves rid to Trying label doctor" "witch a of.

10. pharmacists Western cures their studying now are.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

A politician from the *tiny / tinny* southern African kingdom of Swaziland has proposed a *hike / hiking* in the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has *urged / purged* the government to levy the tax to help solve his country's *worsens / worsening* economic situation. He believes the time is *ripe / raw* for upping the tax on the healers, known as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have *quadrupled / quadruplets* their fees in recent years but are still *paying / paid* very little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers needed to pay their *fair / fare* share towards the country's economic recovery, *saying / said*: "A majority of our people consult traditional healers but the money they pay to government falls far too *short / shorten* of the money they make."

The sangomas currently pay an *annually / annual* fee of 10 emalangeni (\$1.15) to *ply / play* their trade. Many Swazis visit the healers, who are a *key / lock* part of the nation's health service. Opponents say *raising / rising* taxes on the sangomas would bring in very little revenue. Swaziland is in dire financial *straits / straightens*. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 per cent *for / of* its GDP. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends a small *fortunate / fortune* on his many wives, *lavish / slavish* lifestyle, and a bloated military. The sangomas feel they are being singled *out / in*. They have already spent decades trying to rid themselves of a "witch doctor" label given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their cures and *medicinal / medicines*.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

_ p_l_t_c__n fr_m th_ t_ny s__th_rn _fr_c_n k_ngd_m
_f Sw_z_l_nd h_s pr_p_s_d _ h_k_ _n th_ t_x_r_t_ _n
th_ n_t__n's tr_d_t__n l_h__l_rs. M_j_h_dvw_ Kh_m_l_
h_s _rg_d th_ g_v_rnm_nt t_l_vy th_ t_x_t_ h_lp_s_lv_
h_s c__ntry's w_rs_n_ng _c_n_m_c_s_t__t__n. H_
b_l__v_s th_ t_m_ _s_r_p_ f_r_pp_ng th_ t_x_ _n th_
h__l_rs, kn_wn _s 's_ng_m_s'. Mr Kh_m_l_ s__d th_
s_ng_m_s h_v_ q__dr_pl_d th__r f__s _n r_c_nt_y__rs
b_t _r_ st_ll p_y_ng v_ry lttl_ _n t_x. H_ t_ld th_
Sw_z_ p_rl__m_nt th_ h__l_rs n__d_d t_ p_y th__r
f__r sh_r_ t_w_rds th_ c__ntry's _c_n_m_c_r_c_v_ry,
s_y_ng: "_ m_j_r_ty _f __r p__pl_ c_ns lt tr_d_t__n l
h__l_rs b_t th_ m_n_y th_y p_y t_ g_v_rnm_nt f_lls f_r
t__ sh_rt _f th_ m_n_y th_y m_k_."

Th_ s_ng_m_s c_rr_ntly p_y _n _nn__l f__ _f 10
_m_l_ng_n_ (\$1.15) t_ ply th__r tr_d_. M_ny Sw_z_s
v_s_t th_ h__l_rs, wh_ _r_ _k_y p_rt _f th_ n_t__n's
h__lth s_rvc_. _pp_n_nts s_y_r__s_ng t_x_s _n th_
s_ng_m_s w__ld br_ng _n v_ry lttl_ r_v_n__.
Sw_z_l_nd _s _n d_r_ f_n_nc__l str__ts. _ts b_dg_t
d_f_c_t h_s skyr_ck_t_d t_ 15 p_r_c_nt _f _ts GDP.
M_ny s_y K_ng Msw_t_ ____ sh__ld d_m_r_t_ h_lp_h_s
c__ntry. H_ sp_nds _sm_ll f_rt_n__n h_s m_ny w_v_s,
l_v_sh l_fstyl_, _nd _ bl__t_d m_l_t_ry. Th_
s_ng_m_s f__l th_y _r_b__ng s_ngl_d __t. Th_y h_v_
_lr__dy sp_nt d_c_d_s tryng t_ r_d th_ms_lv_s _f _
"w_tch_d_ct_r" l_b_l_g_v_n_t_ th_m by __r_p__ns.
W_st_rn ph_rm_c_sts _r_n_w st_dy_ng th__r c_r_s_and
m_d_c_n_s.

Swaziland urges "witch doctor" tax – 9th December, 2012

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20

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

a politician from the tiny southern african kingdom of swaziland has proposed a hike in the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers majahodvwa khumalo has urged the government to levy the tax to help solve his country's worsening economic situation he believes the time is ripe for upping the tax on the healers known as 'sangomas' mr khumalo said the sangomas have quadrupled their fees in recent years but are still paying very little in tax he told the swazi parliament the healers needed to pay their fair share towards the country's economic recovery saying "a majority of our people consult traditional healers but the money they pay to government falls far too short of the money they make"

the sangomas currently pay an annual fee of 10 emalangenzi (\$115) to ply their trade many swazis visit the healers who are a key part of the nation's health service opponents say raising taxes on the sangomas would bring in very little revenue swaziland is in dire financial straits its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 per cent of its gdp many say king mswati iii should do more to help his country he spends a small fortune on his many wives lavish lifestyle and a bloated military the sangomas feel they are being singled out they have already spent decades trying to rid themselves of a "witch doctor" label given to them by europeans western pharmacists are now studying their cures and medicines

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121209-traditional_healers.html

A politician from the tiny southern African kingdom of Swaziland has proposed a hike in the tax rate on the nation's traditional healers. Majahodvwa Khumalo has urged the government to levy the tax to help solve his country's worsening economic situation. He believes the time is ripe for upping the tax on the healers, known as 'sangomas'. Mr Khumalo said the sangomas have quadrupled their fees in recent years but are still paying very little in tax. He told the Swazi parliament the healers needed to pay their fair share toward the country's economic recovery, saying: "A majority of our people consult traditional healers but the money they pay to government falls far too short of the money they make." The sangomas currently pay an annual fee of 10 emalangi (\$1.15) to ply their trade. Many Swazis visit the healers, who are a key part of the nation's health service. Opponents say raising taxes on the sangomas would bring in very little revenue. Swaziland is in dire financial straits. Its budget deficit has skyrocketed to 15 percent of its GDP. Many say King Mswati III should do more to help his country. He spends a small fortune on his many wives, lavish lifestyle, and a bloated military. The sangomas feel they are being singled out. They have already spent decades trying to rid themselves of a "witch doctor" label given to them by Europeans. Western pharmacists are now studying their cures and medicines.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about traditional healers (sangomas) in Swaziland. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TRADITIONAL HEALERS: Make a poster about traditional healers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TAX HIKE: Write a magazine article about the proposed tax hike in Swaziland. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a sangoma. Ask him/her three questions about traditional healing. Give him/her three pieces of advice on what to do about the proposed tax hike. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d F e F f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 1. tiny | a. encouraged |
| 2. hike | b. terrible |
| 3. urged | c. increase |
| 4. consult | d. yearly |
| 5. make | e. very small |
| 6. annual | f. remedies |
| 7. dire | g. tag |
| 8. lavish | h. earn |
| 9. label | i. seek advice from |
| 10. cures | j. luxurious |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A tax hike / increase in tax on traditional healers
2. Upping the tax
3. Traditional Swazi healers
4. Four-fold / By four times
5. A majority (of the population)
6. To ply their trade (work)
7. A key part
8. It skyrocketed to 15 per cent of its GDP
9. His wives, lifestyle and military
10. "Witch doctors"

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)