



# SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

*"Nurturing nation's maturity and unison through football spirit"*

ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

## IT'S E 2.9 MILLION SPONSORSHIP FOR THE ESWATINI BANK CUP



PLE Chairman, Peter Magagula; Eswatini Bank MD, Zakhele Lukhele; Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs Harries Bulunga and EFA President Adam Mthethwa

Solo inje and the sponsorship package is swelling yearly. This is the case even this year as the bank with a heart increased the sponsorship package from E2.6 million to 2.9 million. This is an increment of E300 000.00 which

added the razzmatazz of this entertaining competition.

"This year's sponsorship is E2.9 million which shows an increment of E300 000.00" said Mr. Zakhele Lukhele, Managing Director (MD) of Eswatini Bank. These was good music to the football family which made everyone who was present at the spacious Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre where the official launch of this competition was held to eagerly wait for the last 32 draw. The champions of the Eswatini Bank Cup are guaranteed of a E1.1

**"THIS YEAR'S SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE IS E2.9 MILLION WHICH SHOWS AN INCREMENT OF E300 000.00 FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION".- MR. ZAKHELE LUKHELE, MD OF ESWATINI BANK.**

million cheque and a ticket to participate in the next edition of the TOTAL CAF Confederations Cup. The runner-ups will get E500 000 whilst the semi-finalist will pocket E125 000.00. This edition's coach of the tournament will get E10 000.00.

Like the previous edition; there will be a women's tournament which has a sponsorship of E150 000.00. This sponsorship will also be completed by the U20 competition. "It's a family affair competition as the sponsorship package includes the men, women and the development aspects of football"; Lukhele said. The bank with a heart didn't omit the fans in as far as this competition is concerned as there are numerous fan engagement initiatives that are attached to this tournament.

## EFA EXPRESSES HER CANDID GRATITUDE TO ESWATINI BANK



*The EFA President; Adam Mthethwa*

Ezra 1:2 says "Give credit where is due". This is exactly what the Eswatini Football Association EFA has done to Eswatini Bank through the football association's President, Mr. Adam Mthethwa during the launch of the 2019 Eswatini Bank Cup.

"We therefore together with the women folk extends our greatest gratitude to Eswatini Bank" Mthethwa said. Over and above the bank's gratitude; he also eulogized the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini for her role towards the development of football in the country. "The EFA also salutes the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini through the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs for nurturing and enabling an environment that allows the practice of football and her commitment to improve the performance of our teams locally and internationally"; the EFA President said.

**YOUNG BUFFALOES FC HEAD COACH EULOGIES THE EFA**

Young Buffaloes FC Head Coach, Dominic Kunene has acknowledged the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) for empowering the local coaches. Each year, the EFA facilitates coaching courses together with CAF and FIFA of which both local and international courses are being implemented.



**Young Buffaloes FC Head Coach Dominic Kunene**

“As coaches, we acknowledge the EFA for the information that we as coaches get through the various coaching courses”; Kunene said. The Young Buffaloes coach has already practiced his coaching skills in the international arena as he has led Young Buffaloes FC in the TOTAL CAF Confederations Cup also highlighted that such competitions enhances them as coaches because they are able to grow professionally. As it is said that the sky is the limit; Coach Dominic Kunene is applying these words as he expects EFA to implement more course so that they can empower themselves with more knowledge as football is a dynamic game.

“We expect the EFA to keep on enhancing our skills by exposing us in more local and international courses “, Kunene said. With the Eswatini Bank Cup carrying a ticket to compete in the TOTAL CAF Confederations Cup, the Young Buffaloes FC Coach whom his team has the challenge of defending this trophy, highlighted that they will put more effort in the competition so as to increase their chances of defending the

championship and go back to Africa. The hard-working coach also emphasized the importance of competing in Africa as it also benefits the national teams.

“The performance of our local teams in the inter-clubs’ competitions have a positive impact towards the national teams as the experience that these players get from playing in Africa enhances their play when doing duty for the national teams”; he said. He also encouraged other coaches to empower themselves by enrolling in these courses so that they are always relevant in the game as it is very dynamic.

**EFA’S TD ATTENDS A CAF SEMINAR**

The Eswatini Football Association’s (EFA’s) Technical Director Bhekisisa Mkhonta attended a CAF Technical Director’s Seminar which was held in Cairo, Egypt in the month of January between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>.



**EFA’s TD Bhekisisa Mkhonta**

“This seminar was facilitated by CAF to empower all TDs in her membership with the right tools to develop coaching and grassroots football in Africa. Over and above this, it transpired that each member association is expected to submit recommendations to CAF on how they think football development can be enhanced in their respective countries before signing a convention with CAF”; the TD said.



**ESWATINI BANK CUP IS NOT AN ORDINARY TOURNAMENT-HONORABLE MINISTER HARRIES BULUNGA**

The Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries Bulunga has stated the the Eswatini Bank Cup is not just an ordinary tournament. He made this remark during the official launch of the 2018/19 Eswatini Bank Cup.



**Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries Bulunga**

“The Eswatini Bank Cup is not just an ordinary tournament as it brings best memories of our football”; Bulunga said. The fact that the champions of this competition are guaranteed of a E1.1 million and a ticket to compete in the TOTAL CAF Confederations Cup is an icing on the cake for this prestigious football tournament.

The Honorable Minister also acknowledged the bank with a heart for investing in football over the years which has immensely contributed towards football development in the country. “On behalf of His Majesty’s Government; I would like to acknowledge Eswatini Bank for an improved sponsorship regardless of the trying economic status in the country of which this must motivate the participating teams and also for the bank’s role towards football development in the country over the years”. He also emphasised the importance of consistent sponsorships in order to achieve the goal of fully professionalizing the game of football in the country. In conclusion, the Honorable Minister urged all stakeholders to apply the spirit of fair play during the competition so that the bank’s image is not tarnished.

FOCUS ON WOMEN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

**FIFA INSTRUCTOR PRAISES FIFA, CAF, COSAFA and EFA FOR DEVELOPING WOMEN FOOTBALL**

“The Namibian born FIFA Women’s Football Instructor MS Jaqueline Shipanga praises the Federation of International Football (FIFA), Confederation of African Football (CAF) , Council of South African Football Association (COSAFA) and the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) for developing football in the African continent and the globe.



**FIFA Instructor Jacqui Shipanga and EFA President Adam Mthethwa**

“Credit must be given to FIFA, CAF, COSAFA and the EFA for making it possible that women football does develop in the African Continent” said Shipanga during the FIFA Women Football that was held in the country late last year. The former Namibian Senior Women National team captain also highlighted that; for Eswatini send Sitsebe SaMhlekezi with a female as a head coach to the COSAFA competition and also by sending a women’s team to the Region 5 games in Botswana last year showed the country’s commitment in as far as developing women’s football is concerned.

The FIFA Instructor emphasized that football can play a pivotal role in the development of

the African Girl Child. “Football can play a significant role in embracing the development of the girl child in Africa”; Shipanga said.

**EFA CONTINUES TO EMPOWER WOMEN FOOTBALL COACHES**

There is an English saying which says, “The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet”. With the Eswatini Bank cup and the WFA League sponsored by the Eswatini Football Association (EFA), the stage is already set for the women football coaches.



**Women football coaches who participated in the FIFA MA Woman Football Course in December**

This competition came at the perfect time just after the FIFA Women Football Course that was held late last year. During this course’s opening ceremony, the President of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Adam Mthethwa urged the participants to implement what they have learnt from this course to their different football teams. Such competitions do provide a perfect platform to do so. A total of sixteen teams are competing in both competitions.

**EFA COMMITTED IN WOMEN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT**

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) continues to invest towards football development in the country. Currently, the EFA have two football development programmes that prioritise in the development of women football at grassroots level. These are the grassroots football development programme, and the women football development programme.

The grassroots football development programme targets the Eswatini Child between 6-12 years old and it involves both girls and boys. The women football development programme is implemented in high schools; and it acts as a feeder to the junior women national teams; with the U20 Women National Team that competed in last year’s Zone V Games held in Botswana as the latest reference. “The players that were in the U20 women’s team that competed in last year’s Zone V Games are a product of the Schools Women Football Development Programme”; said Friday Myeni, the EFA Youth Football Development Officer.

Over and above these football development programmes, the EFA facilitates coaching courses where-by women are encouraged to enroll. “Football is for everyone and women more especially the senior football players are urged to enroll so that they can be coaches when they retire from playing football”; said EFA’s TD Bhekisisa Mkhonta.

The EFA also sponsors the Woman Football League (WFL) and the knockout competitions under the Women Football Association (WFA). These competitions act as a feeder to the senior national team (Sitsebe SaMhlekezi). For this current football season EFA has invested E255 000.00 to the WFL.



**Fisiwe Hlophe during the practical session of the FIFA MA Women Course**

WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE

- The preview of the 2019 EFA calendar.
- Build up to the Ingwenyama Cup Final.



UPCOMING FOOTBALL EVENTS

- Ingwenyama MVA Cup Finals.
- Eswatini Bank Cup last 16.
- MTN Premier League continues.

