



# SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF SWAZILAND

## THE NFAS/BUILD IT U13S CHAMPIONSHIPS' IMPACT ON SWAZI FOOTBALL

Football is the chief sport in the country and globally. In order for the sport to maintain this status, it very key to invest in the development aspect of it. The development of the game can be in many forms such as infrastructure, human resources and player development just to mention a few.

The Build it sponsored development programme focuses on the player development which is one of the vital pillars in the sustainability and continuity of this industry. One of the key mandates of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) is to develop football in the country. The NFAS is working around the clock in developing the game of football in the country of

which stakeholders like Build it are urged to partner with the football association as such projects have long term benefits to the country in general.



2015/2016 BUILD IT NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

THE NFAS/BUILD IT CHAMPIONSHIPS IS A PERFECT ENTRY POINT FOR YOUTH FOOTBALL AS IT ATTRACT MORE YOUTH PLAYERS DUE THE MASS PARTICIPATION OF THIS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME"-TD

Since 2005, Build it has been in a marriage with the NFAS through the NFAS/Build it U13s Championships. These games are played under the flagship of eight (8) Build it stores which located in Nhlengano, Manzini, Matsapha, Mbabane, Piggs Peak, Buhleni, Matata and Siteki. The store events are also held in these towns with the national championships acting as the climax of this football development programme. In

each store event, a pick team is selected (talent identification) by qualified youth development coaches of the NFAS to represent each store during the national championship where the best talent is selected to be part of the U13s national team.

According to the Technical Director (TD) of the NFAS, the major aim of this football development programme is to attract more youth players. "The NFAS/ Build it Championships is a perfect entry point for youth football as it attracts more youth players due to the mass participation of this football development programme", he said. In all the store event, the participating number of players is impressive considering the fact that in each store event a total of eight (8) teams compete.

WE ARE GREATEFUL TO BUILD IT FOR THE PARTNERSHIP-NFAS PRESIDENT



*The President of the NFAS, Senator Adam Mthethwa*

The President of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS), Senator Adam Mthethwa has expressed the football association's appreciation in the partnership that exist with Build it. "As NFAS, we are very much grateful to build it for the partnership", he said. Since 2005 to date, Build it is the sponsor of the NFAS/Build it U13s Championships.

"The endeavour of developing the Swazi Child through football is realised and this partnership contribute immensely towards football development in the country as a lot of talent is being identified", said the President of the NFAS. Some of the youngsters who participated in this football development programme have graduated to the elite and other leagues in the country.

He also urged other stakeholders to partner with the NFAS as football is a perfect vehicle that can be used in developing the Swazi child.

Over and above, this football development programme has created a wide base of youth players of which +/- 10% of players who are currently playing in the elite league on the land are products of the NFAS/Build it U13s Championships. Some of these players are Royal Leopards FC's Mxolisi Lukhele and Mbabane Swallows FC's Felix Badenhorst just to mention a few.



THE TD OF THE NFAS, MR. BHEKISISA MKHONTA

There is a long-term plan for this football development programme according to the TD. "The long-term plan for the NFAS/Build it Championships is to have leagues under each Build it stores in order to have more matches for the players", he said. This will enrich the players' participation in this football development programme as they will play more matches. "It's very important to also keep the pick teams active as this will enhance the base of the U13s national team as the very same pick teams can play local and international matches, thus availing opportunities for international exposure for the players", said the TD." In conclusion, this is a vital football development programme for our football, as in the near future we will have quality

players who will be well trained and be used in major competitions" he said.



THE CEO OF THE NFAS, MR. FREDERICK MNGOMEZULU

#### MR CASSIM ISMAIL'S DEMISE SADDENS THE FA

The National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) is greatly aggrieved by the shocking demise of Mr. Cassim Ismail who was the Build it Mbabane Branch Manager. He was one of the pioneers of the NFAS/Build it U13's Championships. The NFAS will greatly remember Mr. Cassim Ismail as a great supporter of the development of junior players in the country considering the passion that he had on the development of junior players in the country. "This is a great loss to football considering the passion that he had on the development of junior players", said the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NFAS.

The NFAS and the entire football family, would like to extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences and symbol of solidarity to the Build it Family and most extensively the Ismail Family, relatives and friends for the establishment of this shocking tragedy that claimed the life of

Mr. Cassim Ismail. Like the rest of the public, the NFAS cannot comprehend the dreadful tragedy but believe that God Almighty will afford solace and reassurance to all affected at such a depressing instant. The NFAS, at this instance, express its symbol of solidarity and best wishes of recovery to all affected and speedily recovery to all affected families, society and establishments from his demise. "May His Soul Rest in Peace".



ACTION DURING THE BUILD IT CHAMPIONSHIPS



MANZINI SUNDOWNS FC CELEBRATING AFTER BEING CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE 2017 NFAS/ BUILD IT MANZINI CHAMPIONSHIP



## THE SUCCEFULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIFA MA BASIC GOALKEEPING COURSE

The FIFA MA Basic Goalkeeping Course that was held at the Technical Centre in Lobamba as from Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> –Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was a huge success. This course was facilitated by a FIFA Instructor who was born in Argentina but is based in South Africa. His name is Mr. Alejandro Heredia who is a former international goalkeeper himself. A total of thirty (30) goalkeeper coaches participated in this course.



THE NFAS PRESIDENT; SENATOR ADAM MTHETHWA OFFICIALLY OPENING THE COURSE

This course enhanced the efficiency of the goalkeeping coaches as they nourished their technical and tactical awareness thus boosting their knowledge and practical experience in the game of football. This beautiful game is a dynamic sport, thus such courses are vital in as far as matching its latest trends hence the need to adequately train the coaches regularly to augment their significant role of coaching the goalkeepers in their respective clubs.



CATCH: THE FIFA INSTRUCTOR, LOCAL INSTRUCTORS AND THE PARTICIPANTS DURING PRACTICALS.

The President of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS), senator Adam Mthethwa officially opened this course in the

presence of the Chief executive of the NFAS; Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu, Chairman of the Referees Committee; Mr. Philip Dlamini and the FIFA Instructor just to mention a few.



GROUP PHOTO: NFAS PRESIDENT, CEO, FIFA INSTRUCTOR, REFEREES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, TD AND THE PARTICIPANTS.

When opening the course, the President of the NFAS officially welcomed the FIFA Instructor and extended the football association's appreciation for the support that it gets from the international organizations. "Let me first welcome you Mr. FIFA Instructor and also extend our sincere appreciation to FIFA, CAF and COSAFA for the support towards football development in the country", said the President of the NFAS.



LIKE THIS: THE FIFA INSTRUCTOR DEMONSTRATING NEXT TO NFAS INSTRUCTORS.

He also highlighted the importance of such courses as they enhance the skills of the participants. "Such courses are very important for our football as nearly everything in life require skills, thus these courses enhance those skills that are essential for our football development", he said.

According to the FIFA Instructor, goalkeeper course are very important as the knowledge and expertise that the coaches get from these courses are implemented to the goalkeepers at club level, who are vital members for any football club.



THE PARTICIPANTS LISTENING ATTENTIVELY DURING THE PRACTICAL SESSION

At the end of this course, all the participants were certified by FIFA.



THE VICE PRESIDENT; DR. COMFORT SHONGWE, CEO, FIFA INSTRUCTOR, REFEREES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN; MR. PHILIP DLAMINI, TD AND THE PARTICIPANTS AFTER CERTIFICATION.



## THE LAUNCH & GRAND OPENING OF THE 2017/2018 MTN PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON

The 2017/2018 MTN Premier League was officially launched at the Mahlalekhukhwini House in Ezulwini with the sponsorship of Four Million and Ninety-Seven, Six Hundred and eighty-four Emalangeni only (E4 097 684.00). this marked the official kick-off of the 2017/2018 MTN Premier League and the National First Division competitions respectively. Present during this event was the President of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS); Senator Adam Mthethwa, Chairman of the Premier League of Swaziland; Mr. Victor Gamedze, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MTN Swaziland; Mr. Ambrose Dlamini and the Consumer Officer of MTN Swaziland; Mr. Sam Shongwe just to mention a few.



MTN CEO, PLS CHAIRMAN, NFAS PRESIDENT AND MTN CO DURING THE 2017/2018 MTN/PLS LAUNCH

When addressing the audience, the President of the NFAS expressed the football association's gratitude towards the sponsor, MTN Swaziland for the investment towards football development in the country. "The core business of the NFAS is to develop and regulate football in the country, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to MTN Swaziland for the support towards football development in the country", said the President of the NFAS. He also highlighted that such sponsorships enhance the football brand of the country. In conclusion, he expressed the football association's appreciation in as far as the application of professionalism in the sport is concerned which will encourage more sponsors to invest in the game of billions.

The Chairman of the PLS also expressed his appreciation on the investment that MTN Swaziland has made in Swazi football over the years. "As PLS, we are very much happy with our partnership with MTN Swaziland over the years, thus we appreciate her investment in football over the years", he said.



MTN CO WITH PROS OF THE CLUBS HAVING A FEELING OF THE TROPHY

Speaking on behalf of MTN Swaziland was Mr. Ambrose Dlamini who eulogized the sponsor's excitement in partnering football over the years. "As MTN Swaziland, we thank and appreciate the football family for the partnership, thus as a sponsor we take pride of being involved in football in the country and in sports in general", he said. It was disclosed that the mobile network company has invested over Twenty-Five Million Emalangeni (E25 000 000.00) in Swazi football through PLS. The football fans who are the consumers of football and MTN products were not left out by the sponsor as fan engagement initiatives will be implemented as the league progresses.



MBABANE SWALLOWS FC BEFORE THE DERBY

The grand opening of the MTN Premier League enriched the sponsorship launched as top-class football and fan engagement initiatives were the order of the day during this event. It was a family day indeed as the Somhlolo National Stadium had the environment fit for entertaining football.

With the main match of the day being the Mbabane derby between Mbabane Highlanders FC and Mbabane Swallows FC, the stadium was abuzz. It was three matches, in one stadium and in one day. In the first match, Moneni Pirates FC won against Midas Mbabane City by an odd goal whilst in the second match Green Mamba FC won against Manzini Wanderers by 5-1. The derby match ended with an odd goal in favour of the defending champions which is Mbabane Swallows FC.



MBABANE HIGHLANDERS FC BEFORE THE DERBY

The "football marathon" has started and its game on. It's a "14 horse raise with the champions guaranteed of a E750 000.00 cheque with E350 000.00 given to the first-round log leaders. The champions will also get a ticket to compete in the TOTAL CAF Champions League Competition.

"MTN-Our network keeps the ball rolling".



IN CONTROL: MAN OF THE MATCH SANDILE HLATSHWAKO IN CONTROL OF THE BALL

#### WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE

- Site inspection of the NFAS KaLanga Project.
- Preview of the FIFA MA Administration Course.
- Ocean Basket Presents the 2017 High Schools' Girls Football Champions.



SITE INSPECTION AT KALANGA

#### UPCOMING FOOTBALL EVENTS

- MTN Premier League Matches.
- NFAS License D Coaching Course.