



# SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

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

NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF SWAZILAND

## PICK' N PAY PUMPS IN E300 000.00 TO FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT



Prakash Parsad, Minister David Ngcamphalala, Senator Adam Mthethwa, Minister Phineas Magagula and Chris Benson during the sponsorship launch

The future of football depends heavily on the development of the sport; which is one of the mandates of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS). The football association has opened its hands to the stakeholders who

want to partner with it in as far as football development is concerned. This was witnessed on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 where a sponsorship launch worth E300 000.00 was launched at Sigwaca House in Mbabane as Pick'n Pay is now sponsoring the U15s Primary School Football Development Programme. This sponsorship is in a form of football material which includes 84 soccer kits and 252 soccer balls just to mention a few.

This sponsorship is in line with the sponsor's in-store promotions that started on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and will end on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018. As for the in-store promotions, the customers who spends a minimum of

E150.00 in any Pick' n Pay store on the Mbabane –Manzini corridor is above 18 years old will stand a chance of winning interesting prizes and also nominate a primary school that will get a full soccer kit that the school will use during the 2-day tournament to be implemented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018. These

schools will be from the same corridor as these stores.

The sponsorship launch was attended by government and football officials who included the Honorable Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs; Minister David Ngcamphalala, Honorable Minister of Education and Training; Minister Phineas Magagula and the NFAS's President; Senator Adam Mthethwa. When addressing the audience the Honorable Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs acknowledged the sponsor for this investment as it will brighten the future of football. "This is a good investment as it will develop young players into super stars thus

**"THIS IS A GOOD INVESTMENT AS IT WILL DEVELOP YOUNG PLAYERS INTO SUPERSTARS THUS BENEFITTING OUR NATIONAL TEAMS"- HONOURABLE MINISTER; DAVID NGCAMPHALALA.**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL



The NFAS President; Senator Adam Mthethwa

Grassroots Football development is the critical basic and foundational framework for the future development of a football player to the elite levels of performance in the future. The principal reason for the existence of the football association is to develop football and in this vein therefore, grassroots football development becomes the cornerstone for the realization of this principal object.

Investment into programmes aligned to grassroots football development becomes key as talent identification and nurturing of such novel talent can be best done at the early stages of the human life. Grassroots development, as it focusses on kids between the ages of 6 to 12 years, also creates a very good base for the golden age of the development of a football player, which is realized at the ages of 12 to 14 years.

Elite football commences at this stage

benefiting our national teams”, he said. Also making his remarks was the Honorable Minister of education and Training who expressed his gratitude on behalf of the schools as this project will play a vital role in developing a child. “In sports you benefit positively as there are elements of discipline, self-control, motivation and team work just to mention a few”, he said.

Speaking on behalf of the NFAS was the President who expressed the football association’s excitement about this project and urged the football family to support it. “As the NFAS, we are excited about this initiative and we urge the football family and the nation at large to support this initiative”, he said.

The sponsor through Pick’n Pay Buyer – Africa; Prakash Parsad thanked the NFAS for partnering with the Pick’n Pay brand as this is part of their Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiative and as an organization; they want it to grow and be a yearly initiative as this year is a piloting exercise. “This is a piloting year and we are hoping it will be successful. We are currently working with the schools in the Mbabane –Manzini corridor, but the target is to work with all schools on the country”, he said.

#### PICK ‘N PAY CUSTOMERS WIN PRIZES

As part of the Pick’n Pay Football development Programme, some lucky customers have already won themselves fabulous prizes and also nominated some primary schools of their choice who will get a soccer that includes two soccer training balls and one match ball, goalkeeper jersey and gloves. These winners spent a minimum of E150 in one of the Pick’n Pay outlets that are in the Mbabane –Manzini corridor. This draws are done by Senior Men’s National Team (Sihlangu SeMnikati’s) players. The customers have already won mini-hi-fis, washing machines and cellphones just to mention a few. This competition will end on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017. So far the nominated schools are; SOS, St. Francis, St. John Bosco,

Mpolonjeni, Matsapha Government, Matsapha Central, Sydney Williams, Hillside, Zombodze, Boyane, Nkiliji and St. Pauls’ Primary Schools just mention but a few.



Injured Sihlangu SeMnikati deadly striker, Sandile Ndzinisa with Pick’n Pay’s Cedric Dlamini conducting one of the draws

#### THE TD’S COMMENT ON THE PICK’N PAY SPONSORED PROJECT

The backbone of football development is player development. This is where the future of the beautiful game exists and football development programmes such as the Pick’n Pay U15 Primary School plays a vital role in as far as player development is concerned. “This football development programme will immensely contribute in player development at grassroots level”; said the Technical director of the NFAS, Bhekisisa Mkhonta. It is for this reason that the NFAS is looking forward in having a strong U15 national team.



The TD during one of the NFAS’s Football Development Programme

In as far as football coaching is concerned; it will enhance the youth coaching base in the country as more coaches will be active by coaching the participating schools. “The will be an increase in the youth coaching base in the country”, the TD said.

These players are also expected to graduate to the U17 National Team, thus through this

programme, there will be a better national team as the players will be in a position to pass through the necessary stages of development more especially at grassroots level. Football development involves a lot of stakeholders of such as schools; thus the NFAS through this project will be in a position to come closer to a number of stakeholders who are very much key for the implementation of football development programmes.

#### ALL THE NOMINATED SCHOOLS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A total of 84 primary schools will benefit from the Pick’n Pay Football Development Programme of which there will be a preliminary round of matches before the main championships which will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. This will give all the 84 nominated schools equal opportunity to at least play one match in this football development programme.

“For the sake of football development, all the nominated schools will play in the preliminary round of matches which will be the elimination process for the main championships that will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, said the TD. It is scheduled that this preliminary stage be implemented on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

All the winners of these matches will qualify to participate in the final championships which will be the climax of this football development programme.



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE TD'S OFFICE

One of the key mandates of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) is to develop football in the country and the implementation of this is done by the Technical Department. It is for this fact that the Technical Department is the heart-beat of the NFAS as it is the one responsible for the implementation of the football development programmes.



The TD hard at work in his office

The football development programmes to be implemented will cover administration, coaching, grassroots, refereeing, women football, medicine, fitness, goal keeping and youth football. According to the Technical Director (TD) of the NFAS; Mr. Bhekisisa Mkhonta, the above mentioned technical aspects of football development are very key for the future of the beautiful game. "These technical aspects are vital as they make the development of football to be complete", he said.



Local coaches in attendance of the MA FIFA Fitness course in 2017

As for coach education, CAF A; B; C and licence D will be implemented. The targeted stakeholders for these courses are coaches practising in the MTN Premier League, National 1<sup>st</sup> Division and Super Leagues. "This coaching

course will improve the quality of coaching and also ensure that the top three leagues in the country have quality coaches", the TD said. Through these courses, the coaching policy will be strengthened and stabilized.



Participants during the 2017 FIFA MA Goalkeeping Course

Under the fitness and goalkeeping technical aspect of football development, there will be local and FIFA courses. The target audience for these courses are the fitness and goalkeeping coaches from the National 1<sup>st</sup> Division and Super League Teams. "These courses are essential in order to improve the specialized areas of the game because a goalkeeper accounts for 80% of the team and physical fitness is the foundation of the game", the TD highlighted.



Sydney Williams Primary School children enjoying themselves during one of the 2017 grassroots festivals

The grassroots football technical aspect will focus on festivals and tournaments and the targeted stakeholders are the primary schools. "The main purpose of grassroots football is to create football awareness to both boys and girls between the ages of 6-12 years old and

also to identify talent at an early age", said the TD.

Youth football is another technical aspect that is key for football development. The expected activities under youth football are local and FIFA courses plus tournaments. These activities are implemented nationwide. "These courses will empower youth coaches and also give stability and direction to the existing youth leagues", the TD said. With proper youth football, it becomes easier for national youth teams 'coaches to select players for international competitions.



Participants of the 2017 FIFA MA Administration Course

Proper administration of teams is very key for the development of football. That is why the NFAS will facilitate both local and FIFA courses. The target audience for these courses are administrators for super league teams. "Directors and managers will be empowered through these courses, thus the introduction of administration policy which will be enhanced", the TD highlighted. This administration policy will compel teams to engage qualified personnel to handle their businesses.



Young Buffaloes FC's Samkeliso Lushaba grimacing in pain after getting injured

Football is a contact sport, thus the importance of the medicine technical aspect in the game of



football. Under medicine, there will be both local and FIFA courses. The weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 a first aid course for high schools who will participate in women's football this year was held, which was the first course under this technical aspect. The other targeted stakeholders under medicine courses are medical personnel for Premier League, National 1<sup>st</sup> Division and Super League teams. "The activities of the medical technical aspect of the game will empower the medical personnel of teams and they will also enhance the introduction of medical policy which will compel the teams to engage qualified medical personnel to handle players", said the TD.



FIFA First AID Bag

#### MBABANE SWALLOWS FC "SCORED" A HAT-TRICK IN THE INGWENYAMA SMVAF CUP COMPETITION

On Sunday; 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 the third edition of the Ingwenyama SMVAF Cup came to an end. This competition is fully sponsored by the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) and its patron is His Majesty King III.

A packed Somhlolo National Stadium witnessed the football event with Royal Extravagance as His Majesty The King Mswati III graced this occasion. Also present was the Royal Household; Head of Government; Government; Members of both Houses of Parliament; Civil Service; Football family and other Stakeholders of football. For the first time; the finals of the Ingwenyama SMVAF Cup were televised live across the African continent and beyond which marketed the Swazi football globally.

The finalists were Mbabane Swallows FC and Royal Leopards FC; and both football clubs came to the party as they displayed top shelf football. It was a hat-trick for the sponsor as it was the third edition of this unique competition as both football and culture blended perfectly. On the final match; a total of three goals were scored where by Mbabane Swallows FC won by 2-1 thus they were crowned champions of the tournament for the third successive time. Buckle it up; the game is on.



Ingwenyama SMVAF Champions; Mbabane Swallows FC

#### WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE

- We focus on the U13 Build It National Championships.
- Preview of Mbabane Swallows FC's group in the TOTAL CAF Champions League.
- The Swazi Bank Cup-Uyayifuna na at its climax.



#### UPCOMING FOOTBALL EVENTS

- TOTAL CAF Champions League.
- Swazi Bank Cup Final.
- MTN Premier League Matches.